

Negotiations in Switzerland - Including
German Proposals

Folder 4: B: 95-124

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March 13, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY'S FILES:

The Secretary met with Rabbis Kalmanowitz, Kotler and Korff and Mr. Bunim at 3:15 p.m., March 13, 1945. General O'Dwyer and Miss Hodel of the War Refugee Board were also present.

Rabbi Korff opened the presentation for the rabbinical group stating that they had come to see the Secretary on three matters: (1) the problems involved in the restrictions imposed on the remittance of the \$937,000 to Isaac Sternbuch; (2) the obtaining of transportation from Switzerland into Germany; and (3) the evacuation of refugees from Germany to Switzerland by means of transportation facilities provided from Switzerland.

The Secretary prefaced his remarks by stating that he would speak to the group very frankly as a government official and with deep and sincere sympathy for their work. He then explained that our Government's primary concern today is the winning of the war and the protection of American prisoners of war; that within this framework, the high officials of the Government responsible for War Refugee Board activities have been unremitting in their efforts to accomplish the purposes for which the Board was created. He explained that the attention that has been given to War Refugee Board matters during the waging of a war has been amazing and that the accomplishments to date have been remarkable. The Secretary stated that, because of the primary concern of our Government to win the war, the only decision which could be reached in the Musy matter was the one made unanimously by the Board members at a special meeting called for the sole purpose of discussing that problem. This decision was that no payments for ransom to the Germans could be authorized by this Government. However, because of the possibility that the money in question might be needed for legitimate expenditures and because of the Board's concern over the saving of the lives of the persecuted minorities inside Germany, the remittance in question was approved with certain safeguards.

The Secretary then stated that the Jews in America could bring great harm to themselves and dangerous anti-Semitic publicity if it should ever be revealed that any American Jews were dealing directly with Himmler for the rescue of Jews from German-controlled territory.

Mr. Bunim, speaking for the rabbis, stated that they appreciated the views expressed by the Secretary but that they felt that the lives involved were so important that humanitarian considerations should prevail in this case and that the saving of more

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lives might well be forestalled by the restrictions imposed upon the remittance in question. He then argued that the requirement in the license to refer back to Washington every request for the use of the money in question would involve delays and possibly endanger further rescue operations. He requested that with respect to the million Swiss francs already remitted under the license permission be granted to spend this amount for legitimate expenditures upon the authorization of Mr. McClelland, the Board's representative in Switzerland. The Secretary stated that the request to so modify the license was reasonable and General O'Dwyer and Miss Hodel concurred. The Secretary then stated that an appropriate cable would be drafted and cleared with Secretary Stimson and Secretary Stettinius.

With respect to the problem of transportation facilities from Switzerland to Germany, the Secretary explained that the Board was exploring every possibility of obtaining adequate trucking facilities for the delivery of relief through the International Red Cross to civilian detainees. He explained that the War Department had agreed last week to recommend to General Eisenhower that trucking facilities be made available from United States army stocks for this purpose and General O'Dwyer stated that at the same time McClelland is making every effort to obtain transportation equipment from private sources inside Switzerland. He added that the Swiss Minister had agreed to recommend to his government that Swiss Government transportation equipment be made available for this purpose. It was explained that transportation equipment must be obtained if any relief is to reach these people and if any of them are to be rescued to safety in Switzerland.

As to the third question, it was explained that the plan being developed by the War Refugee Board envisaged the use of relief delivery trucks for the evacuation of physically unfit detainees from Germany to Switzerland. In addition, it was also explained that the president of the International Red Cross is now in Germany discussing with high German officials the possible use for such evacuations of trucks being used for the delivery of prisoner of war packages.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Rabbis presented to the Secretary a written memorandum covering the points which they had made in their discussion.

JH Cleland's Copy
FH:MS 3/15/45

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ועד הצלה

VAAH HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 910)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

March 15, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

We respectfully submit for immediate consideration, amendment of License #W2426 with respect to one million Swiss francs remitted on March 10, 1945 to the account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland in the Credite Swiss, bank in Berne.

Condition One of the License reads:

"(1) No part of the above sum shall be expended or committed for expenditure except as authorized by specific action of the War Refugee Board, Washington, D.C."

It is very obvious that our representative will need funds for routine expenses such as transportation, food, documentary fees, supplies, and personal services. At that moment he may have sufficient time to submit these items to Mr. McClelland but it would be most hazardous for the rescue work involved to delay decision on these expenditures until Mr. McClelland would communicate with Washington and wait for a reply. One hour may cost thousands of lives.

Mr. McClelland no doubt is a trustworthy and capable representative of the War Refugee Board and is fully apprised of the spirit prevailing in the War Refugee Board and the several departments comprising the Board. We therefore request that he should be authorized at his own discretion to release the above million francs recently remitted for the above outlined purposes and similar purposes.

Need we call your attention to the fact that time is of the essence!

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee

Rabbi Aron Kotler

Rabbi Aron Kotler

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

A. Kalmanowitz

Irving M. Bunim

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000044

V. H. E. C.
132 NASSAU-STREET
Suite 919-920
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.



General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss Hodell

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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MAR 20 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

You will recall that when the Vaad Hahatzala (Rabbi Kalmanowitz, etc.) called on you last week they requested that consideration be given to an amendment to the license issued in the Muey case. Specifically, they requested that, with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted on account on March 10, permission be given to Mr. McClelland, the Board's representative, to authorize expenditures for such items as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services without prior reference to Washington.

At the conference, you indicated that this was a reasonable request.

Following the meeting, General O'Dwyer discussed the matter with Mr. Grew and Colonel Gearhardt of Mr. McCloy's office. Mr. Grew stated that he would have no objection to such an amendment provided that McClelland were instructed again that no part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs could be used for ransom. Colonel Gearhardt indicated that the War Department would also approve the amendment on that basis.

The attached draft of a cable to Bern advising McClelland that the War Refugee Board has approved such an amendment is submitted for your approval. Copies have also been sent to Mr. Grew and Colonel Gearhardt for State and War clearance.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH:hd 3/20/45

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

At the request of the Vaad Hahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2426, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1946 (Department's No. 958). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Hahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McGlelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransom. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

FH:hd 3/17/46

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MAR 20 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: Miss Hodel

In accordance with General O'Dwyer's conversation with Mr. Grew last week, there is forwarded to you here-with for Mr. Grew's approval a proposed cable to Bern on the amendment to the Vaad Hahatzala license. The amendment to the license will not be issued by the Treasury Department until the attached cable has been dispatched to Bern.

It will be appreciated if you will advise us by telephone of Mr. Grew's views concerning the proposed cable.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH . Cleared
with O'Dwyer

FH:hd 3/20/45

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

At the request of the Vaad Mahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2426, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1945 (Department's No. 959). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Mahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransom. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

FH:hd 3/17/45

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MAR 20 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: Colonel Gearhardt

FROM: Miss Hodel

In accordance with your recent conversation with General O'Dwyer, there is sent to you herewith for clearance a copy of our proposed cable to Bern on the amendment of the license issued in the Musy negotiations.

The amendment will not be issued by the Treasury Department until this cable has been cleared and dispatched.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

JA. *Cleared with*
O'Dwyer
FH:hd 3/20/45

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

At the request of the Vaad Hahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2428, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1945 (Department's No. 959). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Hahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McGlelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransoms. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 467

11:15 a.m.
March 21, 1945

PH:hd 3/17/45

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

At the request of the Vaad Hahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2426, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1945 (Department's No. 958). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Hahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransom. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

Am J.

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MAR 21 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Schmidt
FROM: William O'Dwyer

Reference is made to license No. W-2426 issued by the Treasury Department to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee upon the recommendation of the War Refugee Board.

