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CAMP PROPOSAL
SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington,
June 20, 1944

Mr. Yehuda Hirsch Pavelescu,
JDC, New York, New York.

I trust this is appropriate and that I have the right to write you directly.

I have received your telegram of June 12. I am sending this reply to your behalf.

I have been very impressed by the letter of June 16 from Mr. Hirsch Pavelescu,
who has written to me in the name of the World Jewish Congress. I appreciate
your efforts to combat anti-Semitism. It is a fundamental claim of the United
States that liberty of worship and freedom of doctrine shall be preserved for
all citizens, and this is a manifestation of that freedom.

I have been informed by Mr. Hirsch Pavelescu that you are planning to
visit Washington, and I trust that you will convey your appreciation of
the spirit of freedom which prevails here. I am particularly interested in
your plans to combat anti-Semitism on the part of the Nazis and I hope
that your visit may help to strengthen that effort.

I am enclosing a letter from Rabbi Ben-Zion Jacobowitz, who has been
appointed by the World Jewish Congress to serve as your representative
in the United States. He is a distinguished rabbi and I am confident
that he will do his best to further your work.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

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appointed by the World Jewish Congress to serve as your representative
in the United States. He is a distinguished rabbi and I am confident
that he will do his best to further your work.

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

seek action their adherents and protégés while JDC is concerned with general rescue. Since propositions invariably overlap may indicate 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
CH

Transmitted to
CONFIDENTIAL

000679
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

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.
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 1,000 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
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

DGR: M33: EA
7-3-44
McClelland reads the following for the War Refugee Board:

Reference is made herewith to Legation's message dated 1944.

June 17, 1887, paragraph three.

Now there is no doubt that the majority of the Jewish population east of the Danube especially in eastern, northeastern, and northwestern 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 sources 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 gendarmerie on Lanzlo Andor's orders largely carried out this action.

Apparently the actual large scale deportations began about May 15 and lasted until the middle of June. The movement involved 7,000 persons per day. About 7,000 through sub-Carpathian Rusz 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 on route.

Particularly used were the following stretches of railroad:

(1) Copec-Kassa-Kovno in direction of Odessa, (2) Estoril-Jaunay-Legnaniach Vlany-Michalowo-Medzilaborce. Also many thousand troops to and from the Polish front were transported daily over this line; (3) Hanacek-Lukowice; (4) Galanta-Sered-Leopoldstadt-Ausenstadt-Threnica; (5) Tracky Bilice.

It is urged by all sources of this information in Slovakia and Hungary that vital sections of these lines especially bridges along OHE 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).
The Hungarian Government has already been contacted by the Hungarian Government and has been informed of the situation. The Hungarian Government has been asked to provide information regarding the number of Jews in Hungary and their fate. The Hungarian Government has been asked to provide information regarding the number of Jews in Hungary and their fate.

According to reports, at least 1,500,000 Jews have been killed. There is evidence that already...
In January 1944 preparations were being made to receive and exterminate Hungarian Jews in these camps. Such a detailed report on these camps will be added.

HARRISON

(e) Apparent extensions.
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 WB 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 Sternbuch imperative. Saly considers important you know that various responsible groups seek action and protection while JDD is concerned with general rescue. Since prepositions invariably overlap Mayer indicates necessity of decision on policy to support joint type as well as other.

Despite seal 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 Schwarts all of above."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fohle

J. W. Fohle
Executive Director

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, BERN
DATED: July 10, 1944
NUMBER: 2360

FOLLOWING FOR MINISTER HARRISON 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 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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
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 ade-
quate Intercross supervision and with adequate guarantees
as to use to which same will be put. In making his inquir-
ies Saly Mayer should not refer to this Government or any
interest it may have in the matter.
THIS IS WNB CABLE TO BERN NO. 75

HULL
(GLW)
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MCCLELLAND

The substance of the proposal reported in your 4370 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 Mayor 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 frank element, it would appear proposal is one motivated by German need for foreign exchange and for exploratory purposes Saly Mayor 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 Interservice supervision and with adequate guarantees as to use to which same will be put. In making his inquiries Saly Mayor should not (repeat not) refer to German government or any interest it may have in the matter.

