

HISTORY OF THE WAR Refugee BOARD WITH SELECTED DOCUMENTS,  
Volume II, Pages 572-694

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HISTORY OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD WITH SELECTED DOCUMENTS

VOLUME II

DOCUMENTS

PAGES 572-694

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DOCUMENT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
To the Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.  
A-1568, August 22, 2 p.m.

Rio de Janeiro  
DATED: August 22, 1944  
REC'D: August 30, 5 p.m.

Reference is made to Embassy's despatch No. 16511 of June 20, 1944 and to previous correspondence concerning the attitude of Brazil toward admitting refugees into its territory.

Dr. Leao Velloso tells me that President Vargas himself has now approved the plan to bring 500 refugee children to Brazil, provided that the Brazilian Government did not incur the expenses of transportation to and maintenance in Brazil. He has accordingly charged General Ivo Soares, Chairman of the Brazilian Red Cross, with making suitable arrangements with appropriate Jewish welfare agencies here to take care of them.

Official announcement is to follow shortly.

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AIRGRAM

██████████  
Secretary of State  
Washington

A-390 of June 16, 1944 10 a.m.

American Embassy  
San Jose, Costa Rica  
DATED: June 16, 1944  
REC'D: June 20, 10 a.m.

The Embassy has discussed the question reported in my confidential Airgram no. 375 of June 10, of Costa Rica's receiving refugee children with Senor Mendez, head of the Patronate Nacional de la Infancia, a semi-official agency charged with the care of orphaned children.

Senor Mendez stated that his organization would be able under certain conditions, to place one thousand children in private homes in Costa Rica and might itself be able to take a smaller quota. He wished to know, however, before the Costa Rican Government makes a formal commitment, whether assurances could be given that the children would remain permanently in Costa Rica, for he said that many private families would be reluctant to accept children who might be returned to Europe after the war.

He stated that the expenses of any children so accepted would be taken care of by the families concerned, but that the War Refugee Board would have to undertake transportation expenses. Should the Patronate take some children, all expenses would have to be paid, for the budget is not large.

If the Department can assure the children's permanency in Costa Rica, it is believed that the Costa Rican Government will be agreeable to receiving as many children as Senor Mendez recommends.

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 7845  
AIR MAIL

Habana, September 7, 1944

Subject: Cuba Agrees to Accept 1000 Refugee Children

~~Re: Cuba~~

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In amplification of my telegram No. 798 of September 5, 7 p.m., I have the honor to enclose copy and translation of Note No. 2219 from the Ministry of State wherein the Government of Cuba agrees to accept 1,000 refugee children in France and Hungary.

I have not been apprised of the manner in which Cuba proposes to handle this matter, but I shall advise the Department immediately of further developments.

Respectfully yours,

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

(Signed)  
GARRET G. ACKERSON, JR.

Garret G. Ackerson, Jr.  
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Foreign Office  
note No. 2219 [Omitted--Ed.]
2. Translation thereof

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Enclosure No. 2 to Dispatch  
No. 7845 dated September 7,  
1944.

TRANSLATION

The Ministry of State presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in connection with the memorandum from the Embassy dated August 17 regarding the admission into Cuba of 1,000 refugee children who are at present in France and Hungary, is pleased to advise that the Government of Cuba agrees to offer lodging on our soil to the indicated minors and that it is disposed to offer all facilities to carry out this humanitarian proposal.

The Ministry of State avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Habana, September 5, 1944

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 4, 1944  
NUMBER: 219

[REDACTED]

With reference to department's April 15 circular airgram Foreign Office informed Embassy this morning that Dominican Government would receive a minimum of 1,000 refugee children up to 16 years of age, and a maximum of 2,000. Upon their arrival in this country, he stated that private institutions subsidized by the state would take care of them.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 240

[REDACTED]

I was informed by the Foreign Minister that the Colombia Consul at Bern is merely in charge of Dominican archives and is not a bona fide representative of Dominican interests in Switzerland. With further reference to the Department's telegram of May 17, 1944, No. 200 and in view of the above, the Foreign Minister informally told me that it was the intention of the Foreign Office to send a note to the Embassy suggesting that the Swiss Government be advised by the American representative in Bern of the Dominican Governments' intention to accept a minimum of 1,000 refugee children and the maximum of 2,000. It was added by the Foreign Minister that the note would also suggest that it would appreciate the American Government's accepting responsibility for the issuance of the visas if this is agreeable to it. As soon as we have received an official communication to this effect, we will inform the Department.

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2140

Quito, Ecuador, September 15, 1944

Subject: Ecuadoran Response to Proposal to Receive Refugee  
Children.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 2053 of August 29, 1944, and the Embassy's telegram No. 908 of today, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of an aide memoire from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs indicating its belief that Ecuador would be able to accept approximately three hundred orphaned or abandoned children from Europe under the conditions outlined in the Department's telegram No. 680 of August 10, 9 p.m., and previous communications.

Respectfully yours,  
For the Ambassador:

(Signed)  
JAMES W. GANTENBEIN

James W. Gantenbein  
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of aide memoire [Omitted -- Ed.]
2. Translation

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/Enclosure No. 2 to Dispatch  
No. 2140 dated September 14,,  
1944./

TRANSLATION

Aide Memoire

With reference to the aide memoire addressed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the Embassy of the United States of America on August 24 of this year informing it that Ecuador was prepared to receive a group of orphaned or abandoned European children under the conditions set forth in said communication, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the honor to state that the matter, having been considered by the Ministry of Social Welfare, it is believed that Ecuador would be able to receive up to 300 children provided that the War Refugee Board furnished the funds necessary for the case.

The number indicated in the preceding paragraph might vary, nevertheless, in accordance with the provisions which the above mentioned board might make for each child, the adequacy of which is to be submitted to the judgment of the Ecuadoran Government.

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San Salvador, El Salvador, May 4, 1944

No. 1531

SUBJECT: Admission of Jews and other war refugees  
into El Salvador.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular airgram dated April 20, 7:35 p.m., and to report that I conveyed its purport to the Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs at an interview on the morning of April 25, which was supplemented by a note later the same day, a copy of which is attached hereto.

I have now received from Dr. Avila a personal letter, the English version of which is transcribed below:

"San Salvador, May 2, 1944.

My dear Mr. Thurston:

I take pleasure in advising you that my Government views with sympathy and in principle is in agreement with the suggestion to which your esteemed letter of April 25 refers to the end that El Salvador would grant refuge to orphaned or abandoned children now within the territory occupied or controlled by the enemy, and that to this end it would construct a suitable building; but, before reaching a final conclusion it would desire to know whether the cost of the building, the feeding and education etc. of the children would be borne by the War Refugee Board; and finally all the expenses which that Board would be willing to meet for more or less 100 children.

I beg you therefore to give me this information if convenient.

For your kindness I thank you in advance.

I am, as always your affectionate friend,

(Signed)  
A. R. AVILA"

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When I spoke to Dr. Avila he made no mention of the fact that his Government might expect us to defray the cost of a building in which to lodge the refugees under consideration, but did inquire whether the War Refugee Board would defray all costs of transporting the refugees to El Salvador, maintaining them here for such time as might be decided upon, and of their eventual removal from the country. His letter makes no reference to the latter point and introduces the new one relating to the cost of the building.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)  
WALTER THURSTON

Enclosure

Copy of letter to  
Dr. Avila dated 4/25/44

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Enclosure No. 1 to  
Dispatch No. 1531  
dated May 4, 1944

San Salvador, April 25, 1944

My dear Dr. Avila:

In confirmation of my statements this morning I take pleasure in advising you that my Government has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or controlled territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General of the United States to assure this Government that the immigrating children will not become public charges.

Should there be private agencies in El Salvador willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide these agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of El Salvador would be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to this country.

With respect to the foregoing, it would be gratifying were the Government of El Salvador to give assurances to the Swiss Government of its willingness to accept a certain number of refugee children in a similar manner. It is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

Should the Government of El Salvador be willing to make this humanitarian offer, it is suggested that the Salvadoran representative in Bern issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to El Salvador become available. The special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Salvadoran representatives in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

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I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will inform me as quickly as may be possible of the attitude of the Government of El Salvador toward this question and, if the suggestion above presented is favorably received, what number of children it is prepared to admit into this country.

Cordially and sincerely,

(Signed)

WALTER THURSTON

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Embassy

No. 1104.

Guatemala, May 15, 1944.

Subject: Evacuation of Refugee Children  
from Europe.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram dated April 20, 7:35 p.m., 1944, outlining the Department's policy with regard to the acceptance by the United States of up to 4,000 refugee children under immigration visas and requesting that assurances be sought of the Government to which I am accredited that a proportionate number of children would be accepted by it in like circumstances.

The matter having been broached to the Government of Guatemala in the Embassy's note no. 154 of April 25, 1944, I have now received in reply, a note from the Foreign Office (no. 6130 dated May 11, 1944), which is enclosed in copy and translation. It will be observed that the Guatemalan Government has agreed to accept up to 100 children under the conditions outlined, but would prefer that so far as it will be possible, these children be selected from French and Belgian refugees.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)  
BOAZ LONG.

Enclosures:

1/2/ Copy [omitted — Ed.] and translation of  
Foreign Office note no. 6130, May 11, 1944.

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[Enclosure No. 2 to Dispatch  
No. 1104 dated May 15, 1944.]

Translation:  
Secretariat for Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Guatemala  
Diplomatic Section  
No. 6130

Guatemala, May 11, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have had the honor of receiving Your Excellency's courteous note No. 154 of April 25, 1944, in which you informed me of the willingness of the Government of the United States to receive in its territory four thousand refugee children, from those who are now abandoned or orphaned in Europe, as a consequence of the hardships of war.

I have taken due note of the conditions of this acceptance, which Your Excellency is good enough to set forth in your courteous communication.

Your Excellency is good enough to transmit an invitation from the United States Government to the Guatemalan Government to collaborate in this relief work and to receive, in a similar manner, a specified number of these children, victims of war; and, to this end, offers the contribution and necessary help of the War Relief Board.

I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the Government of Guatemala gladly accepts participation in the humanitarian work of aiding these helpless children, and is willing to receive in its territory a number proportionate to that accepted by the United States.

In consequence I am pleased to beg Your Excellency's valuable cooperation so that arrangements necessary may be made for the Swiss Government to give provisional refuge to one hundred children, who will be brought to Guatemalan territory as soon as possible.

I courteously beg Your Excellency to note that, even though in this participation the Government of Guatemala does not wish to make nationality distinctions, or any of race or religion, it would appreciate it if the hundred children to be given refuge in this Republic might be selected, preferably, from French or Belgian children.

In due time this Secretariat will give appropriate instructions to the Guatemalan representative at the place indicated for the

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issuance of the necessary visas on the documents of these children.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. Ambassador, to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed)  
CARLOS SALAZAR

His Excellency Boaz Long  
Ambassador E. and P. of the United States,  
Guatemala,  
hss.

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AIRGRAM

FROM:  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
No. A-165  
DATED: April 27, 1944,  
3 p.m.  
REC'D: May 3, 11 a.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington  
A-165, April 27, 3 p.m.

My A-163 of April 25, 5:30 p.m. concerning refugee children under sixteen years of age.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that President Carias appears willing for Honduras to receive a maximum of fifty (50) children, and that information as to the sex and age preferred may be supplied later. I gathered that some preference as to racial origin (which may possibly mean that Polish, French, or some other class of children would be more acceptable than Jews) might also be expressed. Acceptance of refugee children would be on the condition that all expenses of transportation and of maintenance be met by other than Honduran agencies.

Since Honduras has no diplomatic or consular representatives in Switzerland at the present time, perhaps the Department can suggest some practicable form of visa procedure.

Clarification on the following point would be helpful: Are the children expected to remain in Honduras the rest of their lives, or would they be returned to their countries of origin after termination of the present war?

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: Amembassy, Managua  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 271

Reference is made herewith to the department's airgram of 7:35 p.m., April 20, 1944.

The Nicaraguan Consul in Bern has been authorized by his Government to visa the passports of one hundred children without distinction of nationality or religion in agreement with representative of War Refugee Board there and to keep these visas valid until transportation becomes available to Nicaragua.

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2148

Asuncion, Paraguay, June 3, 1944.

Subject: Paraguayan Government willing to receive  
refugee children.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 20, 1944, 7:35 p.m. to certain Embassies stating that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children, and requesting this Embassy to approach the Paraguayan Government with a view to obtaining its consent to accepting a fixed number of refugee children and giving assurances to the Swiss Government of such willingness.

There has now been received a note from the Ministry of Foreign Relations on this subject, in reply to this Embassy's Note of May 5, 1944. Copies and translations of these notes are transmitted herewith, and it will be noted that the Paraguayan Government is willing to cooperate in this work provided that adequate financial assistance is available for the purpose.

As respects the notification by the Paraguayan Government to the Swiss Government, concerning which nothing is said in the Paraguayan note, it should be mentioned that the Paraguayan Government does not maintain a diplomatic mission in Switzerland.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed)  
LESLIE E. REED  
Leslie E. Reed  
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. Copy and translation /Omitted-Ed. 7/ of Embassy's Note No. 260 of May 5, 1944.
2. Copy /Omitted-Ed. 7/ and translation of Note No. 461, May 21, 1944, from Ministry of Foreign Relations.

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Enclosure No. 1 to  
Dispatch No. 2148  
dated June 3, 1944.

Note No. 260

Asuncion, May 5, 1944

Excellency:

With reference to previous conversations with Your Excellency and with your distinguished predecessor regarding the possibility that Paraguay may participate in the humanitarian work of giving asylum to some of the unfortunate refugees from Europe, I have the honor to inquire concerning the attitude of your Government with respect to receiving some refugee children.

It is estimated that there are in France alone, 8,000 to 10,000 abandoned or orphaned refugee children, and the War Refugee Board is endeavoring to make arrangements for their care in the future. My Government has decided to permit the immigration to the United States of up to 4,000 children under 16 years of age irrespective of their nationality, religion or stateless status and has authorized the granting of the necessary visas by American consular officers. These visas will remain valid or may be renewed until such time as transportation facilities to the United States may be available.

If there are private organizations or agencies in Paraguay which are willing and able to care for a group of refugee children, it is believed that the War Refugee Board can provide such agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education, and welfare of as many children as your country would be willing to admit. Should it be necessary, funds would also be available to cover their transportation expenses from Europe to Paraguay.