The War Refugee Board has received a written request, copy of which is attached, from the Vaad Hahatzala for an amendment of the first condition of the license so as to provide that, with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be made as authorized by Roswell McClelland, War Refugee Board representative in Bern, Switzerland.

The members of the War Refugee Board have approved this amendment and it is recommended that the license be amended as requested at once.

For your information, there is attached a copy of the cable which the Board has sent to Mr. McClelland in connection with this matter.

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

Attachments.

JH
FH:hd 3/20/45

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COPY

VAAD NAHATZALA
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
132 Nassau St.
New York

March 15, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We respectfully submit for immediate consideration, amendment of License #W2426 with respect to one million Swiss francs remitted on March 10, 1945 to the account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland in the Credite Swiss, bank in Bern.

Condition One of the License reads:

- *(1) No part of the above sum shall be expended or committed for expenditure except as authorized by specific action of the War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C.*

It is very obvious that our representative will need funds for routine expenses such as transportation, food, documentary fees, supplies, and personal services. At the moment he may have sufficient time to submit these items to Mr. McClelland but it would be most hazardous for the rescue work involved to delay decision on these expenditures until Mr. McClelland would communicate with Washington and wait for a reply. One hour may cost thousands of lives.

Mr. McClelland no doubt is a trustworthy and capable representative of the War Refugee Board and is fully apprised of the spirit prevailing in the War Refugee Board and the several departments comprising the Board. We therefore request that he should be authorized at his own discretion to release the above million francs recently remitted for the above outlined purposes and similar purposes.

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Need we call your attention to the fact that time is of
the essence!

Ysod Hatzala Emergency Committee

/s/ Rabbi Aron Kotler

/s/ Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

/s/ Irving M. Bunim

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Distribution of State
only by special
arrangement. (██████ W)

OUTGOING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

March 22, 1945
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

1945 MAR 22 PM 4 37

Mar Ref 2d

AMLEGATION

BERN

1149

The following for McClelland is

DC/L
LIAISON

~~CONTROL COPY~~

For security reasons this message must be closely guarded.

At the request of the Vaad Hahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2426, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1945 (Department's no. 958). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Hahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbush and Roswell McClelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransom. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

WRB:MEV:KG
3/21/45

WE

GHW
(Acting)
(GHW) FMA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

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

At the request of the Vaad Hahatzala the War Refugee Board has approved an amendment of Treasury license No. W-2426, text of which was cabled to you on March 6, 1945 (Department's No. 958). The amendment provides that, solely with respect to the 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted by Vaad Hahatzala on March 10 to the joint account of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, expenditures may be authorized by you as representative of the Board, without prior reference to the Board in Washington, for such legitimate expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

In approving this amendment, the Board holds you responsible to see to it that no (repeat no) part of the 1,000,000 Swiss francs is used for ransom. As you were advised on March 2, the members of the Board unanimously decided that no payments for ransom will be authorized.

Please keep Board fully informed of any payments which are authorized by you under this amendment. The text of the amendment will be sent in separate cable.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 467

11:15 a.m.
March 21, 1945

21.
FH:hd 3/17/45

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In reply please
refer to: 82021

Dear Sirs:

The War Refugee Board has transmitted to this Office a copy of your letter of March 15, 1945, in which you request that license No. W-2426 issued to you under date of March 1, 1945, be amended so that, with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted under such license on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be made as authorized by Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, War Refugee Board representative in Bern, Switzerland.

Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Office by the War Refugee Board, license No. W-2426, [cited above], is hereby amended so as to provide that, solely with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted under this license on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be authorized by Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, as the representative in Switzerland of the War Refugee Board, for such expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food, and other supplies and services.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Vaad Hahatsala Emergency Committee,
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the
United States and Canada,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, New York.

RBPArke:enj 3-22-45

4-11-45
11:15 AM
T. H. H. H.

Draft of letter to V. J. Hahatzala re amendment W-2426 - dictated
by Parke.

Dear Sirs:

The War Refugee Board has transmitted to this office a copy of your letter of March 16, 1945, in which you requested that license No. W-2426, issued to you under date of March 1, 1945, be amended so that, with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted under such license on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be made as authorized by Roswell D. McClelland, War Refugee Board representative in Bern, Switzerland.

Pursuant to the recommendation made to this office by the War Refugee Board, license No. W-2426 cited above is hereby amended so as to provide that, solely with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted under date of March 10, 1945, expenditures may be authorized by Roswell D. McClelland, as the representative in Switzerland of the War Refugee Board, for such expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food and other supplies and services.

Sincerely yours,

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

March 24, 1945
8 p.m.

PER
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement.

1945 MAR 26 PM 4 33

McC. [unclear]
[unclear]

ALLEGATION

DC/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

BERN
1204

The cable below for McClelland is WRB 477.

Reference Department's 1149 of March 21, 1945 (WRB 467).

Following is text of amendment dated March 22 to license

No. W-2426 issued to Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee:

QUOTE Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Office by the War Refugee Board, license No. W-2426 is hereby amended so as to provide that, solely with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs remitted under this license on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be authorized by Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, as the representative in Switzerland of the War Refugee Board, for such expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food, and other supplies and services. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)
(GIV)
For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

WRB:MMV:KG
3/24/45

WE

FMA

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

0000158

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

Reference Department's 1149 of March 21, 1945 (WRB 457).

Following is text of amendment dated March 22 to license No. W-2426 issued to Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee:

"Pursuant to the recommendation made to this Office by the War Refugee Board, license No. W-2426 is hereby amended so as to provide that, solely with respect to the sum of 1,000,000 Swiss francs resitted under this license on March 10, 1945, expenditures may be authorized by Mr. Roswell D. McClelland, as the representative in Switzerland of the War Refugee Board, for such expenses as transportation, documentary fees, food, and other supplies and services."

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 477

9:30 a.m.

March 24, 1945

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

FD
FH:hd 3/23/45

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MAR 25 1945

The Devil, Sick, a Saint Would Be—



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APR 6 - 1945

Dear Sirs:

We have been informed by our representative in Switzerland that he has authorized Mr. Sternbuch to remit to the International Committee of the Red Cross the sum of 500,000 Swiss francs for food purchases and transportation charges, under the terms of your amended License No. W-2426.^x

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

EBT

EBT:inp 4/5/45

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

Wm. R. ...
O. ...

CC-991
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Bern

1945 APR 2 AM 8 02
MARCH 31, 1945

Rec'd 6:08 p.m.

D2/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1905, March 31, 1 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 1149, WRB'S 467, March 21 and 1204, WRB'S
477, March 24.

Sternbuch has been informed of this amendment to
Vaad Hahatzala's license W-2426 governing only one
million francs.

Pursuant to this amendment and after thorough
examination of purpose, I have authorized Sternbuch
to remit 500,000 Swiss francs to ICRC to cover event-
ual food purchases and transportation charges. ICIR
has agreed to furnish me with detailed information
concerning all such purchases or charges.

HARRISON

VMB

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

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000075

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Berlin, April 23rd, 1948.

Dear General C'Dwyer:

In one of my early conversations with Herbert Katzal in Berlin, he informed me that the Board would appreciate receiving word from you concerning the dispute which is the United States by both the Germanization of the Union of Catholic Rescue and of the Dutch Jewish Coordinating Committee, to remove the name Saly Mayer from the JBC and in Switzerland had been "deporting" the "efforts" of bringing further groups of Jewish refugees out of Germany to Switzerland.

I do not know whether Mr. Sternbach was referring to charges against Saly Mayer here but I did not think that he had gone to the point of coming down to his organization in America. With regard to Mr. Sternbach of the Dutch Jewish Coordinating Committee, I find it difficult to understand on what grounds he based on such erroneous information since neither he nor his committee have been directly concerned with the rescue negotiations in Germany. He was therefore meddling with their activities.