THIS IS WASHINGTON NO. 75

July 8, 1944

P.S.

[Handwritten text not clear]
PARAPHRASE OF VITTENBERG RECEIVED

DATE: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: June 2, 1944
SUBJECT: S066

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 Macedonians remain at Vittel, and who are among those at the Drancy concentration camp near Paris. Necessary steps to bring interned back to Vittel have been taken by the American Legation at Bern.

In connection with Dergiev-Belzan and York Camp Bergau near Breendon we wish to refer to last explanations by us. Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation there. We authorize to petition or visit this camp or to send parcels of food is held by TIC. 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 Slovenia 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 Nenita and others that all be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kraszn and Brezov. 10,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 15. The people are in despair that nothing has been done until now. 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 of Yenits and family have been saved and arrived yesterday in Bucharest.

Negotiations with Bulgaria for the purpose of opening further 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
The Debts of Mexico have received a new chapter in the annals of financial transactions. In order to raise the necessary funds for the payment of these debts, the Mexican government has taken extraordinary steps. Among these, the issue of bonds has been one of the most notable.

The bonds were sold on an international scale, attracting investors from various countries. The proceeds from these sales were substantial, providing the necessary capital to service the existing debts. This action was a significant step towards the stabilization of the Mexican economy.

In addition to this, the Mexican government has also taken measures to increase its income. Among these, the imposition of taxes on imports and exports has been one of the key strategies. This has not only helped in generating revenue but also in controlling the flow of goods and services.

The combination of these efforts has resulted in a marked improvement in the financial situation of Mexico. The country is now better equipped to handle its financial obligations, and this has had a positive impact on its international standing.

In conclusion, the actions taken by the Mexican government have been effective in addressing its financial challenges. The country is moving towards a more stable economic future, thanks to the efforts made in recent months.
From: Secretary of State, Washington
To: American Legation, Bern
Dated: June 16, 1944
Number: 2077

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Saly Meyer, 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 6-11-72
By R. H. Price Date SEP 27, 1972
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. 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 stop. We would appreciate being kept currently informed about increased aid to Jews Hungary. We received cable request for $50,000 from Doctor Isaac Rom Zurich Bahnhofstrasse 74 please contact him and advise purposes funds required and your recommendations."

THIS IS WJB BERN CABLE NO. 43

June 15, 1944

10415 E.M.

cc: Sass, Abrahamson, Ochs, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

FHlab 6/14/44
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 19, 1944
NUMBER: 2196

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of June 9, No. 1469, and Embassy's cable of June 15, No. 2148, concerning proposals of the War Refuge Board.

There has been received by the Embassy from Vysheval's secret note dated June 15 making that there have been brought to the attention of the Soviet Government the contents of Embassy's note dated June 15, and that Vysheval 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
Ff'(

"CONTROL COPY"

FROM: American Legation, Lisbon
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DT: June 30, 1972

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am forwarding the following for the attention of Mr. Witt,

Joe D.

The Refuge Board No. 79.

It is understood by Italy that the Storni-Morel operation is directed only toward the four Jewish groups, despite the size of the event.

Yours sincerely,

John

6/27/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept./Letter, 1-11-72
By: K. H. Parks Date: SEP 27 1972
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 Souroukos proposition is directed only toward aid for limited groups, despite the size of grant."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

[Signature]

NYRO 6/27/44
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 21, 1944
NUMBER: 2119

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

"Cabled you 100,000 dollars equivalent 428,846 Swiss Francs to help comply with request for Neutra Rabbi and President Freudiger and for other rescue projects. Joint instructed Sely 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 Hanatzala."

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 48.

HULL
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:

"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 Sally 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."

Voused Habatzatz

Rabbi Aaron Kotler

THIS IS WHC CABLE TO BERN NO. 46

************

June 17, 1944
12:15 p.m.