If your Government is willing to participate in this work, and a suitable agency in Paraguay is disposed to assume the care of such children, your Government may desire to so inform the Swiss Government. Upon receiving information of the attitude of Your Excellency's Government in this matter, I shall be glad to furnish further details of the arrangements which are being made, if such information is desired.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

His Excellency  
Dr. Horacio Chiriani  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship  
Asuncion

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Enclosure No. 2 to  
Dispatch No. 2148  
dated June 3, 1944.]

TRANSLATION OF ENCLOSURE NO. 2

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

With reference to Note D.P. & D. 402 of the 10th instant, I have pleasure in quoting the following communication received from the Ministry of Education, which states:

"536, Asuncion, May 26, 1944. Most Excellent Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in addressing Your Excellency in order to acknowledge receipt of Note 398 of May 8 of the present year from your Chancellery, as well as the authenticated copy of document No. 260 from the American Embassy which accompanies it. With reference to the contents of the document referred to, this Ministry desires to announce its complete conformity to collaborate in relieving the affliction of European childhood deprived of homes by the present war, accepting the number of refugees which may be fixed in view of, and with previous determination of our possibilities. In order to make possible this noble activity, this Ministry ventures to point out the necessity that the economic collaboration offered contemplates the construction of a building (internado) adequate for the purpose desired, and its equipment, as well as the amounts necessary for the maintenance and clothing of the refugee children. This Ministry would bear the cost of the administrative and teaching staff of the asylum, in order to assure the pupils the benefits of the most complete education possible. Within these general lines, this Ministry will remain in the expectation of further information and proposals on the subject. Receive, Excellency, the expressions of my special consideration. Signed: Juan Dario Quiros, Minister."

I take this opportunity to salute you with my distinguished consideration.

(Signed)  
MARIO FERRARIO

Subsecretary of State of  
Foreign Relations.

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lima, June 28, 1944

No. 711

Subject: Bringing Refugee Children from Europe into Peru

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m., directing me to approach the Peruvian government with the view to inquiring as to the acceptance of refugee children below the age of sixteen without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, and to my telegram no. 866.

1/ I have the honor to enclose herewith the translated text of the note of the Foreign Minister expressing willingness to receive up to fifty children, under certain specified conditions.

In my telegram no. 541, dated April 24, I advised the Department of the reaction of Doctor Sol y Muro, which was to the effect that in the absence of adequate organizations for taking care of children he would have to depend upon the different foreign colonies. The text of the note leads to the supposition that the Belgian and French colonies have expressed willingness to assist in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)  
J. C. WHITE

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Enclosure No. 1 to  
Dispatch No. 711  
dated June 28, 1944.7

AIR MAIL

Lima, June 20, 1944

Sir:

In reply to your esteemed note no. 29, of April 25, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Peruvian government, being desirous of cooperating in the humanitarian work in which the United States is interested, notwithstanding the fact that there do not exist in this country special organizations that are suitable for (the care of) children nor official establishments of sufficient extent to take care of other than local needs, is disposed to receive up to fifty European refugee children; provided that these should be of French or Belgian nationality and that they should be brought to the port of Callao, since the absence of suitable transportation does not permit it to assume obligations such as might arise by taking charge of children in Switzerland.

I avail myself of this occasion to repeat to you the assurances of my highest and distinguished consideration.

(Signed)  
ALFREDO SOLF y MURO

His Excellency  
John Campbell White,  
Ambassador of the U. S. A.,  
Lima.

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EMBASSY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

C  
No. 4743

Montevideo, Uruguay  
August 29, 1944

Subject: Uruguay agrees to Admit 500 Refugee Children from Europe.

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

In confirmation of the Embassy's telegram no. 817 of August 29, 11 a.m., 1944, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the note of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he states that authorization will be granted for the issuance of visas to 500 refugee children from Europe, in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Embassy's memorandum of May 4, 1944, (copy enclosed), which was based on the Department's circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m. 1944.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

(Signed)  
EDWARD J. SPARKS

Edward J. Sparks  
I Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Note from Minister for Foreign Affairs dated August 28, 1944.
2. Embassy's note to Foreign Office dated May 4, 1944.

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(Translation)

[Enclosure No. 1 to Dispatch  
No. 4743 dated August 29, 1944.]

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Montevideo, August 28, 1944

Mister Ambassador:

With reference to the confidential "Memorandum" of the Embassy of the United States of America dated May 4 of the present year concerning the authorization to be granted to the consular authorities in Switzerland to visa documents of minors for the purpose of permitting them to enter this country until such time as a refuge could be arranged for them, I beg to inform Your Excellency that following consultation with the competent private institutions, the figure of 500 children has been arrived at as that of the receptive capacity of the country.

Consequently, visas will be granted for this number under the conditions set forth in the above mentioned "Memorandum".

Please accept again, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)  
JOSE SERRATO

To his Excellency  
William Dawson, Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

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Enclosure no. 2 to Dispatch no. 4743  
dated August 29, 1944/

MEMORANDUM

[REDACTED]

The Department of State has authorized to consular officers of the United States in Switzerland to issue up to 4,000 immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age, under exceptionally liberal conditions. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available.

If there are private agencies in Uruguay willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of Uruguay will be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to Uruguay. It is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

If the Uruguayan Government should be willing to take similar action it is requested that it give assurances to the Swiss Government, through its diplomatic mission in Bern, that it will accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of the Government of the United States. It is further requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorize its Chief of Mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to Uruguay become available. The special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Uruguayan diplomatic and consular officers in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Montevideo, May 4, 1944.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 11, 1944  
NUMBER: 2236

With reference to the request of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees for children which section one of my number 1825 dated March 24 mentioned, the Political Department advised me that unfortunately they have just been informed that Laval's decision was negative in spite of the efforts of Minister Stucki. They were not able to give me any reasons for such refusal because no explanation was given.

The Inter-Governmental Committee will be advised by the Political Department and the Governments of Britain and the United States will be informed by the Inter-Governmental Committee. The Political Department in doing so will recommend that steps taken to reply, in the very interest of the continuation of the contributions of Switzerland in trying to alleviate the sufferings engendered by war, shall be strictly preserved from any publicity both in England and in America.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: June 13, 1944  
NUMBER: 2023

Following is for McClelland.

Reference last paragraph your 3107, May 16.

Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purpose for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children. While revising the January 1 date backward might assure the Swiss that some refugee children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not focus the attention of the Swiss to the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action paralleling that taken in this matter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of offers from those governments to the Swiss which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the Minister and appropriate Swiss authorities, it appears with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference Legation's 2810, May 3. Please report if Minister Bonna has received any additional information from Stucki at Vichy regarding his efforts there.

This is WRB cable to Bern no. 39.

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Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Bern  
DATED: December 7, 1944  
REC'D: 12:55 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington  
U. S. Urgent  
7997, December 7, 4 p.m.

For WRB from McClelland.

Legation's 7464, November 10.

I am happy to be able to report that approximately 1,355 persons balance of the Hungarian Jews in Camp Bergenbelsen arrived in Switzerland during night of December 6 to 7 having crossed frontier at St. Margarethen. They are at present temporarily housed near St. Gall under control of Swiss Army.

HUDDLE

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DOCUMENT

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

83



COPY

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 16, 1945

Dear Governor Lehman:

Reference is made to my letter of January 12, 1945, advising you that approximately 1,352 Jewish refugees from Bergen Belsen may have to be moved from Switzerland to Philippeville pursuant to the agreement of AFHQ and UNRRA, referred to in MAT 435, to hold the Philippeville Camp in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of large numbers of refugees in Switzerland.

The following cable has just been received by the War Refugee Board from Roswell D. McClelland, its representative in Bern:

"Reference is made to Department's cable no. 49 of January 3, WRB 34.

"The substance of this cable was communicated to the Swiss authorities. Appreciation was expressed by the Swiss for the Board's prompt efforts to organize the evacuation of the Bergen Belsen group from Switzerland. The hope was expressed by them that, pending a reply from London regarding permission for the majority of these refugees to enter Palestine, arrangements could be initiated for the movement of this group to France, inasmuch as they will have to proceed there in any case, regardless whether Palestine or North Africa is their destination. If necessary, the Swiss Federal Railways are prepared to furnish trains for transportation to the French port of embarkation.

"The federal police desire to correct an omission in their recent communication with regard to the number of the refugees comprising the group. They now desire to include the first Hungarian Bergen Belsen convoy comprising approximately 320 persons. In this connection see Legation's cable no. 5517 of August 23. If this group is included, the total would be 1,672 instead of 1,352."

In view of the fact that it will probably take some time before it can be determined whether the members of this group of 1,672 refugees referred to in McClelland's cable will be admitted to Palestine, it has been decided to take advantage of UNRRA's offer to hold open Philippeville for emergencies that may arise. Accordingly, pending a final decision regarding the ultimate destination of these refugees, it has been decided to move them to Philippeville.

000275

The War Department has been advised of the foregoing and has been requested to arrange for the necessary transportation.

It will, therefore, be appreciated if appropriate instructions were sent by UNRRA for the reception of this group at Philippeville.

In view of the necessity that this group of refugees be evacuated from Switzerland as soon as possible, I would appreciate being advised of the action taken in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)  
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman,  
Director General,  
United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration,  
Washington, D. C.

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UNITED NATIONS

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

30 January 1945

Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Reference is made to your letter of January 16th requesting admittance to UNRRA's Refugee Camp at Philippeville, Algeria, of 1,672 refugees, mostly Hungarian Jews from Bergen Belsen.

We have sent the following cable to the Chief of the UNRRA Mission in Italy:

"Advised by War Refugee Board that Swiss authorities request immediate evacuation from Swiss territory approximately one thousand six hundred and seventy-two refugees, mostly Hungarian, recently arrived in Switzerland via Germany. Pending reply from Foreign Office regarding permission for majority to enter Palestine War Refugee Board urges refugees be sent to Philippeville, has advised War Department, and requested it to furnish necessary transportation.

"Also, fifty to seventy-five refugees, holding ad hoc Latin American passports which do not authorize holders to enter countries in Western Hemisphere, will arrive in Marseille from Switzerland circa January twenty-seventh. War Refugee Board has advised War Department and requested transportation to Philippeville. War Department has advised SHAEF and SACMED to provide transport to Philippeville or alternate camp to be determined in consultation with UNRRA representatives in the field.

"We are asking London to check with SHAEF on screening, composition, arrangements for transportation, health and welfare provisions enroute, approximate dates of arrival, and to advise Keeny.

"Advise soonest whether facilities, personnel, food, etc. are adequate to accommodate these additional refugees. If not, can you arrange locally on an emergency basis; if so, over

000277

what period? See our 38 re supplies we now programming for  
Philippeville. Do you recommend Italian camp in preference  
to Philippeville?"

We shall be glad to inform you of whatever further action there may  
be in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Herbert H. Lehman  
Director General

000278

DOCUMENT

85

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
U.S. Urgent  
913, Ninth

Plain  
Bern  
DATED: February 9, 1945  
REG'D: 11:51 a.m.

For Department and WRB from McClelland.

With regard Musy affair following is translation of article which appeared number of Swiss morning papers February 8: "Mr. Musy arranges liberation of Jewish internees in Germany first convoy 1,200 civilians coming from concentration camp Theresienstadt arrived Wednesday 11:45 a.m. at Kreuzlingen. It is thanks to efforts former Federal Councillor Musy acting on request of European executive Council of Union Orthodox Rabbis of United States at Montreux and of world organization of Agudas Israel that these civilians were liberated by Germany. Other transports will follow which will all be sent from Switzerland abroad as soon as transportation possibilities exist. (This release was submitted to press by Sternbuch and Musy.)

Official communique Federal Department Justice and Police communicates with respect this question 'Transport arrived morning February 7 from Constance and was sent to St. Gall. It is composed of 1,210 persons including 58 children under 12 years. Health these refugees seems generally good. There are only few slightly ill persons among them. They will all be housed temporarily at St. Gall for medical inspection and disinfection. They will then be placed in quarantine camps in other parts of country'.

M.de Steiger President of Confederation supplies press with following details 'Tuesday afternoon Mr. Musy former Federal Councillor visited President of Confederation and informed him he had personally obtained from M. Himmler liberation of these civilians. It is not excluded that liberation of other contingents may be obtained by Switzerland and that transports can take place from week to week.

Mr. Musy acted privately at request of Jewish organizations so that no Swiss authority would be involved in eventuality these representations had failed. Swiss authorities only knew Musy was attempting secure liberation of two Vaudois named Graf and a woman also from Canton Vaud named Mayor whose case was particularly grave of seven other persons who were also included this transport. Among the refugees are 5 to 600 Dutch Jews and others of various nationalities. Preparations for reception this convoy had to be made in great haste but all went off well.

000279

There is expected tonight at Kreuzlingen another transport of 540 French people coming from Germany and whose liberation and repatriation were also made possible by Musy's negotiations.

President of Confederation emphasized in conclusion importance of humanitarian work also accomplished in this field by Switzerland' ".

Bill WRB

HUDDLE

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DOCUMENT

PLAIN

Bern

DATED: August 20, 1945

REC'D: 10:52 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

3939, Twentieth

O'DWYER WRB FROM KATZKI

Transport of 706 persons, holders of Palestine entry certificates, departed from Brig, Switzerland, at 8 a.m. August 20 by special Swiss train. Planned route is via Domodossola and Novara, Italy, where they will be taken over by Allied railroad facilities for onward movement to Taranto, to arrive there about August 28. The 706 persons included 34 from Theresienstadt and balance from Bergen Belsen. They comprised 232 Hungarians, 160 Rumanians, 157 Czechs, 45 Poles, 11 Dutch, and 101 stateless. 152 of total number were members of the Youth Aliyah up to age 16 and 147 were Chalutzim (agricultural trainees) between 15 and 20 years old. In addition there were 30 young children accompanied by their parents.

All persons were in possession of national passports of Swiss Government documentation and were security checked in Bern prior to departure. Swiss authorities provided generous rations to cover requirements until AFHQ takes over transport in Italy. Entrainment proceeded smoothly and Swiss authorities cooperated to fullest extent.

HARRISON

000281

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: February 28, 1945  
NUMBER: 886

[REDACTED]

In connection with the message which follows we refer to the proposal that Banque Populaire Suisse buy small amounts of United States currency brought by genuine refugees into Switzerland.

The Legation of Switzerland in Washington, the Treasury reports, is insisting on an early decision claiming that due to pressure from groups of influence who are interested in refugee matters in Switzerland, the failure to buy such currency is causing embarrassment to the Swiss. The Legation of Switzerland indicates that this problem came up as a result of the decision of the Swiss Bankers Association to prohibit dealings in dollar currency of the United States.

The War Refugee Board, this Department and the Treasury Department, in view of the humanitarian considerations involved, are in agreement that you should inform the Swiss that the Treasury is prepared, until further notice, to countenance the buying of United States dollar currency by Banque Populaire Suisse on the terms given below.