According to recent talks I have had with Sternbach he does not consider his contention that "Saly Mayer has attempted to sabotage Masly's efforts" on declarations made by Masly on the occasion of the latter's return from one of his trips to Germany some weeks ago. To the best of my knowledge such an accusation leveled against Saly Mayer is grossly and flagrantly incorrect. I know Saly Mayer well and I can unequivocally state that purposely interfering with Masly's activity in behalf of rescuing Jewish deportees is the furthest thing from Mr. Mayer's mind. Saly Mayer has always been the first to applaud the success of other groups and has never displayed Masly's tendency to "monopolize" such rescue activities.

It is possible, although we have no way checking this for certainty, that Kurt Becher, the SS contact man in Saly Mayer's negotiations, disgruntled by Masly's initial success, has on his own initiative and in the interest of maintaining his own prestige attempted in Berlin to discredit Masly's status as a negotiator in

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

the matter of the release of Jewish deportees from Germany. Sternbach's statement, based on Masy's claims, that Saly Mayer had collected and supplied Becher through Kasztner, with all press comment unfavorable to Masy's negotiations which had appeared in Switzerland, is not only incorrect but an inexcusable calumny of Mr. Mayer. If Becher himself through other channels received such clippings (which is not impossible) which he displayed in Berlin, this is barely a question of internal SS competition and backbiting over which Mr. Mayer has no concern whatever.

Masy and his son returned from Germany on the afternoon of March 21 (the day before I left for Paris) empty-handed and with the report that their efforts to extricate further convoys of deportees had been unsuccessful. It is my understanding that they have since returned once more to Germany to continue their negotiations for the release of at least 2000 more people.

After Bernhardt's discussions with Kaltenbrunner of the SS, by which negotiations for the release of large categories of "Schutzhaftlinge" were more or less officially opened between the German Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross, it is not surprising that Masy's dealings should become of secondary if not of less importance. It is my feeling - and now - that ICRC's present negotiations on this broader basis will now supersede and replace the previous subordinate negotiations carried on through the Saly Mayer-Blecher and Sternbach-Masy "hook-ups." At the same time, after a silence of almost 6 weeks during which time he claimed that he was ill, Blecher, who had been ostensibly at the Grand Hotel in Vienna, has now announced that he wishes to come at least to the Swiss frontier to discuss urgent matters with Saly Mayer, Kasztner will probably accompany Blecher. It is, however, both Saly's and my feeling that since the fall (or rather near fall at the writing of these lines) of Vienna and the obvious worsening of Germany's situation alliterally Blecher is now interested in a) trying to sell out certain wealthy Jews belonging to the Weiss and Chorin families whom the Nazis held as

hostage in Vienna, and 3) save his own life. If only
in the case our bargaining situation will be consi-
derably strengthened and you may be sure we will take
full advantage of it to release as many people as
possible.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Roswell D. McClelland

Major General C. Dwyer,
New Bridge Road,
Washington, D. C.

107

110073

and Americans assurance that all administrative personnel and SS guards found in such camps will be treated as soldiers and prisoners of war when the British or American forces arrive. The fear that all such SS guards would be shot at once motivated the condition named above.

Musy was informed that to the best of my knowledge it is not the practice of British or American Armies to shoot anyone in uniform of a unit incorporated regularly in German armed forces who without resistance surrendered properly.

Musy was asked by me to furnish information as to the exact geographic location of the fifteen camps in question as soon as possible.

He must have a reply by seven o'clock in the evening, April 11, at the latest if evacuation of these camps is to be avoided, Musy declared.

It is difficult to understand the present proposal made by the Nazis which is apparently of such small advantage to them, in the light of earlier proposals they have made.

It is requested that you inform me as to what action you desire me to take in the matter, if any.

HARRISON

DC/L:LOW:AN
4-10-48

109

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM WILLIAM O'DWYER, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

You are hereby directed not (repeat not) to engage in any discussions concerning proposals of the nature described in your No. 2087 of April 9. Any such proposals or discussions are beyond the terms of reference of the War Refugee Board.

This is WRB Bern No. 493

Dictated over phone to State - 4/11/45 - 9:30 a.m.
Sent to Warren - 4/11/45 - 9:45 a.m.

W.A.
with O'Dwyer & Silverman
WH:nd 4/11/45

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APR 11 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I send you herewith for your personal information copies of a cable dated April 9, 1945, received from Mr. McClelland in Bern, and of our reply thereto.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

Enclosures.

*Orig signed by
Gen O'Dwyer*

FH:hd 4/11/45

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APR 11 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I send you herewith for your personal information copies of a cable dated April 9, 1945, received from Mr. McClelland in Bern, and of our reply thereto.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosures.

FH:hd 4/11/45

*Orig. signed
by Sen O'Dwyer*

APR 11 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I send you herewith for your personal information copies of a cable dated April 9, 1945, received from Mr. McClelland in Bern, and of our reply thereto.

Very truly yours,

(Typed name) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosures.

*orig signed by
Wm O'Dwyer*

FH:hd 4/11/45

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

Bern, April, 11th. 1945.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

With reference to my wire No. 2087 of April 9th. I enclose for the Board's information a copy of my discussion "in extenso" of last Sunday afternoon with Musy.

Meanwhile your answering wire, Department's No. 1415 of April 11 has been received. It is difficult for me to know how far this represents the Board's ideas or those of the Department of State. As it happened Musy telephoned me before this message came in so that I could only attempt to stall him. He will call again, unfortunately, tomorrow evening at about 7 o'clock, at which time I shall have no choice but to string him along further. I plan on my own responsibility to tell him that we can only give a definite answer to his proposal on condition that we first be furnished detailed information concerning the names, exact geographic location, number of inmates (including the nationalities and sexes) for each of the 15 concentration camps.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Roswell D. McClelland

Enclosure: Report of recent conversation with Musy.

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter: 1-18-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

COPY FOR THE WRB - Washington

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~

Geneva, April 9 - 10, 1945

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH M U S Y CONCERNING HIS
MOST RECENT TRIP TO GERMANY.

Saturday evening, April 7th., about 9 o'clock Sternbuch telephoned to me in a highly excited state. He said he was speaking from Montreux and had just talked to Musy who was at present in Zürich and had returned that morning, with his son, from the latest of his trips to Germany. Sternbuch informed me that Musy had a matter of great importance "to Washington and London" which he must discuss with me as soon as possible. I attempted to extract additional information from Sternbuch as to the exact nature of this "important news," asking him whether it concerned relief to detainees in Germany and their evacuation or if it was solely of a political nature. If the latter - and in view of the fact that Musy was in Zurich and the matter supposedly most urgent - it might be better if some authorized person connected with our Consulate in Zurich discuss the subject with Musy. Sternbuch said he would contact Musy again, try to secure some clarification and call me back. About an hour later Sternbuch telephoned again and informed me that Musy would have to come to Geneva in any event and planned to do so on Sunday. He could therefore talk to me in Geneva; but this would have to be tomorrow evening or Monday morning early at the latest since the message in question should be transmitted to Washington at the start of the day on Monday. I asked Sternbuch to call me on Sunday morning and let me know what time to expect Musy. This he did and announced that Musy would arrive in Geneva on the 4:11 train and that he, Sternbuch and his colleague, Mr. Donnebaum, would accompany Musy. They would come immediately to my home.

