

Yugoslav Refugee Committee

000696



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE FISCAL DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SPFET 201 - Popovich, Milentije

17 June 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter dated 1 June 1944, inclosing check for \$50,000 for payment to Colonel Milentije Popovich, you are advised that this amount was received by Colonel Popovich on 12th June.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. MacPherson

R. H. MacPHERSON
Captain, Finance Department
Assistant, Receipts and Disbursements Division

NAR
w.d. 6/22

000694

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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

June 6, 1944
Midnight

AMREP.

ALGERS
1793

The cable below is for Murphy, Chapin and Ackermann, is WRB no. 20 and refers to your 1709 May 24, 1769 May 28 and 1780 May 30.

Funds have been transmitted to Yugoslav Refugee Committee in Bari as recommended your 1709.

Refer your 1780 USCC requesting its representative Madrid to furnish up to 100,000 pesetas to persons designated by you, for payment port dues in Spain. Please communicate with Embassy Madrid indicating to whom such pesetas should be furnished and amount thereof required. Reimbursement in Washington for pesetas furnished will be made USCC.

We have not taken up question here as suggested your 1759 of assurance of availability of ship for evacuation of refugees from Spain, in view statement in your 1790 that the local War Shipping Administration representative is giving full assistance. Please advise if Kallech and you consider it necessary we do so.

S/CR
WRB:MMV:KG
6/6/44

STETTINUS ACTING
(CR)
SE

WS

Mrs. Chauncey (for the Secy), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Files.

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

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE FISCAL DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

SPFET 201 - Popovich, Milentije

3 June 44

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated 1 June 1944, inclosing check in the amount of \$50,000 for payment to Colonel Milentije Popovich who is to receive the funds for the Yugoslav Refugee Committee.

Necessary action is being taken by this office to effect payment of the above amount, and you will be further advised when the transaction has been accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. MacPHERSON
Captain, Finance Department
Assistant, Receipts and Disbursements Division

24-59491ABC

00070

June 1, 1944

The Fiscal Director,
Headquarters,
Army Service Forces,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a certified check for \$50,000, payable to the Treasurer of the United States. It will be appreciated if you will arrange as promptly as possible for the appropriate representative of the Allied Financial Agency in Bari, Italy to pay an equivalent amount of Italian lire to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee in Bari. The money will be received for the Yugoslav Refugee Committee by Colonel Milentije Popovich.

In connection with the above transfer of funds, it will be appreciated if the following message is delivered to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee in Bari:

"These funds are being made available to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee for purposes of refugee rescue and relief pursuant to arrangements made with the Committee by a representative of the War Refugee Board."

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fahle,
Executive Director.

Enclosure.

Informed Mrs. Schmidt, Foreign Funds
Control, of this transaction. 5/31/44
JH

JBF:bbk - 5/31/44

LAWRENCE S. GREENBAUM
EDWARD S. GREENBAUM
HERBERT A. WOLFF
MORRIS L. ERNST
JONAS J. SHAPIRO
SAMUEL J. SCHUR
ALEXANDER LINDEY

SYLVESTER BENJAMIN
RAYMOND HERZOG
CASSRELL GREENBERG
ELLIOTT E. RUSKIN

JEROME HANDLER
THEODORE S. JAFFIN
BENJAMIN KAPLAN
LEO ROSEN
HAROLD H. STERN
HARRIET F. PILPEL

MONROE R. LAZERE
JEROME S. GREENE
CECILE BENNETT
ELIAS LEINER

GREENBAUM, WOLFF & ERNST
295 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

TELEPHONE CALEDONIA 5-1582
TELEGRAM CALEDONIA 5-1582

May 31, 1944.

Mr. J.W. Pehle,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear John:-

Pursuant to your telephone call of this morning,
I am enclosing herewith check on the account of Morris L.
Ernst, Special, in the sum of \$50,000.00 to the order of the
Treasurer of the United States. You state that this will be
disbursed by the United States Army in Bari, Italy, in accordance
with purposes agreed upon by all parties concerned.

With personal regards.

Sincerely,

Herbert A. Ernst

HMS/me
Encl.

The certified check for \$50,000, referred to above, which was made
on J. P. Morgan & Co. and was dated May 31, 1944, was delivered to
me personally to Colonel John Savage of the Office of the Chief
Director, Hdq. Army Service Forces on June 1, 1944, at 5:00 P.M.
At the same time, I handed Colonel Savage the original of the attached
letter. Colonel Savage stated appropriate instructions would be sent
out by radio on June 2 and that the funds would probably be
delivered to Colonel Popovich of the Yugoslav Refugee Committee
at Bari on June 3.