(one) In an amount not to exceed \$100 for each person each month after the adoption of this plan, the Banque Populaire Suisse may buy from genuine refugees from the Axis countries in Switzerland, dollar currency of the United States.

(two) These purchases should be confined to such dollar currency as was surrendered, upon entry into Switzerland, to Customs Officials there and which, under control of the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police, has been deposited with BPS; and it is suggested that arrangements be made to indicate the amounts of money surrendered and the amounts purchased subsequently by BPS, on the passports or on other identity papers of those refugees who surrendered United States currency.

(three) It is believed to be desirable, in order to avoid the possibility that people fleeing from the United Nations may derive benefit from this proposal that you be furnished with such data regarding each refugee as you consider necessary (prior to purchase by BPS) so that you may give consideration to each case and indicate your decision to the Swiss. You need consider only the first monthly purchase. Please let us have your comments if such screening by you

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will involve an unreasonable quantity of work for the advantages secured. In any event, we feel that refugees who after January 1, 1945, enter Switzerland should be screened by you in a careful manner. In this connection the Treasury would like to be informed as to the facts in any instance in which United States currency in denominations of \$500 or more, or a total of \$1,000 or more in any denominations is surrendered by refugees as well as any case in which you inform BPS that it should not buy currency from a certain refugee. Included in such information should be a description of such large bills, especially the series year and the serial number, but not by way of limitation. Should a refugee, in any particular instance, have sufficient other available means, in your opinion, and if the refusal of BPS to buy dollar currency would not inflict hardship, your approval should be withheld.

The Swiss may be informed by you that any currency which under these arrangements is purchased by BPS may be turned over to the Swiss National Bank and that, at the risk of the Swiss, you will forward it by pouch to the United States for deposit with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to the Swiss National Bank's credit. As soon as normal facilities for shipments of currency are available the use of the pouch should be discontinued.

The above program has been discussed with the British who are not willing to enter into a similar arrangement with regard to sterling notes; however, they have indicated that they can justify their position to the Swiss even though the above plan is adopted by us in view of the different policies followed in the past in regard to currency. It should be emphasized in discussions with the Swiss that purely on humanitarian grounds the present action is being taken and that in no other light should it be considered.

Some of the refugees who have entered Switzerland or who may enter Switzerland may be fleeing from the United Nations rather than the Axis, it is recognized. This matter is of concern to the Treasury not only as it applies to the buying of dollar currency by BPS but also as it applies to the overall problem of preventing people who flee the United Nations from securing any benefits through the United States or from this country. A public ruling to the effect that nationals of enemy nations (as contrasted with nations occupied by the enemy) who leave such countries or who have left such countries after some specified time are still deemed to be enemy nationals and will not be entitled to the privileges, amongst other things, of General License 53 and General License 32, is under consideration by the Treasury. Receipt of your views with regard to this problem along with your suggestion as to a suitable cut-off date would be appreciated by the Treasury.

000283

In order that London may advise the British of the action taken, this message is being repeated to London. In view of the fact that this matter has been discussed in London already, the Embassy is being asked to inform the Department if it is not in agreement with the procedure herein described and to repeat its comments to Bern so that if necessary, action may be withheld.

GREW  
(Acting)

NOTE:

The foregoing message as Department's 1542, has been repeated to London with an introduction as follows:

In view of the urgency of the matter discussed in the following message, it has been sent to Bern. Careful consideration has been given to the British comments set forth in your message of January 23, No. 814, and we have decided to proceed as outlined in the message to Bern in view of the special circumstances. From your message No. 813, we assume that no further objections will be interposed by the British. However, if the Embassy feels for any reason that this procedure is objectionable in any way or that it requires further discussion, please request Bern to withhold action until any points at issue have been resolved and please cable comments as promptly as possible. It would seem desirable to cable Bern that the Embassy is in agreement, if that is the case.

GREW  
(Acting)

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DOCUMENT

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

February 23, 1945  
Midnight

Amlegation  
Bern  
819

The cable below to Harrison and McClelland from Department  
and War Refugee Board is WRB 416.

The following is text of memorandum of Executive Director of  
War Refugee Board which was unanimously approved at Board meeting  
February 20th:

QUOTE Memorandum to: Secretary Stettinius  
Secretary Morgenthau  
Secretary Stimson

Our best information indicates that, while the enemy has abandoned wholesale extermination of detainees, large numbers of the physically unfit are now in imminent danger of death due to starvation, exposure and deliberate neglect. The actual numbers are unknown and are believed to be changing daily.

Food, medicines and clothing must be distributed to such detainees at once if their lives are to be saved. They should be removed, if possible, to safety in Switzerland without unnecessary delay.

The International Red Cross is our only means of direct contact with the camps. Operations can best be conducted from Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board is requested to authorize its representative to obtain the necessary cooperation of the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government.

The War Refugee Board is further requested to approve that the necessary food, medicines and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against our promise of repayment or replenishment after the war. It is understood that private funds are available for the necessary financing.

(Signed)  
WILLIAM O'DWYER  
Executive Director

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APPROVED:

(Signed)  
JOSEPH C GREW  
Acting Secretary of State

(Signed)  
H. MORGENTHAU, JR.  
Secretary of the Treasury

(Signed)  
HENRY L. STIMSON  
Secretary of War. UNQUOTE

You will note that the program approved envisages (1) furnishing food and other relief through the International Red Cross to physically unfit unassimilated detainees who are within enemy-controlled territory, and (2) their removal by the International Red Cross to safety in Switzerland as soon as possible.

The Executive Director of the Board plans to go to Switzerland in the near future in connection with the foregoing program. In the meantime, you are requested to do the following immediately:

1. Explore the availability in Switzerland of food and other relief supplies as well as transportation equipment. Please advise the Board and Department at once whether relief trucks are permitted to move from Switzerland to German-controlled areas and return to Switzerland for reloading of supplies;
2. Approach Intercross with a view to obtaining their consent to deliver the relief supplies in enemy territory and to organize and effectuate the removal of detainees to Switzerland.
3. If Currie mission concurs please approach the Swiss Government for the purpose of obtaining its consent (a) to make available to Intercross now the necessary supplies and equipment for the foregoing relief and evacuation program and (b) to admit all detainees who reach Swiss borders and house and maintain them under guard until we are able to arrange for their evacuation to Allied territory. You may assure the Swiss that this Government will arrange for the replenishment from the outside of all supplies made available by the Swiss for this purpose and compensation for use of equipment. Please report all developments to Department and Board.

GREW  
(Acting)  
(GLW)

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DOCUMENT

89

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: March 8, 1945  
NUMBER: 1481

The following message from McClelland for WRB and the Department is transmitted.

Please refer to cable from the Department dated February 23, No. 819 and cable from the Legation dated March 2 No. 1345.

It was revealed by a conversation on March 6 with Burckhardt of ICRC that Himmler has now made known his willingness to meet on March 10, 11 or 12 with Burckhardt. Therefore, accompanied by Bachmann, his personal secretary, Burckhardt will definitely leave on March 8th or 9th for Germany. These conversations will be with the SS exclusively, chiefly Kaltenbrunner and Himmler himself. Statement was made by the intermediary who extended the SS invitation that he had been directed to inform Burckhardt that Hitler himself might be present at a part of the discussions, the Fuhrer's health permitting.

The foregoing paragraph is for the strictly confidential information of WRB and the Department.

It is the plan of Burckhardt to raise the entire question of relief to all categories of Schutzhaeftlinge and to prisoners of war, regardless of their religion, race or nationality. Especially there was brought up the release and removal of physically unfit people.

On March 3 ICRC was officially informed by the Government of Germany that that Government now agreed to the exit from Germany of elderly people, women and children, of Nordic extraction or nationalities, and of French nationality, who were unsuited as laborers. It is not clear whether the Nazis include Jews among the people of French nationality. A promise was made by me by Burckhardt that he will try to secure the release of Jews as well within any national group if the Germans desire to limit the evacuees to certain nationalities, for reasons which are not clear.

Twenty-five trucks with fuel and prisoners of war parcels left Switzerland for Germany on the 7th of March according to the plan reported in our message No. 1345. Permission for the entry of as many trucks as ICRC wishes for prisoners of war relief has now been granted

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by the Germans OKW. Whether this authorization includes trucks carrying relief to Schutzhaeftlinge, is not clear. On this point Burckhardt will make an effort to obtain favorable decision.

At the present time the number of trucks potentially available in Switzerland to ICRC are way inadequate to any extraordinary relief program for POWs, not to mention Schutzhaeftlinge, and also would be insufficient if the Nazis agreed to allow the removal of any considerable number of Schutzhaeftlinge from Germany. ICRC has, in all, 50 Canadian trucks, of only three tons capacity, and 48 United States trucks of from seven to eight tons capacity.

I understand that SHAEF has now agreed to furnish fuel, not for transport relief to unassimilated groups but only for transporting relief to prisoners of war; you might desire to take up with the War Department this matter.

There is a possibility that we may be confronted suddenly with a major technical and transport problem if the Germans agree to release a large number of Schutzhaeftlinge (who might conceivably amount to several tens of thousands) following the negotiations of Burckhardt. Under present conditions it is most unlikely that the Swiss will be able or willing to transport them to the Swiss border.

At the present time I am working on the problem of transporting our 60,000 WRB parcels to unassimilated groups in Germany through the ICRC Division of Special Assistance and through private Swiss trucking concerns. If tires can be furnished from the outside, or at the very least, their replacement within a short and definite time limit can be guaranteed, there is a slight possibility of securing five to eight wood-burning trucks. An average of ten heavy duty tires and two spares per truck must be estimated.

With reference to the entry of new and larger groups of refugees ICRC was assured by vonSteiger, President of Confederation that to the limit of its possibilities Switzerland, in principle, would admit such groups.

HARRISON

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DOCUMENT

90

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
2175, April 13, 2 p.m.

Bern  
DATED: April 13, 1945  
REC'D: 6 p.m.

Burkhardt of ICRC called special meeting afternoon of April 12 concerning current possibilities evacuate "Schutzhaeftlinge" from German concentration camps. (From McClelland, Legation's 2130 April 11). Practically speaking after several weeks of ICRC negotiations with them Germans appear to be willing permit exit from Germany of only (only) civil detainees of French and Belgian nationality in exchange for similar groups of German civilians now held by French and Belgians. Germans, however, do not insist that exchanges be on a head for head basis. These exchanges are to be limited as previously reported to women, children and elderly people (over 65) of both sexes. Within these national groups Germans do not seem to be discriminating against Jews since convoy of 300 French women (there were no children although this was originally announced) included 7 Jewish women.

Kaltenbrunner of SS informed Dr. Meyer, ICRC delegate who accompanied trucks which brought women from Ravensbrueck, that ICRC could evacuate all remaining French women from this camp as soon as Committee wanted. There seemed, however, to be only 300 more French women actually still in Ravensbrueck, whereas last fall (October) there were at least 3,000. Apart from those who have died (certainly 50%) this leaves many hundreds unaccounted for who are probably in work companies detached from camp. There is no (repeat no) evidence although ICRC continues to negotiate for this that Germans will be willing allow evacuation of women who are being used as labor. In case not only of these French women but of civil detainees in general this probably constitutes majority still alive.

According to sober reports from these French women who passed through here from Ravensbrueck Nazis are pursuing in that camp (and one has every reason to believe this is true of other similar groups of "Schutzhaeftlinge") a policy of simply working detainees to death. When they are no longer able to work this human material is literally discarded.

In light of this information ICRC is now making special effort to obtain immediately a few buses from Swiss army to supplement limited number of POW parcel trucks available for such evacuations. ICRC is also examining possibility of using blocked POW parcel train now at Moosburg for similar purpose. Committee has hopes that outside of French and Belgian detainees they may be able to get some of other nationalities on an "ad hoc" basis depending on attitude of individual camp commanders.

Will keep you informed.

HARRISON

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DOCUMENT

91

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
Priority  
2290, April 19, 7 p.m.

Bern  
DATED April 19, 1945  
REC'D 9:30 p.m.

For WRB from McClelland.

Kasztner, Sternbuch, Musy and Swiss police all informed me that small group of 69 Jewish refugees apparently mainly from Bratislava reached Konstanz yesterday and would be admitted to Switzerland today. It is not clear due to whose efforts these people reached Switzerland although Musy is already claiming credit.

Sternbuch has undoubtedly reported this matter by wire to Vaad Hahatzala.

Kasztner arrived in Switzerland yesterday and according to report from Nathan Schwalb of Hechaluz, after an extended trip with Kurt Becher of SS which reportedly included Thereseinstadt (April 10) and Bergen-Belsen (day or so before liberation). Kasztner apparently has considerable interesting information on Jewish survivors in Austria, Slovakia and Thereseinstadt where he stated there were 20,000 Jews including many new arrivals from Austria and Slovakia. According to Kasztner Becher "organized" capitulation of camp of Bergen-Belsen with all inmates remaining on spot. Kasztner further reports to be bearing important proposals concerning possible rescue of Jewish deportees in camps still under German control.

As soon as Kasztner is released from temporary Swiss custody, I shall secure all details possible and report to you.

HARRISON

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DOCUMENT

92

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: American Legation, Stockholm  
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 12, 1944  
NO.: 654

The following is WRB No. 2 from War Refugee Board for the Minister.

We refer to your telegram of February 13, 1944, No. 480.

You stated, inter alia, with reference to the Swedish treatment of problems affecting refugees that the Swedish Government's refusal to approach the Government of Germany with an appeal that refugee children be allowed to come to Sweden was based on the belief that the Germans would refuse the request if it were made. The report of January 20 from London expressing the opinion that it seems to be worth while to encourage the Government of Sweden to make an approach to German authorities and request that up to 20,000 refugee children of all nationalities be released has been noted by us.

When concern was expressed by the Swedish Government that the possibility of refugees escaping unnoticed might be jeopardized by an approach to the German Government on this matter, mass evacuation of Danes was in progress, which evacuation has now been finished. Since the conditions outlined in your telegram of May 19, 1943, No. 1610 will be met by arrangements which the War Refugee Board will undertake to make with reference to the suggestion, such alarm should now be obviated. We request you to approach the Government of Sweden on the basis outlined above.

It is requested that all developments in this matter be brought to the attention of the Department.