Around 4:15, Sunday Sternbuch phoned from the station announcing that they had arrived and that he wished to inform me by way of preparation and orientation that Musy's message concerned guarantees to be given by the Allies that on the

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP-27 1972

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arrival of the American or British forces at concentration camps in Germany none of the SS guards would be shot. Sternbuch then launched into a somewhat incoherent story about 350,000 Hungarian Jewish deportees who had been shot by the Germans, then switched over to the subject of Becher (the SS man who has carried on negotiations with Saly Mayer for the past many months regarding the Hungarian Jews) whom he stated was now being sent, on written orders from Schellenberg, to the camp of Ravensbrück. I cut him off short and said that he had better wait to discuss all this when we were together. About 20 minutes later the three of them arrived: Sternbuch, Donnebaum and Musy.

After some preamble (we spoke in French) concerning his desire that his negotiations with Himmler receive favorable press comment in the United States, Musy told the following story, the elements of which did not always hang together very well:

A short time ago Hitler had been shown transcripts of "Atlantiksender" broadcasts as well as press clippings concerning the negotiations of outside agencies with the SS for the liberation from Germany of certain categories of civil detainees ("Schutzhäftlinge"). Hitler had immediately taken violent exception to any such step, particularly as regards Jews, and had a few days later (I gathered on either April 3rd., 4th. or 5th.) summoned Himmler, Schellenberg and an SS General named Gehring (I am not sure about this spelling), whom Musy described as "the head of the German concentration camp system," to a special meeting where Hitler definitely vetoed the evacuation or release from Germany of any of these people. The tenor of Hitler's ranting seemed to have been along the line that these people should share the fate of the Germans themselves who would never surrender but withdraw for the last stand into their réduit in the south. Hitler, however, did not enter into the practical question of how hundreds of thousands of detainees could possibly ever be moved into the Nazi réduit. Himmler and his henchmen had, therefore, to bow before Hitler's will

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and preparations were begun for the evacuation on foot - there being no means of transportation available - of the major concentration camps.

Musy cited the specific case of the camp of Buchenwald bei Weimar where, he affirmed, preparations were already well advanced ^{on} Thursday, April 5th. to send some 18,000 men and women out on foot for a march of about 300 kilometers. Musy stated that he questioned Gehring as to the number of persons out of these 18,000 who might conceivably be able to reach their destination alive. Gehring said he thought about 10,000.

After having explained that he had, prior to Hitler's meeting, proposed to Himmler that the inmates of the major concentration camps be all released (as a grandiose, Nazi "humanitarian" gesture, I gathered) and evacuated through the fighting lines under cover of an especially called truce - a proposal which, he said, Himmler had been willing to consider favorably- Musy maintained that he had continued discussions with Himmler, and particularly with Schellenberg and General Gehring (whom he saw "almost every day during his stay in Berlin"), in an effort to find a way of saving from evacuation these tens of thousands of detainees. Himmler had at first wished to obtain politico-military concessions such as a guarantee that there would be no negro occupation troops, but Musy had waved them aside as unrealizable and continued, he intimated, to try to bring Himmler around to this step as one of value to the Nazis and to Germany in general in that it would if not directly obtain better terms or treatment at least lessen Allied antipathy ~~to~~ the Nazis. Eventually Himmler and Schellenberg declared themselves willing to give orders (they pointed out to Musy that this was at the risk of their lives since it would be contrary to Hitler's wishes) that all the inmates of some 15 main concentration camps still in Nazi territory should be kept in their camps and not evacuated. SS guards and administrative personnel should also remain on the spot and efforts should be made to continue feeding the detainees, insofar as military developments permitted. (I asked Musy at this point if

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the SS would make any difficulty with the arrival and distribution of food parcels by the ICRC, to which he replied none whatever.)

In response to my question as to how keeping detainees in their camps could be carried out in practice if it was contrary to Hitler's orders - Musy having previously stated that Hitler was the master and the SS obeyed him - Musy replied that "Hitler now had other more important matters to attend to" and that in such questions of internal SS administration Himmler and Schellenberg would have a free hand. ~~They would have a free hand.~~

As a direct result of this "change of heart" on the part of Himmler and Schellenberg orders were given not to evacuate or at least to suspend evacuation preparations. The inmates of Buchenwald, ^{for example} ~~for example~~, did not have to leave their camp.

Musy explained that Himmler and Schellenberg were willing to take this step on one condition: that they receive formal assurance from the Americans and the British that all SS guards and administrative personnel found in the concentration camps on arrival of the American or British forces be treated as soldiers and regular prisoners-of-war. This condition seemed to be motivated by the fear that all such SS guards on concentration camps would be immediately shot.

I told Musy that to the best of my knowledge it was not and had never been the practice of the American and British armies to shoot anyone arbitrarily who wore the military uniform of a unit or organization regularly incorporated in the German, or for that matter, any other armed forces if this individual surrendered in due and proper form without offering resistance.

Throughout my conversation with Musy and in the discussion of this "condition" he spoke only of the Americans and the British and of the assurance being obtained from them, never from the Russians.

Musy seemed pleased with my personal opinion that there was little danger of such concentration camp SS guards being summarily shot and told me that he planned to telephone to Konstanz that evening (Sunday) a message which would be passed

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on to Schellenberg ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ inform ^{my} the latter that he, ^{Musy,} had delivered the proposition to the Americans and that the "Americans" had informed him informally that there was little likelihood that SS guards on concentration camps would be immediately shot.

Sternbuch seemed very anxious that Musy be as encouraging and positive as possible in this preliminary message.

I suggested to Musy, and he agreed, that as a preliminary condition he inform Schellenberg that both SS guards and administrative personnel in these concentration camps should wear their regular uniforms and that under no circumstances should they offered armed resistance. Further, that we should be supplied as soon as possible with accurate information as to the precise geographic location of each of these 15 camps. Musy said that he would definitely ask for this and added that such information would be very valuable to avoid any mistaken shelling or aerial bombardment of the camps.

I could not help voicing my opinion as to the inconsequence of this condition, to which Musy replied that he had told Himmler that any condition laid down which he, Musy, would propose to the Allies should be as easy of fulfillment as possible.

Musy informed me that he planned to return to Germany (by car, as usual) on Thursday morning, April 12th. at the latest and that he would very much like to receive a definite reply from the Americans and British (that is, the supreme headquarters of the Allied armies fighting in the west) to take back with him. I told him that I could not give this guarantee but could only agree to present the proposal to my superiors. Musy thereupon stressed the urgency of an early reply referring once more to the suspended evacuation of Buchenwald and explaining that General von Schellenberg had estimated on April 5th. that the Allied armies would be in Weimar in 5 to 6 days at the most. Musy further confided to me that it was Schellenberg's personal opinion that the war would be over in Germany within 5 to 6 weeks.

While on the subject of Schellenberg Musy once more spoke

warmly of the man whom he described as "moderate" ("modéré"). Schellenberg was really not a military man, he went on, but a lawyer by training and still only 35 years of age. Musy then told me that he had heard that the Americans had selected and were now using some 2 or 300 Germans as a police force in Cologne. intimating that after all since we were doing things like this we ought to be able to use a man of Schellenberg's qualities.

I tried to "pump" Musy on the subject of Schellenberg's plans for the future. Did he plan to retire into the réduit with the "Götterdämmerung crowd?" Musy was vague on this subject and only willing to intimate that opinions were divided on this score⁺ in high German circles and that Schellenberg and Himmler had their own particular followers and would not necessarily have to follow Hitler at the last moment even if it meant armed conflict. (+ withdrawing into a réduit)

I asked Musy whether he thought, on the basis of his recent travels in Germany and contacts in high quarters, that this réduit question would go through. He would only say that in driving back to Switzerland he passed a great many fortifications and mine fields all along the approaches to the Bavarian alpine region.