KA, L.Y.

Bakarian 6/16/44.
MESSAGE TO ISAAC STEINBERG
ST. GALLEN SWITZERLAND THROUGH THE
AMERICAN LEGATION, BERNE

Cabled you 100,000 dollars equivalent 428,166 Swiss
Francs to help comply with requests Rabbi
and President Freudiger and in you find necessary
Others in these lands stop Joint cabled Solly Meyer
To discuss with you Hassel regarding Rabbi
and Freudigers appeals stop joint emphasized our mutual keen
Desire that Solly Meyer cooperate with you contact him and
advise us regarding results
Advisable Rabbi and Freudiger appeal through
You directly to Joint stop contact war refugee board
and representative McMillan detail to him your Rabbi
and Rabbis Freudigers plans and request his financial
assistance.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Rabbi Erwin Motzen
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 27, 1944
NUMBER: 2384

FROM J. U. PEHLE, WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR McCLELLAND, BERN

Reference Legation's No. 3506, June 2, containing message from Sternbach 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 Friediger of the Budapest Jewish Community reported in above cable from Bern. JDC has already asked Saly Mayor to discuss this matter with Sternbach.

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

THIS IS WEB BERN CABLE NO. 39.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dep't Letter, 11-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Berns, Cohn, Dobbs, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lauglin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sergoy, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.
CABLE TO HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM J. I. SMILS, WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Reference Legation's no. 2506, 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 Freundiger 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.
Subject: Bureau of Refugees

To: American Legion, 1941

Date: June 12, 1941

From: War Refugees Board

Ref: Refugee aid

Enclosed, please find the following message to J. B. Mayer, Sr., Chief of Refugees, from Reuben A. Brodick of the American Legion Joint Distribution Committee:

"Please advise the following message to J. B. Mayer, Sr., Chief of Refugees, from Reuben A. Brodick of the American Legion Joint Distribution Committee:

"Dear Mr. Mayer,

I am writing to discuss the recent referral to the subcommittee for further action. It is apparent to us that the need for additional funds and assistance for refugees is increasing. We are currently working with various organizations to secure additional funding and resources. However, we are facing some challenges in obtaining the necessary support. We would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide in this regard.

We are in the process of preparing a report on the current status of refugee assistance in the region. We would be happy to share this report with you and any other interested parties. If you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Reuben A. Brodick
American Legion Joint Distribution Committee"

Please respond as soon as possible. We would like to ensure that the needs of refugees are being met as efficiently as possible.

This is our initial call for action.

Buell

CC: Soady, Abrahamsen, Adam Briskman, Rubin, Beloff, Frieden, Barnett, Ochot,
Lengt, Lesser, Lesser, Berman, Berman, Marcus, Barlow, Siderman, Sherman, Soady, Silverman, Stewart, Weininger, H. D. White, Feible, Pines.

DECLASIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1972-1972
By: R. H. Park 1972 SEP 27 1972
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 Naatnar 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 Naatnar 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

[Signature]

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

Following as from Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis:

The 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 5,000 Jews. It is urgently requested by Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 16,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 16. 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 Wysnitz 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
From the Rabbi of Neutra we have received a message wherein he bitterly complains of not having enough money for his rescue work. He must support about 750 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 Rabbi are all without livelihood. A further 200,000 francs have been placed at his disposal and he wired 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 Gode of Talmudic etc. many others.

The following numbers are those who were taken this year and

Provinces of Hungary among the

Village

The villages are being set up in the most inhuman way. Before the extermination camps under direction of authorities which are quite brutal in the east. Szombathely is an absolutely closed ghetto now and others circumstances are unknown. Jews of Galanta are scheduled in prisoner having been permitted to carry with them nothing. The way things look in concentration camps of Europe and masses cannot be described by me. The cases are in wood without covers. In Romshon 15,000 and in Ungvar about 25,000 are living in brick factories. They are in houses in Magyars but approximately 15,000 are in a few streets which are walled off with boards. It is the same in Munkas. It is declared by Hungarian to me that this is technique used to break down the resistance of masses psychologically to prepare them for the worst which has come true. Jewish deportation has become the naked truth and is mercilessly carried on. Today in Maroska, Kisschou, Nyeregysza, etc.; other transports are to follow tomorrow. About 310,000 of our brothers, orthodox, reservior 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 make 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), Abrahamsen, Akson, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, R.D. White, Files.
McCullum sends the following for WBB:

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable of June 24, No. 404.