(Unsigned)

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93

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 1342

An appeal to the Government of Germany to permit refugee children to proceed to Sweden has repeatedly been made by the Government of Sweden during the past year according to Soderblom (War Refugee Board's number 2, number 654 dated April 12 from the Department). It appeared for a while that arrangements would be successful for the evacuation of large numbers of Belgian and French refugee children but the Government of Germany at the last moment on the ground that transport facilities for the evacuation of the children could not be spared, stopped the proceedings. It was added by Soderblom that the Government of Sweden is constantly following the matter and as soon as there seems to be a sporting chance that the Germans might consent the question will again be pressed. Since military requirements are now so overburdening transportation facilities that it is actually almost an impossibility for a civilian to get permission to travel, it is Soderblom's opinion that there is no chance whatever that the Germans would consent to make them (transportation facilities) available. It was Soderblom's desire that the fact be emphasized that the Government of Sweden is not overlooking any opportunity, that it has appealed and will continue to appeal to the Government to allow travel to Sweden of refugee children.

JOHNSON

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: March 16, 1944  
NUMBER: 908

[REDACTED]

This morning a member of the Legation staff received a visit from a Finnish lady who was interested in the welfare of one hundred and thirteen Jewish refugees who in 1938 and 1939 had come to Finland from central Europe. It was claimed by the informant that permission for these refugees to enter Sweden had been refused by the Swedish Foreign Ministry and in view of the establishment of the War Refugee Board she requested my aid in urging the Government of Sweden to admit these people at once so that they would be saved from what she fears will be domination of Finnish pro-Nazi elements when the Finns make a final decision to continue the war against the U.S.S.R.

This refers to Department's number 131 dated midnight January 25 and to Legation's number 481 dated 6:00 p.m., February 13, 1944.

I mentioned the Lady's visit to Boheman this afternoon and also told him what she talked about. Boheman was fully informed about it said that the Government of Finland had made application for the admission of these Jewish refugees. The Swedish Cabinet has considered this application twice and has made an adverse decision. The Government of Finland was advised that denying admittance to these refugees at present was not because they were Jews or because of any unwillingness on Sweden's part to admit refugees who were in need or in danger but that their being Jews and leaving Finland at this time the Government of Sweden believed would be very bad propaganda for Finland abroad especially since in fact no urgent necessity for their leaving Finland existed. Confidentially Boheman added that Sweden would admit them immediately if this group of refugees should in fact be placed in any danger in Finland due to the situation which my Finnish caller feared.

JOHNSON

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

95

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Stockholm  
DATED: April 25, 1944  
NUMBER: 749

War Refugee Board sends the following for Johnson and Olsen.

Reference is made to your telegram of April 11, 1944, No. 1235.

The importance of Hellsted's statement concerning extent of danger from Gestapo in Finland to many Germans, Swedes and others is appreciated by the War Refugee Board. The Board is charged with rescuing "the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death" regardless of religion, nationality or stateless status. Accordingly, the Board would warmly welcome Swedish action to afford rescue to all groups in Finland which would be especially endangered as the result of increased German influence.

Concerning Hellsted's remark that permission to refugees and others to enter Sweden would amount to discrediting Finnish Government, the Board suggests that you refer him to Boheman's statement reported in your cable No. 908 to the effect that the Finnish Government itself has applied for admission of Jewish refugees.

With respect to the questions reported in your cable No. 1235, the Board holds that all persons referred to in our 724 of April 21 are in danger. It is prepared to make arrangements for the evacuation from Sweden, as soon as practicable, of all persons, other than Swedes, who may be accorded refuge in Sweden, and for the maintenance in Sweden of such refugees who cannot claim the support of their governments.

The Board appreciates the action taken by Sweden (reported in your telegram of April 21, 1944, No. 1379) in authorizing one hundred visas to Central European refugees now in Finland as a starter. The Board is deeply concerned about the danger threatening 113 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria and about 2600 others referred to in our cable of April 21, No. 724. The Board fully supports your representations reported in your telegram of April 8, 1944, No. 1209.

In light of your cable No. 1379 referred to above, it is assumed by the Board that the Hellsted statement does not modify in any way the confidential assurances given by Boheman and reported in your cable No. 908. Please obtain confirmation of said assurances and,

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should you consider that danger is imminent, please press for immediate action.

Reference is made to Olsen's no. 3. The Board is gratified by favorable Swedish reaction to his appointment and the statements made to the press are approved by the Board.

The foregoing is WRB's cable No. 4.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

96

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 1379

According to Hellstedt Swedish visas have been authorized for one hundred Central European refugees now in Finland, as a starter --please refer to number 1235 dated April 11 from the Legation. It was stressed by Hellstedt that visas are being granted for humanitarian reasons since the refugees are panicky and not (repeat not) because the Government of Sweden believes there is any danger.

JOHNSON

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97

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Stockholm  
DATED: June 30, 1944  
NUMMER: 1301

Reference is made herewith to your telegram of June 29, 1944,  
No. 2371.

1. Approval is given to your proposed course of action and it is requested that you proceed expeditiously.

2. Information has been received by the Department that Canadian, Belgian, British, and Italian Governments have accepted the repatriation of their nationals and have instructed the appropriate missions at Stockholm to communicate with the Government of Sweden. You are requested to correlate your action with them and urge them to take any necessary action to the extent that they have not done so already.

3. The expenses in connection with the evacuation of any refugees included in the movement and in connection with their maintenance while in Sweden are guaranteed by the War Refugee Board. The War Refugee Board also guarantees to arrange, when circumstances permit, for their onward transportation from Sweden (Department's telegram of April 25, 1944, No. 749).

4. It is hoped that arrangements can be made by the Government of Sweden to transport Swedish or other nationals on the return voyage of the vessel and to diminish proportionately any charges against this Government for the operation of the vessel if it is impossible actually to evacuate any Americans and associated nationals from Helsinki owing to force majeure.

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DOCUMENT

98

MB-774

Distribution of true  
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arrangement. (W)

Stockholm

DATED: September 29, 1944  
REC'D: 6:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
3955, September 29, 5 p.m.

Every effort will be made to enter into any practicable arrangements that will mitigate circumstances described in WRB 86 (Department's 1883, September 20, 6 p.m.). Following may assist Board in obtaining insight into problem as we have encountered it here. This is our 87 for WRB.

Tremendous difficulties and hazards of taking any helpful action in Lithuania perhaps are best suggested by fact that in course of Olsen's rescue operations which have brought less than 150 Lithuanians here, 4 boats and almost 250 lives were lost. These operations have recently become so dangerous and appropriate communication with other side so erratic that it was decided to stop operations this week. Not a single Jew has been rescued. Lithuanian refugees arriving here say Jews are too terrified to move from present hideouts, either because they fear German trap, are afraid of almost certainty of being spotted by Gestapo and shot or are very much afraid of undertaking the dangerous escape. A Lithuanian Catholic Priest, one of the refugees brought here through these rescue operations, states quite a large number of Jews were able to get into Lithuanian territory occupied by the Russians and are said to be treated extremely well. Many others, in some cases entire families, are being hidden by Lithuanian farmers. He states many Jews have been given false birth certificates by Catholic Priests. According to him, there were only about 500 Jews in Krotingen on July 1 of this year and he does not believe there are any more than that now unless there has been heavy demand for conscript labor in that area.

Operations in Estonia and Latvia were also stopped this week and the boats ordered to be delivered to Olsen here. Action was due in part to the military situation in that area as well as to the difficulties of controlling the types of people who were to be brought out. There are literally hundreds of thousands of people on the Baltic coastal areas, of all political followings, making every panic stricken effort to escape. The last boat sent to Estonia was almost capsized by scores of people swimming around in the sea trying to climb aboard. Somewhat over three hundred were rescued from Latvia and approximately 250 from Estonia. Here again, however, it was not possible to bring out a single Jew. A full report of all these rescue operations will be forwarded in the near future.

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All available channels will, as they have in the past, be used to forestall further massacres in East Prussia and Poland, although we are extremely pessimistic that much can be accomplished since the contacts we have had in the past are not able to exert any influence upon the severe military control presently being maintained by the Germans over such matters. Threats of reprisals are meaningless to this group and it may be assumed that should any proposals ultimately be forthcoming through Kleist or other intermediaries for the Germans, such proposals will undoubtedly involve totally unacceptable military implications. We are pushing these negotiations as strongly as possible, nevertheless, simply to stall for time.

JOHNSON

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99

LC - 286  
Distribution of  
true reading by  
special arrangement  
[REDACTED] W)

Stockholm  
DATED July 17, 1944  
REC'D 8:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
2652, July 17, midnight.

This is our 54 for War Refugee Board.

The following summarizes the pertinent features of report filed by Trammael and Evensen in covering refugee activities in Norway.

Of the \$50,000 originally received (second \$50,000 received last week) approximately 100,000 Swedish kronor were used to purchase 328,000 Norwegian kroner. This Norwegian currency was purchased locally from Norwegian refugees who had brought the currency to Sweden and it was stressed that there could be no possible benefit to enemy from these transactions. Of this Norwegian currency, approximately 50,000 kroner has been sent back to Norway through the underground for relief purposes including the support of families of persons in concentration camps. The balance of this currency is still on hand. Group also has approximately 75,000 Swedish kronor on hand from first transfer.

It is reported that about 850 Norwegians escaped into Sweden during June despite a severe tightening of border patrols so that operations were difficult. During July Norwegian refugees are coming into Sweden at the rate of approximately 65 a day and the movement has been organized well to overcome recent obstacles. Almost 10,000 youths who failed to respond to the Nazi labor mobilization are hiding in the forests in the vicinity of Oslo. Funds supplied by American Relief for Norway are assisting in maintaining these groups. Other expenditures include the purchase in Sweden of food clothing and shoes for severe hardship cases in Norway.

Trammael and Evensen appear to be extremely conscientious in handling the funds and carrying out the program involved. They have established an administration committee which includes Edward Stenklev of the Stockholm Secretariat of the Norwegian Labor Union and Irygve Nilsen, former chairman of the Oslo Labor Council. The accounts are kept by Hans Heeg, former chief cashier of the Norwegian Iron and Metal Union, and expenditures are audited by George Jacobsen and Karsten or Kildsen, former auditors of the Norwegian Labor Union.

JOHNSON

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LC - 390  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.

Stockholm  
DATED: August 19, 1944  
REC'D: 9:28 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
3199, August 19, 11 p.m.

Second report of Evensen-Tranmael group has been received covering activities for July. Principal features summarized below and full reports going forward by pouch.

One. Group assisted in a variety of evacuation operations which brought approximately 1,000 Norwegians into Sweden during the month.

Two. Organizations for maintaining 10,000 youths hiding in the Norwegian forests now well established, with good channels for food and clothing supplies, and plans are in readiness for their evacuation should it become necessary.

Three. Food packages, clothing, shoes and other critical supplies are being sent in to families of prisoners, children and other groups in great need of assistance. In addition 125,000 Norwegian kroner have been sent in to needy cases.

Four. Second installment of \$50,000 was received during July and balance on hand after July expenditures was 232,000 Swedish kronor and 161,000 Norwegian kroner. Third installment of \$50,000 was received in early part of August.

In general, it is clear that these Norwegian operations are progressing very well and that much is being accomplished.

Olsen is considering the possibility of transferring the vessels in Baltic operations over to Norwegian operations of a similar nature at such time as it becomes impossible to continue activities in the Baltic. Prospects of success could be extremely good. To date approximately 600 have been evacuated from the Baltic countries through our facilities and a few hundred more through the assistance of our rescue organizations in those areas. It does not seem likely however that these operations can be carried out much longer in the light of the military situation in the Baltic at which time the question arises as to the further use of the vessels provided they are not lost in the meantime. Your comments would be appreciated. This is our No. 75 for WRB.

JOHNSON

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KEM-324  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. (W)

Stockholm  
DATED: September 25, 1944  
REC'D: 7:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
3864, September 25, 5 p.m.

For WRB

Following is third report of Evensen-Tranmael group covering rescue and relief operations in Norway during August, and is our No. 84.

To balance on hand of 232,000 Swedish kronor at end of July was added approximately 210,000 kronor equivalent of \$50,000 additionally transferred from the United States during August. Approximately 100,000 kronor were expended for food and clothing supplies, which were sent to the Norwegian home front, relatives of prisoners, persons working for the refugee transport organization, and to the students hiding in the forests. As of September 1 there was a balance on hand of 351,000 Swedish kronor. About 125,000 Norwegian kroner were sent into Norway for a variety of relief and rescue purposes, and 115,000 Norwegian kroner are still on hand.

Approximately 750 Norwegians escaped to Sweden during August, of which about 500 came through facilities financed by American labor relief.

JOHNSON

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102

LFG-956  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Stockholm  
DATED: October 25, 1944  
REC'D: 2:20 a.m., 26th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
4348, October 25, 8 p.m.

During September received final installment of initial amount of \$200,000. (Following summarizes Tranmael-Evensen report on Norwegian operations for September. This is our No. 94 for War Refugee Board.) Expenditures during month were approximately 2,000,000 Swedish kronor leaving on hand as of October 1 approximately 380,000 Swedish kronor and 150,000 Norwegian kroner. About 600 parcels were sent into Norway through regular license procedure. These included 4000 kg. of food, 560 kg. of clothing and 200 pairs of shoes. Considerable other food and clothing was sent in through underground channels. Approval has now been obtained to send to Norway monthly an additional 400 packages. Approximately 60,000 Norwegian kroner were sent in to needy families in various districts in Norway.

Largely through equipment, supplies and funds provided by American labor relief, approximately 1000 Norwegians were brought to Sweden in September. Olsen is now exploring with them a program of evacuating refugees by sea routes. In general the Norwegian situation is now both tense and critical.

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103

BAS-245

Stockholm

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DATED: November 11, 1944  
REC'D: 2:32 p.m.

4620, November 11, 3 p.m.

This is our No. 104 for War Refugee Board.

Trammael-Evensen report for Norwegian operations during October contains the following features. An additional transfer of \$50,000 was received during the month, to be added to the 381,000 Swedish kronor already on hand on October 1st.

During the month approximately 1000 packages were sent under license to Norway, including 7750 kg. of food, 700 kg. of clothing and 250 pairs of shoes. Through underground facilities an additional 3500 kg. of clothing, shoes, food, and tobacco have been sent into Norway.

Refugee transport facilities were supplied with necessary equipment, food, clothing, and Norwegian money, 45,000 Norwegian kroner being sent in during the month. Through the escape routes equipped and financed by American labor relief about 1260 Norwegian refugees were brought to Sweden in October.

Suitable vessels have now been acquired to expand sea escape routes and necessary arrangements with Swedish authorities concluded. German control of sea areas has been tightened considerably, however, and difficulties may be anticipated.

As of November 1 about 415,000 Swedish kr. and 105,000 Norwegian kr. were on hand.