On the subject of Hitler and what would ultimately happen to him Musy stated that Hitler "would not escape the wrath of his own people," adding that the the opposition to and dissatisfaction with Hitler was growing to formidable proportions in Germany.

Regarding the nearness of the Americans and the British in the west to Weimar and the urgency therefore of receiving an answer from them as rapidly as possible, Schellenberg had added that he thought there was no danger from the Russian side (i.e. of their arriving shortly) for the moment since they were too far away.

By way of incidental information Musy said that Berlin was plastered with huge placards exhorting the population "to die rather than be carried off to Siberia as slaves."

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Before leaving Musy stated that he would telephone me from Kreuzlingen at about 7 p.m. Wednesday and added that it would be most desirable for the success of his negotiations if an answer from the Americans and British could be forthcoming by that time. He felt it most important to be able to return to Germany personally on Thursday with the answer in hand, otherwise it might be too late to prevent the evacuation of these 15 concentration camps.

RH
RDMC.

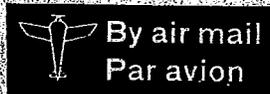
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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN LEGATION,
BERN, SWITZERLAND

SECRET
VIA POUCH

SECRET

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.



REG. No. 374

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

War Ref Bd,
(O'Keefe)

MS-96

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (SECRET) DC/L

1945 APR 28 PM 1 41 Dated April 27, 1945

Rec'd 10:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2474, April 27, 7 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 1905, March 31

Following is for your information. On April 15 Sternbuch of Vaad Hahatzala requested my approval of a project to purchase several tons of canned fish, olives and figs in Portugal and Spain to be paid out of discretionary funds in our joint account. According to our best information Swiss Government, ICRC, many Swiss commercial firms and a number of private relief agencies already possess considerable stocks of food which must be held in Spain and Portugal for lack of transportation facilities to Switzerland. I accordingly advised Sternbuch that the indefinite future delivery of this food which he desires to purchase now clearly eliminated this project as one which might be seriously considered for payment out of funds provided by the JDC for emergency relief and rescue programs in behalf of civil detainees and deportees

in German

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-2-#2474, April 27, 7 p.m., from Bern.

in German occupied territory. I therefore turned down his project. As Sternbuch has substantial funds which he received from his committee I suggested that he consider making such purchases out of his free funds.

HARRISON

JMS

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April 30, 1945
3:30 p.m.

Rabbi Kalmanowitz and Rabbi Metz came in to see Mr. Silverman. They left with him a memorandum, dated April 25th, asking that a further warning be issued to the Nazis regarding the mistreatment of civilian internees of Jewish nationality and that an arrangement, similar to the prisoner of war agreement, be reached with the Nazis regarding these internees. Mr. Silverman advised the Rabbis that General O'Dwyer was deeply interested in these people and that everything possible was being done.

Kalmanowitz and Metz also asked that permission be given to Sternbach to use discretionary funds in the joint account of Sternbach and McClelland for the purchase of food stuffs in Portugal and Spain. (See cable from Bern No. 2474 of April 27th). Mr. Silverman advised the Rabbis that, since War Refugee Board activities were restricted to enemy territory, getting food into liberated camps was not our problem. Mr. Silverman said that he was sure that McClelland would see that the funds were used most effectively in compliance with the terms of the license and that the Vaad Hahatzala should not raise the issue of ownership of the funds with us at this time. Mr. Silverman called Leavitt when the Rabbis had left and outlined this conversation to him. Mr. Leavitt said that the Vaad Hahatzala couldn't touch that money since it wasn't theirs and that the Vaad were coming in to see the JDC tomorrow (May 1st) and that the JDC would "lay the law down to them."

On May 1st after talking to General O'Dwyer, Mr. Silverman called Rabbi Metz and again told him that, according to the terms of the license, these funds could not be used for relief outside of enemy territory.

Mr. Leavitt advised Mr. Silverman that the JDC is sending a letter to the War Refugee Board, putting the Board on record as to the ownership of the funds.

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VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee)
132 Nassau St.

New York, N.Y.

May 7, 1945.

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt
Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Ave.
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

We have your letter dated May 2, and wish to state that the Vaad Hatzala cannot appropriately comply with your request in view of a number of considerations pertaining to this particular grant.

We are also writing to our representative in Switzerland for detailed information and shall arrange for a conference with you just as soon as we hear from Mr. Sternbuch.

Cordially yours

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

(Signed)

Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky
Executive Sec'y

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JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc.

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May 2, 1945.

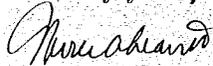
Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

In connection with Treasury license W2426 issued to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee advanced the sum of \$937,000 for the purposes covered by that license. The War Refugee Board is familiar with the projects of rescue which had been envisaged by the Vaad Hahatzala and with the purposes of the funds which were deposited in Switzerland.

In the light of the fact that such rescue activities are now virtually concluded, we have today written to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee requesting that they authorize their representative in Switzerland, Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, to transfer the funds now held under the joint account of Mr. Roswell McClelland and Mr. Sternbuch to the account of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Switzerland. We are enclosing herewith a copy of the letter we have today written to the Vaad Hahatzala. We understand that the balance of the funds unspent amounts to approximately \$800,000. May we ask you to be good enough to instruct your representative in Switzerland, Mr. McClelland, to arrange with Mr. Sternbuch for the transfer of the balance of our funds to our account in Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,



Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:bg
enc.

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 MRS. ROGER W. STRAUS, *New York*
 EDWARD A. SUISMAN, *Hartford, Conn.*
 FRANK L. SULZBERGER, *Chicago*
 LEON C. SUNSTEIN, *Philadelphia*
 JACK D. TARCHER, *New York*
 AARON TEITELBAUM, *New York*
 JEROME I. UDELL, *New York*
 F. FRANK VORENBERG, *Boston*
 WALTER F. WANGER, *Los Angeles, Calif.*
 MRS. FELIX M. WARBURG, *New York*
 MAX M. WARBURG, *New York*
 DAVID M. WATCHMAKER, *Boston*
 FRANK L. WEIL, *New York*
 JAMES L. WHITE, *Salt Lake City, Utah*
 HENRY WINEMAN, *Detroit*
 MOSES WINKELSTEIN, *Syracuse*
 JONAH B. WISE, *New York*
 MORRIS WOLF, *Philadelphia*
 HARRY ZEITZ, *Brooklyn*

IN THE ARMED FORCES

ABNER BREGMAN, *New York*
 WILLIAM W. GOODMAN, *Memphis*
 MARCO F. HELLMAN, *New York*
 EDWARD A. NORMAN, *New York*
 LEWIS L. STRAUSS, *New York*
 MORRIS C. TROPER, *New York*
 EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, *New York*

May 2nd, 1945.

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

On March 2nd, we sent you our check #11347 in the sum of \$937,000 as an advance to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee for transmission to Switzerland in accordance with special license W2426 which you received from the Treasury Department. This advance to you was made in connection with certain possible schemes of rescue in which your Committee was engaged through Switzerland and the J.D.C. borrowed these funds from the banks in order to make them available to you for such rescue activities. You have now informed us that your representative, Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, has advised you that the funds in question will not be used for the purposes intended in rescuing the Jews from occupied areas.

On April 12th you advised us that approximately \$125,000 were expended by you for food and transportation and that the Treasury Department had released that sum of money for this purpose. In light of the above, we believe that the purpose for which the funds were advanced to you has been completed. We would therefore request that you instruct your representative in Switzerland to release these funds to our account in Switzerland and we are writing to the War Refugee Board as per copy attached.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:JO
enc.

1000 NEW YORK

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

FRANK W. ...
WILLIAM ...
ALBERT ...
JOHN ...

ALBERT ...
JOHN ...

LOUIS H. ...
DONALD ...