Matthew Markes, June 3, 1944

It is understood that through the transfer of these funds by Army facilities, the Government or its fiscal agents are in no way liable for erroneous delivery provided such delivery is made to persons identifying themselves as the payee through recognized identification medium.

10070

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 30, 1944

TO Mr. Friedman
FROM J. W. Pehle

I talked to Mr. Bundy and to General Carter today about the \$50,000 remittance to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee. Carter had Colonel Spagliano (extension 3603) call me about the matter. I think the best procedure is for you to get in touch with him directly and probably go over there to see him and make the necessary arrangements. Apparently there will be no difficulty involved as far as the War Department is concerned.

J. W. Pehle

- ① Certified check payable to the Treasurer of the United States
- ② Statement from Bank that "

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

KEM-907
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangements (██████)

Algiers

Dated May 24, 1949

Rec'd 8:21 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

1709, May 24, 2 p.m.

FROM MURPHY FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM ACKERLANN

NO. 20

Have returned from Italy. Army is willing that representative of Board be stationed in Italy but will not release Lawler as his present work is considered too important. Suggested by Lawler that Fraser or Fiedler might be used. Since there will be no Board representative in Bari for some time I recommend that funds mentioned in No. 1373 from Department be sent to AFA representative in Bari for delivery to Yugoslav Refugee Committee. LIFE can be used. Colonel Milentije Popovich will receipt for funds and at same time will forward to me tentative plans for use. After use full report will be furnished. My report on Italian trip follows by mail.

Beckelman

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

-2- #1709, May 24, 2 p.m., from Algiers.

Beckelman has cabled UNRRA and FEA about difficulties at Fedhala camp. Supply situation now appears settled despite closing down of Atlantic base section. There still remains question of securing army aid for guarding camp. Guards are necessary to protect property of camp. I am working on this problem and have received assistance of Ambassador ^{General} Murphy. Hope to settle it soon. Because of failure to give advance notice of sailing date ship for refugees did not leave on 20 May as expected. New tentative date is June 7. I am following problem to prevent another mixup.

CHAPIN

ED:
BB

PROCEDURE FOR SENDING \$50,000 TO YUGOSLAV REFUGEE COMMITTEE

1. Call Bundy. Refer to our cable regarding sending of \$50,000 to Yugoslav Refugee Committee at Bari, which cable was cleared with Bundy on May 3, and copy of which was sent to him on May 4. Indicate that arrangements have now been made by Ackermann for the Allied Financial Agency representative in Bari to deliver to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee there the lire equivalent of the \$50,000 to be furnished by the War Refugee Board.
2. Ask Bundy to have the Office of Fiscal Director (General Carter) get in touch with you to work out the details of sending these funds through the Army.
3. General Carter's office will give you the details. As I understand it it will simply involve the delivery to the Office of the Fiscal Director of a check for \$50,000 payable to the Treasurer of the United States. The Office of the Fiscal Director would then give instructions to the Allied Financial Agency representative in Bari to make available to the Yugoslav Refugee Committee the lire equivalent. We will, of course, indicate that the funds in Italy will be receipted for by Colonel Milentije Popovich.
4. Arrange with Leavitt ~~fax~~ in order that appropriate check for \$50,000 can be given to the Office of Fiscal Director.

887

ORIGINAL TEXT OF WILSON'S CABLE

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
 TO: AMEMB, Algiers
 DATE: May 8, 1944
 NUMBER: 1573

SAME TO AMBASSADOR WILSON, ALGERIA, FOR AMERICAN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please refer to your No. 1567 of April 22, 1944.

As previously mentioned, and after discussions with British, we are exploring all possibilities in England referred to by you and them. There are two of course, however, problems involved in the situation, one of which probably cannot be dealt with promptly. However, we have arranged for a committee to be set up to be furnished to the Refugee Committee in Paris for the review and final of refugees regardless of race, religion or nationality. In order that this cannot say to such available promptly and in a manner to secure the best use, it is suggested that you request immediately the form in which the committee should be made. Specifically would this be satisfactory? If so, it is contemplated that persons will be made in Paris by the Army Finance Officer there. If you consider it desirable that persons be made to a representative of the Board for transfer by him to the Refugee Committee, we advise so.