JOHNSON

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104

TR-1320  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. (██████ W)

Stockholm  
DATED: December 18, 1944  
REC'D: 7:46 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington  
5167, December 18, 5 p.m. (Section One of Two)

114 for WRB

Summary of Tranmael-Evensen report for the month of November  
on Norwegian operations follows:

Expenditures for the month were approximately 292,000 Swedish  
kronor for clothing, footwear, food, licensing of packages and  
refugee transportation, and 133,000 Norwegian kroner. 559 licensed  
packages with about 6,625 kg. of food, 750 kg. of clothes and 250  
pairs of footwear were sent. Also 22,000 kg. of various foodstuffs  
and a number of other commodities were sent in a different way.  
The Norwegian kroner were sent for various purposes and to differ-  
ent districts in Norway. Necessary equipment of clothes, bed-  
clothes, food, money, et cetera, have been placed at disposal of  
crews on boats as previously.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: December 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 5167 (Section Two)

Refugees numbering about 800 have arrived over the routes which the Committee maintains. Money has been placed at the disposal of refugee relief in the northern districts since the situation in the northern part of Norway has become so acute.

Since the Committee has received no new contributions during November and all available funds have been contracted for, it is felt by the Committee that if it could be sure of a certain amount each month activities could be expanded since distress among families of prisoners, refugees and those forced to evacuate is on the increase. The Committee desires to have these views communicated to the American Relief for Norway, Inc., and they forward at the same time their heartiest thanks for the confidence and great economic support which has so far been given.

We are sending by pouch a full report regarding this.

JOHNSON

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105

BAS-1884  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Stockholm  
DATED February 7, 1945  
REC'D 11:42 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
463, February 7, 11 a.m.

This is our No. 122 for War Refugee Board.

Evensen and Tranmael report received covering Norwegian operations for December. Approximately 325,000 kroner were expended during month. Through legitimate licensing channels 1,350 packages were sent into Norway containing 18,000 kg. of foodstuffs, 2,700 kg. of clothing and 470 pairs of shoes. Through underground channels an additional 10,000 kg. of foodstuffs were sent into Norway and 300 pairs of shoes.

Rescue operations are continuing and in the first three weeks of December over 600 refugees were transported to Sweden through facilities financed in part by American labor relief. There are now six vessels engaged in evacuation by sea routes.

The Norwegian labor group is now virtually without funds and Olsen has loaned them \$50,000 of funds held by him for other purposes. This will presumably be repaid by \$50,000 scheduled to be transferred to them in February which will again leave them without funds. Since the group is presently engaged in operations which will require \$50,000 monthly please advise urgently whether this program can be financed or whether it will be necessary to curtail operations.

JOHNSON

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106

JP-792  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (b)(7)(W)

Stockholm  
DATED: February 28, 1945  
REC'D: 3:02 a.m., March 1st.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
781, February 28, 10 p.m.

This is our No. 127 for WRB. Tranmael-Evensen report for January operations in Norway indicates that approximately 160 packages were sent through regular licensing channels during month, containing 22,000 kilograms of food, 2200 kilograms of clothing and 360 pairs of shoes. Through underground channels were delivered an additional 13,000 kilograms of food, 1,100 pairs of shoes, considerable clothing and other articles. It is estimated that 1,100 refugees were brought to Sweden in January on the evacuation routes financed in part with funds of American labor relief.

No funds remained at hand at the end of January and the local labor group reported themselves indebted to the extent of 50,000 Swedish kronor and 34,000 Norwegian kroner. This latter problem has been raised with you separately.

JOHNSON

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107

MS-1242  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Stockholm  
DATED: April 7, 1945  
REC'D: 2:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1298, April 7, 2 p.m.

Report has been received from Evensen and Tranmael covering their operations in Norway during February. Through regular licensing facilities 675 packages were sent into Norway containing about 10,000 kg. foodstuffs, 2230 kg. of clothing and 350 pairs of shoes. Approximately 28,000 kg. of foodstuffs were sent in through underground facilities, as well as a considerable amount of clothing, footwear and other material. This is our 133 for WRB. In addition the group sent in through the underground about 2 tons of clothing and other supplies for certain Swedish organizations. Approximately 1100 Norwegians were brought to safety in Sweden during February through underground routes financed in part by American labor relief.

Due to lack of funds operations were necessarily curtailed during this period.

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MS-147  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement [REDACTED] W)

Stockholm  
DATED: April 21, 1945  
REC'D: 4:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1490, April 21, 5 p.m.

This is our number 136 for War Refugee Board in reply to  
WRB 354 (Department's 694, April 18, 2 p.m.).

Problem of finance has been discussed with local Norwegian  
labor group. They received last \$50,000 installment from the  
United States in March and these funds will probably be insuffi-  
cient to carry them through April operations. Olsen promised to  
make available to group 75,000 kronor of \$98,500 transferred to  
him from WRB confidential funds in Ankara. However, except for  
such additional funds as Olsen may make available from his special  
funds, local group will lack funds for May operations and still  
owe Olsen \$50,000 previously loaned them.

Tranmael and Evensen have supplied report covering March  
operations in Norway, translations of which are being forwarded  
by pouch. During March 1,135 parcels were sent into Norway through  
licensing channels, containing approximately 15,000 kilograms of  
food, 3,310 kilograms of clothing and 300 pairs of shoes. About  
9,000 kilograms of food and clothing were sent in through under-  
ground channels, as well as other supplies contributed by Swedish  
organizations. During March approximately 1,100 Norwegians were  
brought to Sweden through escape facilities financed in part by  
American labor relief.

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109

AMERICAN LABOR RELIEF  
Vallingatan, 21, I,  
Telephone: 10 87 17  
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Stockholm, 25.5.45.

LE/AET.

Attache Mr. Iver Olsen,  
American Legation,  
Strandvägen 7 A,  
Stockholm.

Re: American Relief for Norway, Chicago -  
American Labor Relief for Norway, Stockholm.

Report for April, 1945.

In April no new contribution has been received. Of the most important expenditures, we mention: changing of Norwegian kroner: about 24,000.- Sw. kr., clothing: about 12,000.- Sw. kr., licensed packages: about 13,000.- Sw. kr., transportation expenses 36,000.- Sw. kr. In this month 137,000.- Norwegian kroner have been sent to Norway.

In the course of the month 663 licensed packages have been sent, with in all 8,212 kg. foodstuffs, 1,989 kg. clothing and 670 pairs of shoes.

In other ways 2,331 kg. of foodstuffs have been sent, plus clothing, footwear and other commodities as shown in the enclosed list.

Along the routes financed by the Committee, we are reported that 1,246 refugees have arrived.

(Signed)  
LARS EVENSEN

Lars Evensen.

Enclosure [Omitted - Ed.]

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DOCUMENT

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AMERICAN LABOR RELIEF  
Vallingatan 21, I  
Telephone: 10.87.17  
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Stockholm, June 8, 1945.

LE/AET.

Attache Mr. Iver Olsen,  
American Legation,  
Strandvägen 7 A,  
Stockholm.

Re: American Relief for Norway, Chicago -  
American Labor Relief for Norway, Stockholm.

Report for May, 1945.

In May we have received Sw. kr. 80,000.- from the War Refugee Board. Of expenditures we mention particularly the purchase of clothing: kr. 6,700.-, foodstuffs: about kr. 5,000.-, packages: kr. 9,600.-, refugee transports well over kr. 14,000.-. The latter item chiefly refers to the final liquidation of the transports which were in process at the time when the peace broke out. The refugee relief this month amounted to kr. 32,000.-, the most part having been used for extra relief to political prisoners who were repatriated via Sweden.

In the course of the month we have sent 640 licensed packages, containing in all 7,520 kg. of foodstuffs, 410 kg. of clothing and 125 pairs of shoes.

In other ways we have sent 7,530 kg. of various foodstuffs, plus clothing and other commodities, which are referred to in the attached list.

(Signed)

LARS EVENSEN

2 enclosures. /Omitted - Ed./

000312



DOCUMENT

111

SG-300  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. (W)

Stockholm  
DATED: May 29, 1945  
REC'D: 7:21 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1953, May 29, 6 p.m.

FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

In response to WRB 368 (Dept's 949, May 23, 11 a.m.)

Have discussed fully with local group representing American labor relief for Norway their ideas as to future relief program. Local group is extremely anxious to continue Norwegian relief activities and are firmly convinced of necessity of continuing operations from Sweden in view of advantageous supply factor as well as prompt delivery facilities. They have advanced a five-point program covering relief and general assistance to the following groups of the more severely distressed category.

- (A). Norwegians returning from concentration camps in Germany.
- (B). Prisoners released from Grini.
- (C). Prisoners released from other concentration camps in Norway.
- (D). Special relief program for residents of Finmark.
- (E). Support of widows and children of above groups of prisoners.

The group has advanced a minimum program which will require approximately 100,000 kronor monthly to finance. This will supply approximately 30,000 KG. of essential foods monthly as well as medicines and clothing. All necessary arrangements have been made both as to procurement of supplies and as to shipment.

Local group has been advised of contribution of \$50,000 by War Refugee Board for relief operations in Norway (WRB 370, Dept's 973, May 25, 5 p.m.) and it wishes to express its deepest appreciation for this generous support.

JOHNSON

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DOCUMENT

112

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 1772

Following message for War Refugee Board is our No. 18.

Last night a lengthy discussion was held by Olsen with Class Westring, Swedish Consulate General in Oslo who is returning today to Oslo. He has been actively concerned with Swedish relief activities in Norway and the evacuation to Sweden of several Jews in concentration camps in Norway have been personally arranged by him. He states that at the present time the lack of local funds in the right hands to carry out the operations is the main obstacle to effective relief activities within Norway as well as further evacuations to Sweden. As outstandingly distressed groups, he mentioned the families of those in Norwegian concentration camps, the families of Norwegians deported to Germany and the families of clergymen, members of the Supreme Court and intellectuals who are interned as a result of compromising themselves politically. The families of many of these people are completely without funds for living.

In emphasizing to Westring the anxiety of the United States regarding this matter and the steps we are preparing to take, Westring said he was willing to act as intermediary in getting funds both for evacuation operations and for relief activities into the hands of appropriate Norwegians. Plans were worked out under which any funds obtained from America would be turned over to an appropriate person in the Swedish Foreign Office who would make available to Westring the Norwegian equivalent. Also plans were made whereby there would be channeled through another appropriate official in the Foreign Office communications to and from Westring.

It is strongly urged that the War Refugee Board find support for this program to the amount of \$10,000 per month as the foregoing seems to be an unusual opportunity for carrying on certain essential operations through responsible and skillful channels.

JOHNSON

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DOCUMENT

113

FNH-850

Stockholm

DATED: November 7, 1944

REC'D: 2:20 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.  
4548, November 7, noon.

Reply to your inquiry was deferred until most recent information could be obtained from Swedish Consul General in Oslo, who has now been in Stockholm for a few days. This is our No. 102 for War Refugee Board in reply to WRB 220 (Department's 2128 of October 23, 9 p.m.)

To date 90,000 Swedish kronor have been deposited at Foreign Office for account of Consul General Westring, against which deposit he uses equivalent in Norwegian kronor obtained as consular fees. Westring is working closely with Central Relief Committee of Lutheran Church in Oslo, and supplies this group the necessary funds to bring urgent relief to a carefully selected list of most needy cases. These cases in almost all instances comprise families of men who have either been deported, imprisoned or shot by the Germans, and include perhaps a dozen severely stranded Jewish families. This type of relief is totally illegal in Norway, subject to punishment by imprisonment, and it is extremely important that the whole matter is kept strictly confidential, particularly as to Swedish cooperation and assistance. Westring informs that this work is accomplishing an enormous amount of good, that conditions in Norway for such families are becoming increasingly difficult, that considerably more could be done along the same lines if funds were available.

Have supplied 25,000 Swedish kronor to certain officials of the Norwegian Legation here responsible for home front activities. This was for the purpose of supplying necessary medicine, clothing and food to the home front groups as well as the Norwegian students hiding in the forests. This program also is moving forward and is connected with other operations concerning facilities established to rescue these student groups when and if necessary.

Third program with which American Relief for Norway funds are being employed has been worked out with pastors of Norwegian Lutheran Church in Sweden. Amount of 25,000 Swedish kronor has been made available to them to permit more or less penniless Norwegian refugees here to send food parcels back to relatives in Norway particularly for Christmas. Same group being supplied with 50,000 Norwegian kronor which they will send in by underground to needy cases in the more isolated Norwegian parishes. We believe this to be an excellent project.

American Relief for Norway may be interested in knowing that one of its founders and former member of its board of directors, Sigurd Arneson, presently assistant Military Attache to this

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- 641 -

Legation, has been consulted fully regarding the disposition of these funds and not only feels that a tremendous good is being done but considers that the need is greater than ever before.

JOHNSON

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114

DCG-1142  
Distribution of true  
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arrangement. ( ) W)

Stockholm  
DATED: March 7, 1945  
REC'D: 8:26 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
891, March 7, 7 p.m.

THIS IS OUR 130 FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

One of Sweden's leading newspapers, DAGENS NYHETER, of March 6, contains a front page interview with a Hungarian Jew who recently escaped to Sweden. He pays tremendous tribute to Swedish relief and rescue activities for Hungarian Jews, particularly that of Raoul Wallenberg, and states "Budapest Jews were saved by the Swedes."

The article describes one instance in which an hour's urgent conference by Wallenberg with Szalasy personally caused the latter to reinstate the validity of Swedish protective passports. It mentions that Wallenberg quartered 5000 Jews in so-called Swedish houses and one evening, when an armed patrol entered this area to remove some of the inhabitants to labor camps, Wallenberg met the patrol and, after advising it that it was trespassing on Swedish territory, informed the group that it could not trespass further without first shooting him, adding "none leaves this place as long as I live." Later the same evening Wallenberg was advised that 11 persons with Swedish passports had been arrested by the Gestapo and had been loaded on a labor train destined for Vienna. It states that Wallenberg raced to the railway station but the train had departed. Wallenberg then chased the train until it stopped at station just short of the German border and he managed to remove these 11 persons from the train.

The article pays remarkable tribute to Wallenberg's courage and day and night effort to help the Jews, despite the fact that there was a constant object of personal attack and anonymous threats of bodily harm. The article will be forwarded in the next pouch.

JOHNSON

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115

Stockholm

DATED: April 19, 1945

REC'D: 10:17 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1447, April 19, 1 p.m.

For Department and WRB.

Approximately 5,000 Danish and Norwegian Jews arrived in Malmo yesterday from Germany and are being sent to an especially arranged Swedish internment camp. So far as is known this group comprises virtually all Danish and Norwegian Jews in German concentration camps and their release is a consequence of certain special negotiations conducted by Count Bernadotte during the past several weeks.