15

Food Administration
125 Nassau Street
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

We enclose herewith our check #1111 for the amount of \$100,000 as an advance to the Food Materials Emergency Committee for transmission to Britain in accordance with license #72126, which you have received from the Treasury Department. It is understood and agreed to by the Food Materials Administration that during the period when the approval of the U.S. Government is required for the importation of these funds, the Food Materials Administration will undertake to insure the J.B.C. of such expenditures. Should the day in which the U.S. Government's restrictions be removed from license #72126, the Food Materials Administration will insure the J.B.C. of such expenditures on the balance of the funds and to ensure the approval of the J.B.C. of such expenditures when they are authorized. Should the day in which the restrictions be removed in whole or in part, in accordance with the terms of the license, the Food Materials Administration will insure the J.B.C. of such expenditures of this sum and to be insured the representative, Mr. ... of the J.B.C. of such expenditures, in order to release these funds to the J.B.C. of such expenditures. The Food Materials Administration will also undertake to insure the J.B.C. of such expenditures.

Will you be good enough to sign the enclosed carbon copy of this letter certifying that you are in agreement with this understanding and enclosing the same to us.

Very sincerely yours,

W. L. ...

W. L. ...

W. L. ...

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

114

000103

MAY 5 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

There is enclosed herewith a photostatic copy of your letter of March 2, 1945, addressed to the Vaad Hahatzala. The enclosure bears the signature of Mr. Isaac Sternbuch and was received for you through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

Enclosure

EBTowler 5/4/45

000110



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

Bern, April 17, 1945.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Please find attached hereto the photocopy of a letter written to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee in New York to the Joint Distribution Committee. This letter was forwarded to me some weeks ago in order that it might be countersigned by Mr. Sternbuch. Not without some delay Mr. Sternbuch has returned it to me signed as his organization requested. I therefore hasten to return it to you so that it may be sent to the J.D.C.

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosure: 1 photocopy of letter for the JDC.

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer

Executive Director

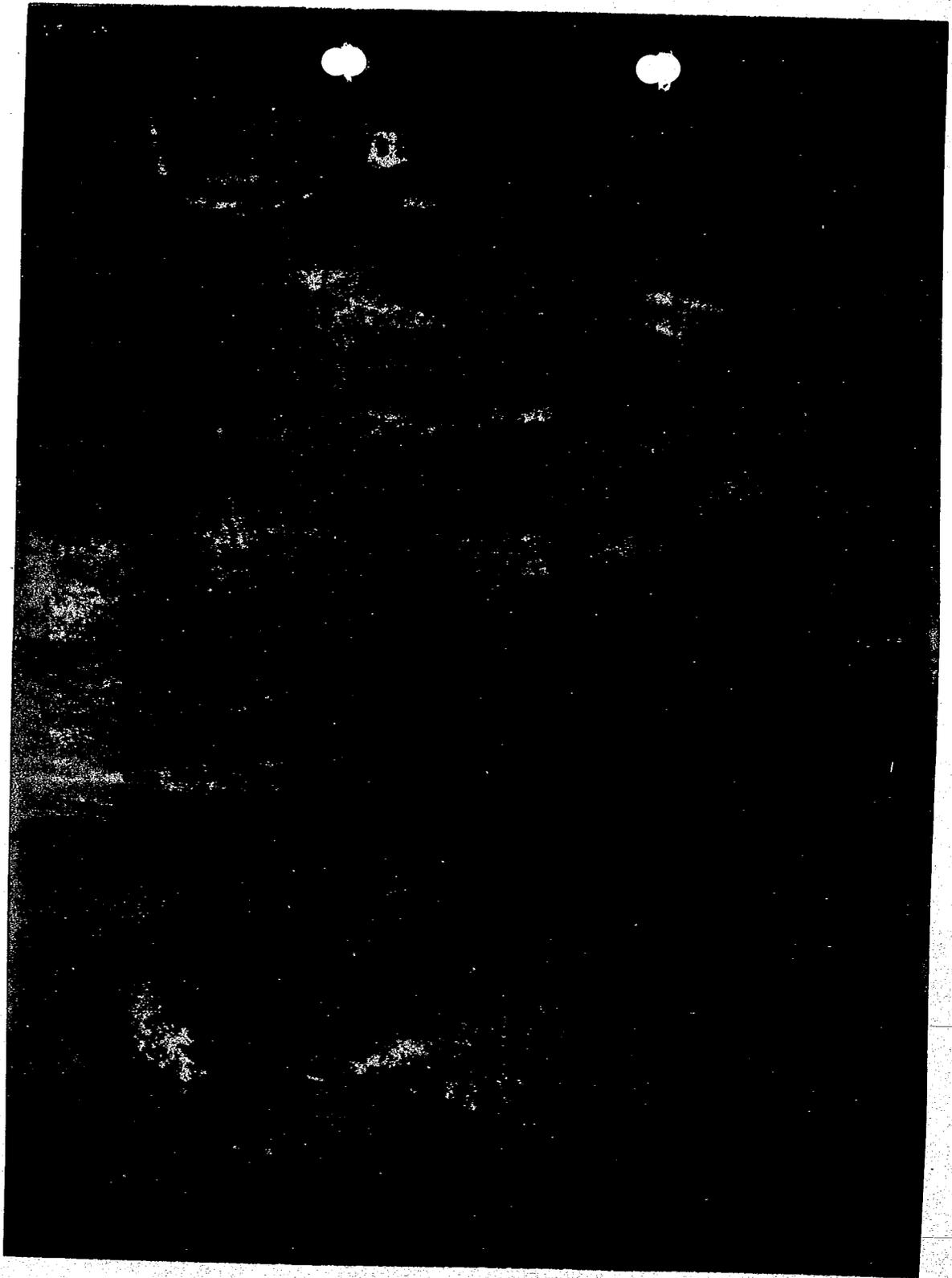
War Refugee Board,

Washington 25, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000111



000112

Representative of the
War Refugee Board,
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN, SWITZERLAND

CONFIDENTIAL
VILE FOUCH

Brigadier General William C. Byrd
Executive Director
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

 By air mail
Par avion

32323

BID No. 453

000113

C
O
P
Y

JOL THE AMERICAN JEWISH
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

March 2, 1945

Vaad Hahatzala
132 Nassau Street.
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

We enclose herewith our check #11347 in the amount of \$937,000 as an advance to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee for transmission to Switzerland in accordance with license #W2426, which you have received from the Treasury Department. It is understood and agreed to by the Vaad Hahatzala that during the period when the approval of the U. S. Government is required for the expenditure of these funds, the Vaad Hahatzala will undertake to inform the J.D.C. of such expenditures. Should the war in Europe end and the U. S. Government restriction be removed from license #W2426, the Vaad Hahatzala undertakes to discuss with the J.D.C. such expenditures, or the balance of these funds, and to secure the approval of the J.D.C. to such expenditures before they are authorized. Should the time come when these funds have not been expended in whole or in part, in accordance with the terms of the license, the Vaad Hahatzala undertakes to release to the J.D.C. the unexpended portion of this sum and to so instruct its representative in Switzerland, Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, or his successor, in order to release these funds to the J.D.C. at that time. The Vaad Hahatzala will also undertake to have Mr. Sternbuch sign a copy of this letter or similar letter.

Will you be good enough to sign the enclosed carbon copy of this letter as indicating that you are in agreement with this understanding and return this copy to us.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt
Secretary

MAL:RS

Montreux, the 16th april 1945

/s/ I. Sternbuch
(Isaac Sternbuch)

000114

115

000115

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of ^{RECEIVED} ^{DIVISION OF} ^{CENTRAL SERVICES}
reading only by special
arrangement. (Special W)
1945 MAY 11 PM 2:07

May 10, 1945

6 P.M.

Mar Rep
J. Sluyter

DC/L

ALLEGATION

BERN
1765
+

CONTROL COPY

The following for McClelland from War Refugee Board

is WRB 522.