This is the cable to Algiers No. 1573.

cc: Mr. Ambassador, Mr. Ladd, Mr. Harbo, Miss Gurnea (for the Sec'y),
 Mrs. Gurnea, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan,
 Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan,
 Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan,
 Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan, Mr. Egan,

DECLASSIFIED
 State Dept. Ltr. 5-12-78
 By: D. H. Smith, Inc. SEP 27 1972

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Mr. John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War

From: Mr. Pehle

As you know, in a letter dated April 14, 1944, General Marshall, for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, advised the War Refugee Board that the Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Theater, has approved the project presented by the War Refugee Board to offer financial assistance to the Yugoslav Partisans in attempting to rescue certain refugees thought at the time to be on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic. According to General Marshall's letter, the Theater Commander has indicated that previously expressed views opposing, for military reasons, the rendering of aid to these refugees has been partly revised due to a present ability to care for displaced persons in Italy because arrangements have been made to evacuate a substantial number of Yugoslav refugees from Italy to the mid-East.

Following the recent military developments in Hungary and the Balkans, the War Refugee Board realized the necessity of exploring a potential escape route for refugees from Hungary and the Balkans through Yugoslavia. As a result of the Board's investigations which included discussions between a representative of the Board and representatives of the refugee committee of the Yugoslav National Committee at Bari, the Board is convinced that through cooperation with the Partisans there is a real possibility of saving refugees now in imminent danger of death. The Partisan Refugee Committee has indicated its desire and willingness to cooperate in this humanitarian effort. The Board has been informed of successful efforts already made by the Partisans in rescuing refugees. Apparently before the German recapture of the Island of Rab, the Partisans successfully evacuated the refugees on this island to other territory under Partisan control. They have also evacuated other refugee groups to Italy and from non-Partisan to Partisan territory in Yugoslavia.

As a result of our investigation, we are convinced that financial assistance should be given at once to the Partisan Refugee Committee in Bari. The War Refugee Board has arranged with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for the latter organization to furnish \$50,000 for

- 2 -

this purpose. We are presently requesting our representative in the area to ascertain the form and manner in which such funds should be made available to the Partisan Refugee Committee. This operation will be greatly facilitated if the funds can be remitted through War Department channels.

This matter has been cleared with the State Department.

000711

April 26, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Friedman

As I indicated to you, Becker is trying to get out a cable from Admiral Land to Kallosh in Algiers, asking him to explore with Ackermann the shipping problems involved in evacuating refugees through Yugoslavia. (See Ackermann's cable No. 1337 of April 22).

I think we have reached a stage in our consideration of the Yugoslav problem in which it would be helpful if you could advise State in a general way of the problem, indicating that we will come to them for help when specific problems are faced. Similarly, it might be helpful to talk to FEA people in somewhat the same way since Lend-Lease will necessarily be involved in the program we are thinking about. Accordingly, I suggest that you talk to Mr. Berle of State Department and to Messrs. MacCamey and Cox of FEA along the lines indicated in the attached memorandum.

Also attached is a cable to Ackermann letting him know that we are following his suggestions.

JBF:bbk - 4/26/44

000712

PAPAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Representatives, Algiers
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 22, 1944
NUMBER: 1337

The following message is from Ankermann, War Refugee Representative No. 14 for the War Refugee Board.

1. I have again discussed with the Partisan general whom AMHQ referred to us the problem of evacuation of the Yugoslavs. The immediate need is for from fifteen to twenty schooners from one hundred to two hundred in size since the repair of the vessels they own will take some time. Since rescue must be done in darkness and since the nights are growing shorter these vessels preferably should have a speed of ten knots at least. For the journey to the Dalmatian Islands from the mainland of Yugoslavia small vessels one to two tons in size are needed.

2. If allocation can be obtained from MEDSO in Italy there are available some 200 ton ships. This will be assisted by strong direction from a high naval authority or from Admiral Hand. Motor boats or small ships must be obtained elsewhere since they are not available. As the nights grow shorter the present use of fishing smacks by Yugoslavs becomes more dangerous.

3. For additional report on the Yugoslav situation which is being sent directly from Bari, I am in touch with Robert Wolff, Balkan Desk, R. and A. Branch, Office of Strategic Services, Washington.

CHAPIN

DCE:MPL
4/25/44

Miss Chewney (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, Arzin, Bernstein, Cohen, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mumford, Mann, McCormack, Paul, Penle, Pollak, Raine, Ryan, Smith, Starnes, Weinstein, H.D. White, Filer.

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