The Swedish Foreign Office is endeavoring to secure the release of Norwegian Jews in Grini, under the same guarantees of special internment in Sweden.

JOHNSON

000318

DOCUMENT

116

Stockholm  
DATED May 2, 1945  
REC'D 4:24 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1635, May 2, 4 p.m.

Our 1476 of April 20, 6 p.m. made reference to 500 Danish-Jews instead of 5,000 as stated in Department's 774, April 27, 3 p.m. Informed local sources indicated that 425 have actually arrived here to date and that this group comprises the living remainder of approximately 525 originally deported from Denmark, the balance having died in concentration camps.

JOHNSON

000319

DOCUMENT

117

Stockholm  
DATED: May 3, 1945  
REC'D: 9:42 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
1669, May 3, 9 p.m.

For Department and WRB.

Supplementing our 1547, April 25, 8 p.m., we are informed that approximately 3,000 women have now arrived in Sweden from the concentration camp at Ravensbrueck, of which number about 1,200 are Jewesses. We are also informed that approximately 3,000 additional women from Ravensbrueck have reached Denmark and are expected in Sweden by this week end.

Approximately fifty Norwegian Jews from a concentration camp in Norway arrived today.

JOHNSON

000320



DOCUMENT

118

AIRGRAM

No. A-12  
Time: 6:40 p.m.

January 3, 1944

Amembassy  
London

With reference assistance to refugees on Island of Rab your 7632 November 4 following is quoted from letter received from Joint Chiefs of Staff dated December 15, 1943 quote:

The Commanding General, North African Theater of Operations, has been consulted with regard to this matter and, pursuant to his recommendation, it has been determined that the military situation does not permit the military authorities to render any direct assistance to these refugees at this time.

The Theater Commander has reported that supplies and facilities for displaced persons in Italy are already overstrained, and that demands for these items should, if possible, be reduced. Aside from the fact that operational needs do not permit the rendition of assistance to these refugees, it is considered that to take such action might create a precedent which would lead to other demands and an influx of additional refugees for the care of whom the military authorities would be unable to provide facilities and supplies. Although recommending that no direct assistance or funds be provided, the Theater Commander states that he will continue, as in the past, to care for any refugees who should be able to reach Italy as a result of their own efforts.

Our latest information is that the refugees on the Island of Rab, together with those at Otocac in Northwest Croatia, total approximately 1,500, and that the majority of these refugees are Jews unquote.

Since receipt of letter in reference Department has official information Germans now hold Rab.

Please transmit such portions of the above communication as you may deem appropriate to the Directorate of the Intergovernmental Committee and if the present information of the Committee suggests means of aiding these refugees Department should be informed.

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(GHB)

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF WAR STIMSON

FEB. 1, 1944

Re: Making Funds Available to Refugees on Island of Rab.

I wish to preface my discussion by saying that in December the Joint Chiefs of Staff were approached at the instance of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees with a comprehensive project to rescue refugees from the Island of Rab. This plan would have necessitated direct assistance upon the part of the military authorities involving questions of transport, etc. On this basis the Commanding General in the North African Theater of Operations decided that the military situation did not permit the operation contemplated. However, since the proposal which I am about to make is entirely different and much simpler than that rejected by the Commanding General, and in view of our Government's policy with respect to refugees announced at the time of the establishment of the War Refugee Board, I recommend the following for your urgent consideration.

Information we have received indicates that there are presently some 1500 refugees, mostly Jewish, on the Island of Rab in the Adriatic off the Dalmation coast. They apparently were taken there some time ago by Yugoslav Partisans after being freed from internment. The Island has changed hands several times, but it is understood to be again in the possession of the Partisans.

It is believed that many of such refugees might be able to hire boats to bring them to Italy if they had the necessary funds. Similar escapes apparently have been arranged by Yugoslav refugees now in Italy. Funds are available to the War Refugee Board, and probably also from private organizations for this purpose and, if possible, should be sent to these refugees as soon as possible.

As a method of accomplishing the foregoing, I suggest the following possibility. If means of communication exist between our armed forces and the Yugoslav Partisan leaders, it is suggested that you or the Theater Commander transmit a message to the latter requesting -

(a) that the Partisans furnish local currency to refugees on the Island of Rab so that the latter may by their own efforts arrange escape to Italy, it being understood that such expenditures will be reimbursed in United States dollars or in such other money as the Partisans request;

(b) that the Partisans, in the event they cannot furnish necessary local currency, aid the refugees in arranging escape by guaranteeing to the boat owners and other persons

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assisting in the escape that payment will be made to them by the American military authorities upon arrival of the refugees in Italy;

(c) that the Partisans keep the appropriate American military authorities advised of their operations in this field.

It will, of course, be necessary for the Theater Commander to make arrangements for payments in Italy in certain cases to persons bringing refugees there from the Island of Rab, and possibly for certain other financial transactions. It is also essential that the Theater Commander continue his policy of caring for any refugees who may be able to reach Italy as the result of their own efforts. Such other assistance as he may be able to give will, naturally, be extremely valuable. It may be made perfectly clear that the War Refugee Board assumes full financial responsibility for this operation and will reimburse all outlays.

If you think that the procedure indicated is feasible, I am sure that you will agree that it should be executed as promptly as possible in view of the uncertainty of the continued possession of the Island of Rab by the Partisans.

This has been cleared with Mr. Stettinius who is in agreement.

(Signed)  
H. MORGENTHAU, JR.

(Carried by Secret Service Agent)  
2-2-44

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DOCUMENT

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Mission, Algiers  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: May 3, 1944  
NUMBER: 1450

From Ackermann for attention of WRB.

No. 17.

In connection with the rescue of Hungarian refugees, MacVeagh in Cairo reports that information has been received from the British Embassy indicating that Marshal Tito has promised support. Tito will assist them to join his forces or to be evacuated when possible.

The help that Tito can furnish partly depends upon the assistance given him in my opinion.

In order to get more information on shipping and related problems I will leave for Italy on the advice of Kallech as soon as arrangements are completed. While there will also follow up Tito proposal.

Since reception facilities in Italy are again becoming overtaxed the Army here is issuing a directive prohibiting temporarily the transport by Allied vessels of Yugoslav refugees. The directive will slow up the refugee flow, but it will not be stopped. Arrangement of additional evacuation areas in France or British North Africa will depend on whether the Army restriction will be relaxed. An immediate effort will be made to arrange such additional areas.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 28, 1944  
NUMBER: 5104

We have just received from the Foreign Office a memorandum with respect to the wish of the War Refugee Board and the Department to remove refugees escaped from enemy territory to southern Italy, as set forth in Department's cable of June 3, No. 4413. The memorandum goes into detail with respect to the points which Randall, head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office, mentioned as reported in Embassy's cable of June 7, No. 4557. There follows the substance of the memorandum:

1. The anxiety of the President and the State Department for the speedy removal from southern Italy of refugees who have escaped from enemy territory is shared by the British Government. It is stated by the Foreign Office that it was aware of the large number of refugees arriving from Yugoslavia in Italy and that it agrees emphatically with the view that in no way should the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy be discouraged. Marshal Tito has promised cooperation and such measures as are possible to alleviate the plight of Jews in Hungary have been taken by the British authorities.

2. The British military authorities in the Middle East were prepared and willing to accommodate 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egypt but since UNRRA has not been able as yet to secure the necessary medical staff the military authorities doubt that they can accommodate more than the 25,000 who have arrived in Egypt already.

Therefore, the Foreign Office has requested the European headquarters of UNRRA to expedite provision of a medical staff.

3. Every effort to carry out plans already completed to move as many Jewish refugees as possible from the Balkans is being made by the British authorities. As soon as the Rumanian Red Cross, the Swiss authorities in Rumania, and the International Red Cross in conjunction with the Jewish agency for Palestine can make the necessary arrangements, a British ship can be ready at 30 days notice to proceed to Constanza for the evacuation of Jewish refugees. However, it seems that in all probability the German Government will not grant the necessary safe conduct in this case any more than in that of the SS TARI for which the American Embassy to Turkey had negotiated. However, we will

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actively pursue the matter.

4. The establishment of a refugee camp in Tripolitania has been agreed to by the British Government and it is examining the proposal that Sicily should become a destination for refugees.

5. It is agreed to by the Foreign Office that camp Iyautey at Fedhala should not be opened to refugees from Italy as it must be kept available for those refugees coming from Spain.

6. Concerning the proposal that HM Government should grant Palestine immigration certificates to Jewish refugees in liberated Italy, the British while they do not doubt the desirability of moving them for operational reasons, nevertheless feel that since they are in an area where they are safe from enemy persecution, they should give preference for rescue under the limited quotas allotted for immigration into Palestine to those Jews who are still in danger of their lives and can be got to safety out of enemy controlled territory.

The Foreign Office concludes by saying that this means that while considerable numbers of Yugoslav refugees from Italy have already been received in Palestine, in order that Palestine may be kept available for Jews escaping in increasing numbers through Turkey from places of danger, the alternative places of refuge should be used to the greatest extent.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, London  
DATED: June 3, 1944  
NUMBER: 4413

[REDACTED]

Facilities in southern Italy for caring for refugees who have escaped from enemy territory are becoming so over-crowded that it is essential to remove refugees rapidly to other areas. It is particularly important that this be done without delay so that the flow of refugees into southern Italy is not in any way discouraged or impeded. The following cable which has been sent to Robert Murphy in Algiers indicated more fully the nature of this problem and its importance:

"Our information indicates that refugees have been arriving from Yugoslavia to Italy at the average rate of over 1800 per week and that this flow is expected to continue and may well increase. It also appears that unless these refugees can be removed rapidly to other areas, the military authorities are fearful that the facilities in southern Italy for refugees may become seriously over-taxed.

"The whole matter has been discussed with the President who has made it clear that under no circumstances should the escape of refugees to Italy from the Balkan countries be discouraged. The flow of refugees from Yugoslavia to Italy is important not only from the standpoint of saving the lives of Yugoslavs but also in order that as many refugees as possible from other Balkan countries may be able to escape through Yugoslavia. In this connection, Cable No. Yugos 102 from Cairo, dated April 29, indicates that support in rescuing Hungarian Jews has been promised by Tito. In view of the plight of Jews today in Hungary, it is essential that we do what we can to facilitate their escape.

"We recognize that the crux of this matter is finding suitable places to which these refugees can be removed. In this connection, the following should be borne in mind.

(1) As many as possible of these refugees should be moved to camps in the Middle East. UNRRA is making every effort to supply sufficient medical and other personnel.

(2) In so far as Jewish refugees are concerned, present plans to move as many as possible to Palestine should be carried out without delay. In this connection it should

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be borne in mind that in the case of Turkey, the British have adopted the policy that all Jews escaping into Turkey from the Balkan countries will be permitted to go to Palestine. These refugees are then placed in camps in Palestine where they are checked for security purposes.

(3) For some time we have been pressing the British to establish with our cooperation havens of refuge for these people in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, but without any results to date.

(4) The President suggested the possibility that some of these refugees might be taken to Sicily. This should be carefully explored together with the possibility of a substantial expansion of facilities on the Italian mainland.

(5) While we do not consider it desirable to bring refugees from Italy to Camp Iyautey at Fedhala since all of the accommodations of that camp must be kept available for refugees from Spain, the possibility of establishing other camps in French North Africa for refugees from Italy should, of course, be borne in mind.

"Bearing in mind that the flow of refugees into Italy from the Balkan countries must not be interfered with, you are requested to submit as soon as possible your views and recommendations as to all possible havens of refuge in which these people might be temporarily placed.

Please convey the contents of this cable to representatives of UNRRA and Ackermann of the War Refugee Board, as well as the appropriate military authorities. You should discuss this whole matter with them and cooperate with them in solving this most urgent problem."

According to the best information available there are in southern Italy several thousand Jewish refugees. The prompt removal of these refugees to Palestine would constitute an important step in helping to solve the problem indicated. Accordingly, the Department and the War Refugee Board would like to know at the earliest possible moment whether the British Government will grant Palestine certificates to these Jewish refugees and will facilitate their prompt removal to Palestine.

In taking up this matter with the British Government you should bear in mind the following:

Since the closing of the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier in May 1943, the British Government has been following the policy of authorizing,

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after a preliminary security check in Turkey, the onward transport to Palestine of all Jews who succeed in escaping to Turkey from enemy territory. Once in Palestine the British place these people in camps where another security check is made, and if found satisfactory, they are gradually released as legal immigrants to Palestine against the current half-yearly immigration quota. It is apparent that the application of a similar policy in the case of Jews now in southern Italy would make possible the prompt removal of such refugees to Palestine.

Please advise us urgently of the attitude of the British Government in this matter.

This message has been repeated to Murphy, Chapin and Ackermann in Algiers.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, London  
DATED: June 12, 1944  
NUMBER: 4641

At his press conference on June 9 the President announced that the historic Army camp, Fort Ontario, at Oswego, New York, has been set aside as an Emergency Refugee Shelter. A group of 1,000 refugees are being brought immediately from Italy to this country outside of the regular immigration procedure, and will be placed in the Emergency Refugee Shelter where they will remain for the duration of the war.

The President released the text of a cable which he had sent to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers on June 8. The text of this cable is as follows:

(Insert text of attached cable)

The President also revealed that while the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army shall take the necessary security precautions so that these refugees will remain in the camp and the actual administration of the camp is to be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

For your information, the War Refugee Board regards the action which has been taken by the President as a great step forward in the efforts of this Government to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance.

The significance of this step can only be properly appraised against the background of the numerous vigorous measures taken by the President and the War Refugee Board since January in an intensive effort to rescue intended victims of Hitler's brutality. The further action now taken by the President in bringing refugees more than 4,000 miles to this country to a place of safety should again clearly demonstrate to the world that our efforts to save refugees constitute a real and most important Government policy.

With today's announcement we should be in a stronger position to urge Allied and neutral countries to expand their existing refugee facilities. This Government is confident that an intensified joint effort of all Allied and neutral countries can save many additional human lives.

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To the extent that the President's move becomes known in the occupied countries, it should have an important psychological effect in convincing the Nazis and their minions throughout Europe that this country means business when it says that the fate of persecuted peoples is one of our deep concerns.

There is already evidence that the efforts of this Government in the refugee field have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. The President's action yesterday should serve as a further concrete manifestation to all oppressed peoples of the sincerity and effectiveness of this Government's humanitarian policy.