Reference your no. 2474 of April 27, Department's
no. 958 (WRB no. 430) of March 6, and Department's
no. 1204 (WRB no. 497) of March 26, 1945, concerning
\$937,000 remitted to joint account in names of you and
Sternbuch in connection with Busy negotiations.

You are hereby instructed to authorize no (repeat no)
further expenditures from this account until further
instructions are sent you by the Board.

GREW
(DC/L)

WRB:MMV:kg
5/10/45

WE

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

000116

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, SWITZERLAND, FOR McCLELLAND, FROM WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 2474 of April 27, Department's No. 958
(WRB No. 430) of March 6, and Department's No. 1204 (WRB No. 477) of
March 26, 1945, concerning \$937,000 remitted to joint account in names
of you and Sternbuch in connection with Musy negotiations.

You are hereby instructed to authorize no (repeat no) further
expenditures from this account until further instructions are sent
you by the Board.

This is WRB Cable No. 522, Bern.

12:45 p.m.
May 10, 1946

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

FH:hd:ve

5/9/46

JAS.

000111

NEGOTIATIONS IN SWITZERLAND. INCLUDING GERMAN PROPOSALS

(CONTINUED)

Cable #2781 from Bern	May 16, 1945	116
Cable #2795 from Bern (Copy)	May 18, 1945	117
Cable #1907 (WRB 528) to Bern	May 28, 1945	118
Cable #3072 from Paris	May 29, 1945	119
Cable #2261 from Bern	May 31, 1945	120
Cable #7591 from Bern	July 17, 1945	121
Cable #3639 from Bern	July 26, 1945	122
Cable #2402 (WRB 541)	July 27, 1945	123
Cable #3985 from Bern	Aug. 14, 1945	124

000113

STERNBUCH BEALS



000119

116

000120

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

CORRECTED COPY
1945 May 19 AM 8 50

Quar Ref 30
O. Sawyer

ASF-18
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████)

Ecmn

Dated May 16, 1945

Rec'd 4:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington

CONTROL COPY

2781, May 16, 5 p.m.

WRB FROM McCLELLAND. Department's 1765 WRB 522

May 10th.

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

I fully agree with your instructions and in fact
recently refused second request from Sternbuch's organi-
zation authorize release one million Swiss francs from
our joint account to purchase foodstuffs for relief.
500,000 francs transferred to ICRC as reported
in Legation's 1905, March 31 have been expended by
Sternbuch for purchase foodstuffs: condensed milk, cheese
and canned fish to extent approximately 462,000 francs
and for transportation relief supplies to the Resientstadt
for 38,000 francs. These operations were begun however
before Nazi collapse were of an emergency nature in
German occupied territory and bore some relationship
to Busy's negotiations part of whose role having been
assuring compliances in food deliveries to Jews in
concentration camps so can accordingly be considered

legitimate.

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

000121

-2- 19781, 197 16, 5 p.m., from Bern

legitimate. Hostilities in Germany nevertheless ceased before Sternbuch's Committee was able ship major portion above mentioned food purchases which remain in Switzerland.

Since Germans have surrendered and Husy's negotiations have consequently ended original purpose for which this money transmitted has ceased to exist. In fulfillment therefore of their agreement with JEC when latter made these funds available it would seem that time has come for Vaadhálatzala to instruct Sternbuch return unexpended balance which amounts to 3,500,000 francs to JEC. If feasible JEC will probably wish this balance turned over to their representative in Switzerland.

I will await your further instructions this matter.

HARRISON

RR

000122

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

*Mar Ref Bd.
C. Sawyer*

MSB-13
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████)

TELETYPE UNIT 9 BORN

Dated May 16, 1945

Rec'd 4:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington

2781, May 16, 5 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

WRB FROM MCCLELLAND. Department's 1765 WRB 522

May 10th

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

German occupied territory and burdensome relationship
to Musy's negotiations part of whose role having been
assuring compliances in food deliveries to Jews in
concentration camps so can accordingly be considered
legitimate. Hostilities in Germany nevertheless ceased
before Sternbuch's Committee was able ship major portion
above mentioned food purchases which remain in
Switzerland.

Since Germans have surrendered and Musy's negoti-
ations have consequently ended original purpose for
which this money transmitted has ceased to exist. In
fulfilment therefore of their agreement with JDC when
latter made these funds available it would seem that
time has come for Vaadhahatzala to instruct Sternbuch
return unexpended balance which amounts to 3,500,000

francs to

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

000123

-2- #2781, May 16, 5 p.m., from Bern

francs to JDC. If feasible JDC will probably wish this balance turned over to their representative in Switzerland.

I will await your further instructions this matter.

I fully agree with your instructions and in fact recently refused second request from Sternbuch's organization authorize release one million Swiss francs from our joint account to purchase foodstuffs for relief.

500,000 francs transferred to ICRC as reported in Legation's 1905, March 31 have been expended by Sternbuch for purchase foodstuffs, condensed milk, cheese and canned fish to extent approximately 462,000 francs and for transportation relief supplies to the Resientstadt for 38,000 francs. These operations were begun however before Nazi collapse were of an emergency nature.

HARRISON

RR

000124



000125

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFG-617

Bern

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Dated May 18, 1945

Rec'd 11:32 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2795, May 18, 11 a.m.

WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

FROM SALY MAYER TO H. LEAVITT JDC:

Regarding interest on joint account with Swiss
National Bank answer is in negative. SNB is precluded
by law from paying interest and chances with commercial
banks are not much better if it is question of shortcall
money. All Swiss funds in USA do not yield interest
either. Interest could probably be obtained from
smaller banks but security would not be the same. One
and only reliable means of securing interest would be
to buy bonds; but from practical point of view this
seems inadvisable since I do not know how suddenly
money might be called in. I shall however continue
my inquiries this matter and in case more positive
result can be obtained will communicate with you
without delay.

I have

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

000126

-2-2795, May 18, 11 a.m., from Bern

I have discussed topic of medical aid to combat epidemics with IRC headquarters but committee already has its own established connections regarding this matter.

Concerning Berta Rappaport-les Avants your instructions have been carried out".

HARRISON

RR

000127

015

000128

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

HEH

PLAIN

May 28, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAY 29 1945

TELETYPE OFFICE

ALLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BARN

1907, Twenty-eighth

The cable below for McClelland is FHD 528.

Following message is for you from H. A. Leavitt,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

We would appreciate your conferring with Isaac Sternbuch and requesting him that for purposes of accounting between Vaad Hatzala and Joint Distribution Committee, we furnish you with statement of all sums expended by him from special 4 million Swiss franc deposit. Also what commitments he incurred with your approval which still payable. Please ask him cable directly Vaad Hatzala, New York, similar information so that his Committee can instruct him to release funds to Joint Distribution Committee.

GREW
(Acting)
(S.E.)

WR:haVance:kg
5/28/45

WE

000129

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

Following message is for you from M. A. Leavitt, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

We would appreciate your conferring with Isaac Sternbuch and requesting him that for purposes of accounting between Vaad Hahatzala and Joint Distribution Committee, he furnish you with statement of all sums expended by him from special 4 million Swiss franc deposit. Also what commitments he incurred with your approval which still payable. Please ask him cable directly Vaad Hahatzala, New York, similar information so that his Committee can instruct him to release funds to Joint Distribution Committee.