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 recent 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 Salminow 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 any 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.

HANRESON

(*) Apparent omission

DIRECTIONS
7-3-44

Miss Chapman (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Garson, Heidel, Leavitt, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormick, Pellam, Sargent, Stainlab, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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

From McClelland for attention of WHB.

About the second of May Sally Meyer 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 1/12/72
By R. H. Faris Date 9/6/1972

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 consensus of opinion the proposition referred to in the Department's 2184 of June 27, whereby Freudiger and Rabbi of Nettra 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
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
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

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

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 W3B cable to Bern no. 76.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR MACKELLAND

Reference penultimate paragraph your No. 4253 of July 5.
JDC prepared to make available the one million dollars
requested by Saly Meyer and remittance will be made in next
few days.

THIS IS WBB BERN CABLE NO. 76.

********

July 8, 1944
5:00 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 27 1972
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to cable No. 4258 from Bern, dated July 5, and the reference therein to the transfer to Salvo 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 $250,000 francs against exportable gold rather than taking $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 usable. 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.
July 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Reference is made to cable No. 4259 from Bern, dated July 8, and the reference therein to the transfer to Sal 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 that 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 3,250,000 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 McDill to discuss this matter with Mr. Kohli of the Swiss Political Department.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

JW Pehle: lhh 7/11/44
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
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

Pohl 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.

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July 11, 1944
8:10 p.m.

THIS IS WSC CABLE BERN NO. 81.

LR~esserich

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

has been in consultation

here in an effort to secure the Swiss franc equivalent of $1,500,000 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 Swiss law. Report reported in your 1258 of July 5.

July 11, 1944
5:10 p.m.

THIS IS WRL CABLE BBMN NO. 81.

S. J.

LSlesser: den 7/10/44

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

DATE    July 14, 1944

TO:      Miss Hodel
FROM:    Peter Lang

As per our telephone conversation
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 francs
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
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 7-14-44

from the dealing with remittance of $1,500,000 to Federal Reserve Bank of New York for credit to account 7 of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, Swiss francs equivalent to be paid to Roswell McClelland 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. Hodel
For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W- issued
Remittance license No. NY 65888 issued July 14, 1944
Other:

Date: July 14, 1944

Liaison Officer
Foreign Funds Control
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 Sally Mayer.

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.

F. Hodel

FHJdb 7/15/44
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 1 of the Swiss National Bank, Zurich, for payment of the Swiss franc equivalent to the American Minister at Berne, Switzerland for payment to Roswell McGlelland, War Refugee Board representative, for Sely Mayer. Please send signed copy of license issued pursuant to this wire to Mr. Lang, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

[Initialed] O.A.S.

Orvis K. Schmidt
Acting Director

RFParks:emj 7/24/44
The following is the statement made by McLeod in his cable of July 5:

"There should be made available to the Jewish refugees in Switzerland in Swiss francs (in addition, naturally, to his regular budget) a substantial fund from the United States and other sources, of at least 31,000,000. It is strongly felt by Mayor that this will serve to keep up morale of the Jewish refugees in Switzerland, and 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 McLeod is desirable, there is attached a proposed cable for your signature.

F. Hodel

Attachment
To: Mr. Warren

From: J. W. Fohle

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

Attachment
SAYS TO MINISTER HEINRICH, BERLIN, FOR HOLAND FROM WJH

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

It is understood that 31,000,000 Fund which has been remitted by JHC to you for Sely Mayer will remain in Switzerland and will not be used without prior submission to Washington for specific authorization of WSB and Department.
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 BERNO 83.
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCELLELAND 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. 82

3:05 p.m.
July 14, 1944

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

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

[Signature]

[Stamp]
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: July 26, 1944.
NUMBER: 4902.