With the above in mind, please take the following action as expeditiously as possible:

(1) Bring to the attention of the British Government the action which has been taken by the President, emphasizing the significance of this action in the refugee field. In exploring with the British Government the question of expanding existing refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area and finding new havens of refuge for these people in that area (your 4557 of June 7), you should make clear that this Government is determined to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who can escape from German controlled territory. In addition to the possibilities mentioned in our No. 4413 of June 3, the President has also suggested the possibility of taking refugees to Cyprus. As the President indicated in his cable of June 9 to Ambassador Murphy, it is most important that efforts to take refugees from Italy to areas close by be intensified.

(2) To the extent possible, consistent with the military situation, every effort should be made to give publicity to the President's action and its significance, particularly in the neutral countries and enemy territory.

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MMS

Plain  
June 14, 1944

Amlegation  
Lisbon  
Circular Fourteenth

For Norweb from the War Refugee Board.

On June 9 the President announced to the press that the army camp Fort Ontario Oswego New York has been set aside as an emergency refugee shelter to house one thousand refugees who are being brought to this country immediately from Italy outside the regular immigration procedure. Refugees will remain in the camp for the duration of the war. The text of the cable despatched to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers on June 8 was released to the press by the President and appeared in the radio bulletin of June 9. The War Refugee Board is charged by the President with overall responsibility for this project. The army has been directed to take the necessary security precautions to insure that the refugees remain in the camp during the war. The War Relocation Authority is to be responsible for the actual administration of the camp. The Board regards the action taken by the President as a great step forward in the efforts of this Government to rescue refugees in imminent danger of death and to afford all possible relief and assistance to such victims. This step can only be properly appraised against the background of the many vigorous measures taken by the President and the Board in the intensive effort to rescue the victims of Hitler's extermination policies. The action taken by the President in bringing refugees from Italy to a place of safety in this country should again demonstrate clearly to the world that it is an important policy of this Government to rescue as many refugees as possible. Following this announcement this Government should be in a stronger position to urge Allied and neutral countries to expand their efforts on behalf of refugees. It is the confident hope of this Government that through the joint efforts of Allied and neutral countries many additional lives can be saved. Hopefully, the President's action will become known in the occupied areas and should have an important psychological effect in convincing the Nazis and their subordinates throughout Europe that this Government is serious in its deep concern for the fate of persecuted peoples. Evidence is already at hand that the efforts of this Government in the refugee field have brought new hope to the persecuted people in the occupied areas and the President's action should serve as a further manifestation of the effectiveness and security [sincerity] of the humanitarian policy of this Government.

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The President has also directed, in addition to the action indicated above, that a survey be made immediately of the possibility of enlarging existent refugee facilities in the Mediterranean Area and finding new havens of refuge in that area for these people. Movements to increase the quota of the refugee camps in the Middle East from 25,000 to 40,000 are being made. The opening of a camp in Tripolitania which would accommodate about 1,500 persons has been agreed to by the British Government. We are canvassing the possibility of taking refugees to Cyprus together with possibility that some southern Italy refugees may be cared for in Sicily, pursuant to the President's suggestion. We are also exploring other possibilities. The above represents an effort of this Government, in cooperation with the British Government, to find places of refuge in which shelter may be found by all persons escaping from Italy.

You are requested, keeping the above in mind, to act as expeditiously as possible in the following manner. The foregoing should be brought to the attention of the government to which you are accredited, the significance of the action in the refugee field being emphasized. The determination of this Government to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who can escape from German-controlled areas should be made clear to the government to which you are accredited. Please explore carefully therefore with such government all possible means by which further aid in the rescue and relief of victims of enemy persecution can be given by it. Consistent with the military situation every effort should be made to give publicity in the neutral countries and in enemy territories to the President's action and its significance.

The results of the action which you take pursuant to this telegram should be reported immediately.

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arrangement. (W)

Caserta

DATED: August 11, 1944

REC'D: 8:15 p.m., 12th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
106, August 11, 2 p.m.

For War Refugee Board from Ackermann No. 105.

Just returned from Bari where survey made Hungarian Yugoslav situations. Discussions with British American Partisans indicate responsibilities from Hungary not (repeat not) favorable presently because Yugo-Hungarian border too well guarded. I am informed Partisans now control isolated region their side Drava River where Hungarians are safe if they reach there by own efforts. A handful have reached safety in last few months. Allied and Partisan forces in this area not even sufficient for intelligence purposes but situation expected to improve.

Yugoslav situation improving. In July over 2,500 refugees evacuated, 900 being orphan children, by air from interior balance old men, women, children by boat from coast. However, there is great immediate need for supplies to be brought into liberated areas to prevent several million people from starving or freezing to death. Approximately four million are homeless. Tents would aid tremendously but require plane transport. Many without proper clothing. Some small boats available from time to time to bring clothing to Vis for distribution from there by young men who evade Bozeer guards regularly. Latter statement by Partisans confirmed by Allied authorities. Food and medicine also urgent, particularly dry or condensed milk for nursing mothers and children. Much difficulty envisaged to get transport these supplies but believe there will be space occasionally for small amounts. Again urge that stockpile be created so that if transport available or Germans pull out this aid could be carried immediately. Will discuss with Murphy, Army and UNRRA representative next few days but urge you do all possible your end. Proper agency for procurement supplies appears AML now Cairo but this may change rapidly. Will advise. Report also comes by pouch.

MURPHY

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BJR-977

Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

Caserta

DATED: October 6, 1944  
REC'D: 9:11 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
653, October 6, 5 p.m.

Ackermann's 113.

Following is summary of situation evacuation refugees from Yugoslavia referred to in WRB 50. On September 18 only 29 evacuated and none since then. Delay due in part to bad flying weather but may also be caused by political situation which has reduced number of planes substantially. Board may wish to discuss latter factor with State Department. When and if plane traffic commences again it is planned to resume evacuations but it is expected this will take several months since wounded and airmen have priority. Balance of approximately 650 refugees are in neighborhood of Topusko where I am informed they are relatively safe from Germans unless retreat should go through this section. In such case danger will increase substantially since this group with many old persons and children is difficult to move rapidly. Representative of British Military Mission which has handled preliminaries on this matter stated he would recommend allocation of additional planes as urgent humanitarian measure if retreat goes in this direction. He believes, however, that temporary relief he is trying to arrange will suffice meanwhile. I suggest you follow situation closely and if you learn that this area is about to become path of German retreat you recommend to appropriate authorities your end allocation of additional planes to back up our recommendations here. Approximately 20 transport planes can do job in one trip.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Delegation, Rome  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: September 8, 1944  
NUMBER: 317

See my 302, September 4, 5 p.m. and Department's 114, dated August 30, 7 p.m.

The following information was obtained from a note dated the eighth of September from the Holy See: The Pope's approach through Vatican channels to the Government of Germany requesting that approximately 9,000 refugees in Northern Italy be released and transported to Southern Italy or elsewhere was made by Nuncio in Berlin (see Taylor's 309). The result of this request was that Germany claimed that in the Italian Socialist Republic lay the authority for these individuals. It was further indicated by the Vatican that with that body they had no communication. A complete text via air follows:

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A I R G R A M

FROM: American Embassy  
Madrid, Spain  
DATED: February 15, 1944  
REC'D: February 25 1 p.m.

██████████  
Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
A-59, February 15, 1944, 12 noon.

I do not consider this an opportune moment in our relations with Spain to approach Spanish Government in sense suggested in Department's 207 January 25, midnight. Spanish Government has during past year become thoroughly familiar with our policy with regard to rescue of political and racial refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe and Department has been kept informed as to extent to which it has cooperated in this work. In this connection Department's attention is called to my confidential despatch 1967 of January 31 summarizing evacuations of Allied refugees from Spain in 1943 in which it is pointed out that Spanish Government during that year facilitated evacuation of well over 20,000 refugees out of estimated 22,000 who entered Spain, most of remainder being stateless for whom destinations could not be found and of whom 567 have since departed for Palestine as reported in my airgram A-39 of January 27.

Pending receipt of separate report Department's attention is called to following despatches submitted by Embassy during past year which it is believed contain most of information desired: 648 February 16, 960 May 31, 990 June 10, 1165 August 5, 1391 October 1, 1692 December 7, 1943; 1932 January 24 and 1967 January 31, 1944.

When a better opportunity presents itself I shall speak to Foreign Minister along lines suggested in Department's telegram but formal representations at this time would be less helpful than they will be a little later when the present crisis in our relations with Spain has been successfully passed.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Madrid  
DATED: February 18, 1944, midnight  
NUMBER: 463

The foregoing is for the Ambassador's attention.

Please refer to the Department's telegram of January 25, 1944 no. 207 with reference to War Refugee Board.

The Board has resolved, in formulating a program of immediate action, that an attempt to facilitate the evacuation from occupied areas to Spain of as many Jewish refugees and others as possible is one of the projects which should be pushed with the greatest of speed. It is understood by the Board that French refugee movement is well organized and functioning and that some thousands have already been transferred to North Africa. Furthermore the Board understands that arrangements are being made at the present time to transfer to North Africa stateless refugees and those lacking protection of their own government.

It is felt by the Board that the most feasible way of accomplishing this extremely urgent task is: (a) to remove refugees now in Spain from there as rapidly as possible, thus making room for more and (b) to obtain from the Government of Spain the greatest possible relaxation of the border and other controls and other action designed to encourage the entry into Spain of refugees.

The Board has agreed upon the following concrete proposals with the object of increasing the movement of refugees from occupied areas through Spain to refuge elsewhere. (1) A substantial number of refugees now in Spain can be moved to a camp in North Africa which is now established and which is ready to receive refugees and the transfer should be facilitated. (2) In order to care for new refugees who will arrive in the future, especially stateless refugees and those lacking protection of their government, and to effect their removal from Spain, if necessary on an involuntary basis, the government of Spain should be requested to maintain reception camps in which future arrivals may remain until they are transferred to North Africa. As a basis for obtaining the necessary action by the Government of Spain, they should be informed (a) that necessary

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arrangements will be made by War Refugee Board to finance the maintenance and support of such stateless and unprotected refugees as arrive in Spain in accordance with these arrangements until they can be removed to North Africa and (b) that responsibility for arranging for the transfer of stateless and unprotected refugees to North Africa as rapidly as possible will be assumed by War Refugee Board. The Government of Spain may be reminded in this connection of the recent evacuation of refugees to Palestine and of arrangements being made at the present time for the removal of stateless refugees to the North African camp which has already been established. (3) You should request the Spanish Government in the strongest manner possible to take effective steps to encourage the entry into Spain of more refugees. Besides relaxation of border control and the taking of other actions, it will be extremely helpful if steps will be taken by the Government of Spain to facilitate the spread of information to the occupied areas that Spain is ready to grant asylum to refugees until they are removed to another country.

The commitments given above are not intended in any way to replace the French Committee of National Liberation's activities or responsibilities with respect to the flow through Spain of French refugees.

We anxiously desire to support the Board's program given above and it is requested that you approach the Spanish Government at the earliest possible moment with a view to obtaining their agreement to the plan. It is requested that you report as soon as possible regarding practical measures that would be necessary, including the requirements of funds, to put the proposed plan into operation in Spain.

Of course it will be appreciated by you if these negotiations with Spain are on an entirely different level than the political and economic negotiations being carried on with that Government. This Government is simply addressing to the Spanish Government a humanitarian appeal rather than a request to take certain action favorable to us at a sacrifice to them. Therefore we desire that the proposed negotiations with respect to refugees should be carried rapidly and effectively to a conclusion without becoming entangled in other pending problems being discussed with the Spanish.

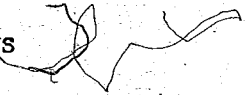
Furthermore it is important to remember that it is this Government's policy to move to Camp Lyautey promptly as many

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stateless and unprotected refugees as facilities allow. Consequently you should make every attempt to encourage the voluntary migration to the camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons in Spain at the present time. Of course this evacuation operation should be executed as rapidly as possible.

The progress being made in this matter should be reported to the Department as soon as possible.

STETINUS  
(Acting)



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FMH-67

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Governmental agency. (SC-00)

Madrid

DATED: February 28, 1944

REC'D: 3:32 a.m.,

March 1st.

Secretary of State

Washington

683, February 28, 6 p.m. (Section One)

Proposals for war refugee board outlined in Department's 463, February 18, midnight, raise two separate questions, first that of evacuation of stateless and unprotected refugees now in Spain, and secondly that of the facilitation of passage of further numbers of such refugees into or through Spain from German occupied territories.

(1) With reference to first question there are now estimated to be in Spain approximately 1300 refugees who might be classified as stateless and unprotected. Of this number about 400 are Spanish Sephardic Jews who have recently been brought to Spain from German concentration camps under agreement between Spanish and German governments for evacuating elsewhere but whose travel to further destinations has not yet been arranged; it is expected that considerable number of these persons will apply for admission to Fedhala center. Another 450 have already applied for evacuation to Fedhala and estimated 250 have received or will soon receive visas for other destinations principally Canada. Most of remaining 200 prefer to remain in Spain for one of the following reasons: (a) to be near families still in German occupied countries; (b) to await visas for destinations to which they cannot at present time proceed; (c) because of feeling based on distrust of the French, that they will be better off in Spain than at Fedhala and inability to proceed to any other destination.

Response of refugees to offer of evacuation to Fedhala center (\*) astic unenthusiastic due largely to this distrust and to fear that Lyantey will turn out to be French concentration Camps \*\*/Camp and/ under instructions from Department we have attempted no means of persuasion beyond acquainting them with nature and conditions of proposed project. French authorities have moreover insisted on subjecting all applications to detailed scrutiny at Algiers and Rabat before allowing persons to proceed from Spain and present indications are that considerable numbers may be turned down on security and other grounds. It appears therefore that under present circumstances this project may not prove solution of problem of clearing residue of stateless refugees out of sea in \*\* /Spain/ and that there will remain question of destinations for those who either do not choose to accept this offer of evacuation or who are not considered acceptable by French and Allied

\* Apparent omission.

\*\* Apparent error in transmission.

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authorities. (In this connection I should appreciate clarification of meaning of "involuntary" removal of refugees from Spain). It may be mentioned with reference Department's 512 February 24 that present delay in completing arrangements for departure of refugees for Fedhala is due principally to above mentioned requirement that applications be submitted to North Africa for prior approval.

/End of Section One/

HAYES

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: February 28, 1944  
NUMBER: 683

(Section Two)

Stateless refugees in Spain, as previously reported, are at present being well cared for by private American charitable organizations represented by David Blickenstaff, who has also been instrumental in arranging during the past year the evacuation of approximately 900 such refugees. At present the number of stateless and unprotected refugees entering Spain is negligible.