THIS IS WRE BER' CABLE NO. 528

copy sent to Joe 5/24/45

10:00 a.m.
May 24, 1945

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

MAL:BA 5/23/45

000130

119

000131

3032 for Paris

May 30, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Joseph Schwartz was received through the United States Embassy in Paris under date of May 29, 1945:

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

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RBH
RBHutchison: 5/30/45

000132

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EF-425

PLAIN

Paris

Dated May 29, 1945

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

*Marked by
Gandy*

Secretary of State

Washington

3032, Twenty-ninth

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MOSES LEAVITT JOINT
DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FROM JOSEPH SCHWARTZ

CONTROL COPY

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

CAFFERY

JMS

000133



000134

June 6, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Roswell D. McClelland, Special Representative of the War Refugee Board, was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of May 31, 1945:

"The following amounts have been spent by Sternbuch through ICRC from four million franc special credit made available to Vaad Hahatsala by JDC on March 2: 97,177.50 francs for condensed milk and cheese April 24; 26,448 for rent on trucks, insurance, drivers, etc for shipments of relief goods to the Resenstadt, April 25; 11,620.45 for the same on May 2; the unspent balance of 500,000, that is, 364,754.05, transferred to commission mixte of IRC to cover cost of food purchases previously ordered, May 11; I authorized Sternbuch to spend or credit for expenditure a single sum of 500,000 francs in all which we retransferred to IRC March 26. The balance unspent should therefore be approximately 3,500,000 less banking charges. I will try to recover this money locally and will keep you advised. Vaad Hahatsala has requested Sternbuch to wire statement of these expenditures directly to them."

Very truly yours,

(Signature)

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

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

RBHutchison: 6/6/45

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

VE-1127

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

1945 JUN 2

Born

AM 9 25

Dated May 31, 1945

Man ...

DC/L Rec'd 5:26 p.m.
LIAISON

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

2961, May 31, 8 a.m.

WRB FROM MACCLELLAND

Dept's 1907 WRB's 526 May 28 and Legation's
2781 May 16.

FOR LEAVITT OF JDC : following sums have been
expended by Sternbuch thru ICRC from special four
million franc credit made available by JDC to Vaad
Haatzala on March 2; 24 April 97177.50 francs for
condensed milk and cheese; 25 April 26448 hire of trucks
insurance drivers etc for relief shipments to the
Rosenstadt; 2 May 11620.45 for same; and 11 May unspent
balance of 500,000 that is 364754.05 transferred to
commission mixto of IRC to cover food purchases pre-
viously ordered. In all I authorized Sternbuch to spend
or credit for expenditure a single sum of 500,000 francs
which we retransferred to IRC on March 26. Unexpended
balance should therefore be about 3500000 minus
banking charges. I will attempt to recover this money

For security reasons the
... must

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

000131

-2-#2961, May 31, 8 a.m. from Bern
locally and will keep you informed. Sternbuch has
been requested to wire statement of those expenditures
directly to Vaad Haatzala.

HARRISON

RR

000137



000138

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-988
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (WR-1)

Bern

Dated July 17, 1945

Rec'd 10:35 a.m.

Man K. [unclear]
O. [unclear]

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

3591, July 17, 9 a.m.

O'DWYER OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Legation's 2961, May 31.

Kindly inform Mr. Leavitt of JDC that for past six weeks I have been endeavoring recover unspent balance of approximately 3,500,000 Swiss francs still in joint account at Fides Treuhand Basel in Sternbuch's and my names. Sternbuch, however, was absent from Switzerland most of June in France. He finally called on me July 13 and stated that he hoped within week receive authorization from Vaadha Hatzalah, New York sign order to bank for transfer this balance to my US Govt depository account in Bern as I had requested him on June 2.

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

In interest of clearing up this piece of unfinished WRB business as soon as possible, I should appreciate early instructions from JDC concerning disposition to be made of this money if it comes into my account and any steps JDC could take hasten his authorization to Sternbuch.

BB

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

000139

000140

July 27, 1946

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Isaac Sternbuch was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of July 26, 1946:

"With reference to our various telegrams and our telephone conversation, we urgently request prompt instructions regarding the unspent balance from license No. W-2426."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

hd 7/27/46

000141

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

IES-134
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████ WR-1)

Bern

Dated July 26, 1945

Rec'd. 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Tolson

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

3699, July 26, 8 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

Please deliver following from Sternbuch to Vaadha

Hatzala New York:

"With reference to our various telegrams and our
telephone conversation, we urgently request immediate
instructions concerning unspent balance from license
W 2426."

HARRISON

██████████ WR-1

JT

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

000142

000143

SEP
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OF reading only by special arrangement.
OUTGOING TELEGRAM
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

War Refugee Board

War Ref Bd
O. J. [unclear]

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BEFE
2402

The following for McClelland is WRB 541.

Reference your No. 3591, July 17.

Board has been advised that pursuant to agreement between JDC and Vaad Hahatzala, Sternbuch is to receive 100,000 Swiss francs of the approximately 3,500,000 Swiss francs still in special joint account in Sternbuch's and your names. JDC authorizes you with Board's approval to receive the aforementioned balance less 100,000 Swiss francs to be transferred to Sternbuch, and to transfer this amount to account of Saly Mayer.

For security reasons the text of this message will be placed in a separate envelope.

GREW
(ACPL/G)
(GRW)

SECRET W

WRB:MM Vance:kg
7/27/45

ME

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

Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000-144

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

Reference your No. 3591, July 17.

Board has been advised that pursuant to agreement between JDC and Vaad Hahatzala, Sternbuch is to receive 100,000 Swiss francs of the approximately 3,500,000 Swiss francs still in special joint account in Sternbuch's and your names. JDC authorizes you with Board's approval to receive the aforementioned balance less 100,000 Swiss francs to be transferred to Sternbuch, and to transfer this amount to account of Saly Mayer.

This is WRB Bern No. 541

July 27, 1945
10:15 a.m.

*Cleared with
Woj. Samers - Tor Dept., least JDC, Benin Vaad Hahatzala.
JH*

FH:hd 7/24/45

000145

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 910)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

July 25, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

This is to advise the War Refugee Board that we have officially instructed our representative Isaac Sternbuch in Montreux, Switzerland as follows:

"FROM JOINT ACCOUNT WITH McCLELLAND
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND FRANCS GO TO YOUR
ACCOUNT BALANCE McCLELLAND STOP JDC IS
CONFIRMING THIS ARRANGEMENT WITH
McCLELLAND"

This is with the consent of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Our instructions will no doubt be carried out.

With our deepest appreciation, we are

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

Irving Kamin
Irving Kamin

L

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000147



000148

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

ACTION: WRB
INFO:
S LYF-216-W
U Distribution of true
EUR true reading by special
NEA arrangement. ([REDACTED])
DC/L-C
WRB
SWP-4
FC-9 Secretary of State,
A-D Washington.
A-H

Bern

Wm Ruff
O. Stange
Dated August 14, 1945

Rec'd 4:30 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

3885, August 14, 1 p.m.

FOR O'DWYER, WRB, FROM McCLELLAND.

Kindly inform JDC New York that on August 7 sum
of 3,397,098.25 Swiss francs was released to me as
unspent balance of joint account I had been holding
with Sternbuch, latter having retained 100,000 francs
according to previous instructions. Saly Mayer has
been notified that I am holding this money at his dis-
posal.

HARRISON

JT

[REDACTED]

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

000149

AUG 18 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

Under date of August 14, 1945, Mr. McClelland cabled the Board requesting that we advise you that on August 7, 1945, the sum of 3,397.098.25 Swiss francs was released to him as the unspent balance of the joint account he had been holding with Sternbuch who retained 100,000 Swiss francs in accordance with previous instructions. Saly Mayer has been notified that Mr. McClelland is holding this money at his disposal.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

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

FH -
FH:hd 8/18/45

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