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 12, Number 2449.

1. The following proposition has recently been submitted by Sternbuch; he declares it to be the Freundiger 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 Rabbits, 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 Warenverteilungskonzer, 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.
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 on 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 1300 grown persons had been granted, in principle, Dobkin 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 Rechaluz, 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 600,000 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
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.
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 doin utmost to prevent reported deportation.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 86.
CABLE TO MINISTER HARILSON, 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 Meyer and Sternbuch jointly at once in effort to ascertain facts and plan course of action. JDBC assumes Saly Meyer 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) Abrahamsen, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Leser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files
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:1hh 7/20/44
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 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.
My dear Mr. Pehle:

Confirming the conversation I had the pleasure to have with you yesterday, I wish to advise you that the United States Government is prepared to place at the disposal of the Swiss 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 1 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.
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 21, 1944
NUMBER: 4670

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

Continuous contact is being maintained by us with Weiffel.
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 Chaim Meirhager 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

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perks Date SEP 27 1972 Bobower Rabb
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
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 CCO 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 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
The following message is from McClelland for WRB.

We refer to messages from the Legation, Number 3506, dated June 2, and Number 4256, dated July 5; and to message from the Department dated July 16, 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 Schweizeriser 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 Rabbi, 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 Warm Verteilungskantor, 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.
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
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 Schwabl 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
July 27th, 1944

Dear Mr. Burrow,

I am sending you enclosed information just received from Paris, 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. Seiler) to this letter.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

enclosure

[Name]
Division of European Affairs
Department of State
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 Romania. 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.
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 27, 1944
NUMBER: 2579

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

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
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCGEELAND FROM WAR REFUGEES 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.

WHIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN, NO. 93.

11:30 a.m.
July 25, 1944

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

F. Hodel/loss 7/24/44

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

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

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

QUOTE Sternbuch cabled Rabbinical group here that 1,200 Hungarian Rabbis and other leaders are now enroute 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 Pohle: 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, DuBoie, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

A. Abrahamson 7/26/44
In accordance with the following for SRA:

With reference to Department's message of July 28, 30, 1941 and July 29, Fo. 3612, 1,604,000 Swiss Francs received through Swiss National Bank July 31. These funds are being held at the disposal of Mr. Mayer, to be withdrawn as required, with his approval. I instruct you to pay short advance of 2 million Francs on July 27, which will be used as follows:

1. On instructions Joseph Schmertz for transportation of 751 refugees from Vienna to Bohemia, payment of 260,000 Francs to account of Albert Schmertz, Swiss National Bank, Lisbon, to Union Bank, Zurich.

2. Payout to be purchased here in Switzerland for relief program (probably to be conducted by TUP) for Jewish children in Budapest.

3. Additional indemnity slight endangered Hungarian Jewish refugees to Bohemia and Slovakia.

We have requested Mr. Mayer to furnish us beforehand with detailed expenditure in connection with said francs equivalent one million dollars, as recommended in numbered paragraph 2 of Department's message of July 8, Fo. 3626. He plans to exercise control usually expected over distributions.
distribution of lines for police out patrol work in many territory
orders with alleged past and joint contribution committees. In case
of first finding agreement [2241?] be in terms by only paper with
relation to existing program from committee.

[Signature]

[Date]

[Name]
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 29, 1944
NUMBER: 4674

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 begiven 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 authori-
ties 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 facili-
ties and to diminish exports of material to the enemy which
would be useful to the enemy's war effort (number 2584 and
number 2589
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 be undertaken with the knowledge and concurrence of British #EW, but such departure would be unfortunate at the present time.

(number 4802 dated July 26 from the Legation is referred to.)

HARRISON

DCR MRL
7/30/44
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)
CABLE TO HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND, BRUS, 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 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 WRW 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

J. L. C. 31/7/44

Closed 6/22/44