(2) It should be pointed out in reference to the problem of facilitating escape of additional numbers of refugees from German occupied territory into Spain that reduced rate at which such refugees are now entering Spain is not attributable to Spanish border control, but is considered due rather to difficulties of reaching the Pyrenees frontier from points within occupied Europe.

Virtually no refugees of this type, so far as is known, have been prevented from entering Spain by Spanish border control or turned back by them to German authorities and by encouraging a further relaxation of this control there would appear to be little advantage gained. On the contrary there are definite arguments against such relaxation principally that it would facilitate the undetected entry of German agents into Spain at a time when one of our major objectives is to rid Spain of such agents and would render increasingly difficult the control of smuggling activities, which directly impair our preemptive purchase program. Moreover, it would give to the Spanish authorities convenient excuse for closing their eyes to such of these activities as they might wish to let pass without notice.

It is considered by me to be unnecessary to suggest to the Spanish Government that it facilitate spread of information to German occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees in view of the fact that any changes in Spanish policy toward refuge (\*) /refugees/ are known throughout occupied Europe by means of underground grapevine almost as soon as they are known in Spain. Moreover, it can hardly be denied that a broadcast offer by the Spanish Government of asylum to persons fleeing from German authorities would have political implications over and above its primary humanitarian purpose and it is not illogical to suppose that one of primary results of such a step would be immediate tightening of German border control along the Pyrenees and increased surveillance over routes leading toward that frontier, a development which could seriously jeopardize the chances of escape of American and Allied air forces personnel forced to land in German held territory and make escape more difficult than before for all refugees.

\* Apparent omission.  
(End of Section Two)

HAYES

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RA-415  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Governmental  
agency. (SC-00)

Madrid  
DATED: February 28, 1944  
REC'D 11:44 p.m., March 1

Secretary of State (Section Three)  
Washington

It is my feeling that Spanish Government could best expedite release of refugees from German controlled areas of Europe by directly approaching German Government with offer to grant transit or temporary residence visas to refugees wishing to leave those areas in much the same way that it has recently effected release of above mentioned Sephardic Jews the ultimate destinations for such refugees to be arranged by the War Refugee Board or other such organization. It should be emphasized, however, that sympathetic consideration of Spanish Government to such a proposal can hardly be expected until there is found more adequate solution to problem of destinations for these refugees than provided by Fedhala project in order that effective evacuation of stateless refugees still in Spain can be expeditiously accomplished and assurances given Spanish Government that all refugees admitted to Spain in future under such an arrangement would be removed without delay to further destinations. This would necessarily involve postponement of screening of refugees until after their departure from Spain although it is appreciated that adequate measures would have to be taken at some later point to sift out agents which Germans would be certain, as in the past, to plant among them.

I have no idea as to what reaction of Spanish Government would be to such a proposal or how successful it would be should it agree to take up matter with German Government. In view of fact that principal obstacles to escape of refugees from German held territory appear to lie within that territory rather than at the Spanish frontier, however, I feel that this approach would come closer to heart of the problem.

I am, for the present, making no approaches to Spanish Government on subject of department's telegram pending consideration of points raised herein. I may say in this connection that it is still my opinion that present political and economic crisis with Spain is apt to have adverse effect on receptivity of Spanish Government even to proposals of purely humanitarian character.

Repeated to London and Lisbon and by pouch to Algiers.

HAYES

(END OF MESSAGE)

000344



DOCUMENT

131

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Madrid  
DATED: February 25, 1944  
NUMBER: 530

[REDACTED]

You are referred herewith to the Department's telegram of January 25, no. 207, regarding the establishment of the War Refugee Board. John W. Pehle, the Acting Executive Director of the Board, has informed the Department that in conformity with the President's order of January 22, it is proposed by the Board to appoint Mr. David Blickenstaff, representative of the American Friends Service Committee in Madrid, as the Special Representative of the Board, and to be designated by the Department as Special Attache to the Embassy on War Refugee matters. It is provided in the President's order that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attaches upon the recommendation of the Board; that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department, and that they shall have diplomatic status.

It has been indicated by the American Friends Service Committee that it has no objection to Mr. Blickenstaff's accepting this appointment.

After discussing the matter with Mr. Blickenstaff, if this appointment meets with your approval, you should advise him that he is so designated and that he is to have diplomatic status. It is assumed that on the part of the Spanish Government there will be no objection to this designation, although you may informally approach the Spanish authorities, if, in your discretion, you consider it necessary or advisable to do so. We request that you confirm by telegram Blickenstaff's designation or that you advise us promptly if there is any reason why the designation should not become effective at once.

You should inform Blickenstaff that:

(a) He is charged with the responsibility and duty of carrying out the policies and programs of the Board in Spain;

(b) He is responsible to the Ambassador and should regularly and fully discuss his activities and problems with him;

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(c) The necessary communications facilities required for the carrying on of his official duties will be provided him by the Embassy;

(d) He shall extend all possible assistance to the Ambassador in carrying out the instructions contained in the Department's reference telegram;

(e) He shall work with and give all possible assistance to public and private agencies operating in Spain in this field regardless of whether such organizations are American, international or foreign;

(f) He shall develop and assist in the development of programs and implementation of measures for the rescue, maintenance, relief and transportation of refugees;

(g) He shall forward recommendations and frequent reports on progress of work and difficulties encountered to the Board;

(h) In so far as the Trading with the enemy Act is concerned, the War Refugee Board and its representatives in the field have been vested by the Secretary of the Treasury with full authority to communicate with enemy territory in carrying out the purposes of the Order. Also the Secretary of the Treasury has delegated to the War Refugee Board and its representatives the power to authorize any public or private agencies, who may be subject to the provisions of our Trading with the enemy Act, to communicate with enemy territory for the purpose of carrying out the Order. Blickenstaff is authorized to act accordingly.

Further detailed instructions will follow from time to time after receipt of confirmation of Blickenstaff's designation.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

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DOCUMENT

132

CM-146

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

Madrid

DATED: March 3, 1944  
REC'D: 6:17 a.m., 4th

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
378, March 3, 11 a.m.

Before discussing with Blickenstaff contents of Department's 530, February 25, 10 p.m., I should like to be advised further as to proposed relationship between work of War Refugee Board in Spain and that of the "representative in Spain of American relief organizations". As reported in my despatch 1932, January 24, latter is joint agency representing private American charitable organizations engaged in refugee relief in Spain and is under Blickenstaff's direction.

Specifically I should like to be informed as to whether, in the event of Blickenstaff's designation as representative of the board, he would be expected to give up his present work. The agency he now heads is at present bearing virtually entire burden financial and other wise of care of stateless and unprotected refugees in Spain and it is my recommendation that it be allowed to continue to do so and that Blickenstaff be permitted to continue as its director while serving concurrently as board's representative with designation as Attaché.

As I have taken great pains to point out the problem of the care of these refugees is being very competently handled by Blickenstaff and his organization which was set up at my suggestion to unify efforts of participating private agencies and I wish to avoid any changes which might impair effectiveness of this work. I am in thorough agreement with the board that Blickenstaff is highly qualified to represent it in Spain, but I wish to make sure that his services will be utilized in the most effective manner possible.

Repeated to London by pouch to Lisbon.

HAYES

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DOCUMENT

133

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: Amembassy, Madrid  
DATED: March 23, 1944, 5 p.m.  
NUMBER: 799

With respect to your telegram of February 28, 1944 no. 683 we appreciate the comments and suggestions with respect to the War Refugee Board contained therein. The War Refugee Board wishes to point out that Camp Lyautey will not be the only haven to which refugees can be removed from Spain. The Board now has negotiations in progress for other havens and you should assume and may advise the Government of Spain that there will be removed from Spain all refugees from occupied areas entering Spain. The Board was pleased to learn that no obstacles are being placed by the Spanish Government in the way of stateless or other refugees wishing to enter Spain from France with or without proper papers and the Board hopes in the future that Government will follow a generous policy in that regard.

The Board knows that the number of stateless refugees entering Spain from occupied areas is extremely small at the present time but the Board desires to inform you that it is taking vigorous steps at the present time vis-a-vis Germany and the satellite countries which it is confidently expected will stimulate the flow of refugees into Spain and other neutral countries from occupied areas. The Board will continue to take all possible action to this end. In any event, in the coming months when the snow melts in the Pyrenees the flow of refugees into Spain is certain to increase.

The Board believes that Spain is most likely to receive substantial numbers of refugees this coming spring as a result of the pressure now being brought to bear on the Axis. The Board is extremely desirous that the Government of Spain be relieved of as many problems as possible connected with this influx, including finance, supply and supervision of refugees. Therefore the following plan of proposed operations in Spain is submitted by the Board for your consideration, advice and comment and such action as is indicated.

All the Board's operations in Spain, including the setting up and maintenance of refuge camps, would be supervised by the Special Attaché to your Embassy under your direction. He would

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have assigned to him a small staff which might include transportation, supply and finance officers. As a base for operations the Attaché and his immediate staff might use Madrid. It is proposed that as many as three reception centers be established along the French border should the volume of refugees so warrant. At each of these centers a supervisor with experience in refuge work should be in charge. Each supervisor would have a small staff. There would also be attached to each center a medical officer and possibly a small nursing staff. An important member of the staff of each center would be a qualified Security Officer approved by the War Department. These Security Officers would be attached to the reception centers as welfare workers instead of being assigned to the Office of the Military Attaché in the Embassy. The dual responsibility of these officers would be to screen refugees in search of possible enemy agents and to obtain from bona fide refugees information of a military nature. Murillo, Tolosa and Figueras are tentatively suggested as reception centers. Other localities may be agreed upon later as points readily accessible to those crossing the Pyrenees.

The Board is of the opinion that these centers should be in frontier areas rather than the interior for the following reasons:

- (1) The nearness of the centers to the frontier would reduce to a minimum the time during which the refugees would be in the hands of the Spanish authorities.
- (2) The refugees will require immediate relief in food, clothing and medical attention once they have crossed the Spanish border as many of them will have previously been in hiding in France and have been subjected to the strenuous travel over the mountains on foot. The refugees would be kept out of the principal population centers, such as Madrid, as far as possible. The attention paid to the presence of refugees would also be reduced by the remoteness of the proposed centers.
- (3) The location of the centers near the border would result in close cooperation between the staffs of the centers and the Spanish frontier officials. The refugees would remain in the centers only so long as to assure medical officers that they are in condition to travel; to allow for preliminary security screening and to supply them with whatever travel documents might be needed.

Since the basic plan is to move those refugees who may enter Spain from occupied areas to North Africa as rapidly as

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possible, it is hoped that the French authorities will assign to the reception centers as special details, qualified officers to screen the refugees for security and to affix to their travel documents the necessary visas. As regards the problem of screening, it is of course possible and probable that enemy agents may try to enter Spain as refugees. Therefore it is most desirable that when enemy agents are identified by the security officers, such identification not be disclosed in Spain but the agents be removed to North Africa for apprehension. This policy has been used in the past with respect to enemy agents and it is clearly preferable that they be held in restraint in United Nations territory rather than be at liberty in a neutral country.

It is requested that you report any objection which you think may be raised by the Spanish Government to the establishment of these centers in the foregoing manner and to their financing by the Board. The funds for their operation probably will be provided by private sources in the United States. As will be noted by you, this plan reduces to a minimum the responsibility of the Spanish Government. Your comment on whether the staffs of the centers should be known to the Spanish Government as official employees of the Government or as representatives of American private welfare organizations will be appreciated by the Board. Incidentally, the American Red Cross is reluctant to participate in the operations of the centers at this time.

Clarification of the meaning of "involuntary removal" of refugees was requested by you in Section I of your telegram of February 28, 1944 No. 683. We anticipate that many of the refugees will wish to proceed to other areas than North Africa once they have escaped from occupied areas. However, the Board feels that it is undesirable that these refugees remain in Spain. They should proceed to North Africa where they may make arrangements for travel elsewhere with greater security for themselves and without embarrassment to the Government of Spain which might be caused should they remain there. It is proposed that the frontier officials and police authorities direct the refugees to the centers, providing them with permits to travel only from the point of apprehension to the nearest center. We hope that the refugees will be advised by the Spanish officials that their presence in Spain will be tolerated only so long as they conduct themselves in accordance with this program. After arrival at the centers, it will be explained to the refugees that the Spanish authorities have released them into the care of the centers. Every effort would then be made to convince the refugees that the travel of other refugees through

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Spain depends upon the rapid departure from Spain of those who have already entered. It might be further explained that after leaving Spain the refugees would be under the care of UNRRA officials rather than directly under French control. It is believed that such a policy will assure the quick and voluntary departure for North Africa of all refugees who may succeed in crossing the Spanish border if it is handled skillfully by the representatives of the Board.

The Board hopes that you will give your prompt personal attention to this proposal and that your comments and suggestions will be cabled as soon as possible.

War and State Departments have approved this cable.

The foregoing is for Ambassador Hayes' attention.

HULL

000351

DOCUMENT

134

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Ambassador, Madrid  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: April 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 1195

For reasons pointed out in my message number 974 dated March 20, I do not feel that steps should be taken toward putting into effect any such plan of operations as that which was proposed in Department's message number 799 dated March 23 until and unless it becomes more clearly evident that the War Refugee Board's efforts to stimulate the exodus of unprotected and stateless refugees from German occupied territories will result in fact in an increase in the number of such refugees entering Spain sufficient to tax the facilities which already exist for their care. My strong recommendation is that the Board attempt to take full advantage of the already proven facilities which are already in existence in the form of Blickenstaff's organization instead of endeavoring to set up an elaborate organization on the assumption that it will be justified by future developments, an assumption with which I am not prepared to agree as yet. Blickenstaff's organization has shown itself to be fully capable of coping with the problems which have arisen so far in connection with the care of stateless refugees and it has also already obtained the confidence of the Government of Spain. It is essential that the wishes of the Spanish Government in the matter be not disregarded inasmuch as the success of the activities of the Board in Spain would depend in a large part upon the willingness of the Spanish Government to cooperate and although it would quite willingly recognize Blickenstaff as a representative of the Board I can state with assurance that the Government of Spain would prefer that this work be left in the hands of Blickenstaff and his organization. The Government of Spain would be suspicious of and disfavor any endeavor on the part of the Embassy to set up in Spain such an organization as is envisaged by the Board so long as the problem of stateless refugees can be handled adequately without such an organization and an unsalutary effect on other more important objectives might well be caused by such an attempt. In the absence of any apparent need for the presence of the numerous personnel mentioned by the Board, a request for admission into Spain might for example prejudice the admission of other personnel whose importance to the war effort is more direct.

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If the existing facilities for the care of stateless and unprotected refugees should be overtaxed and if a situation should develop in the future as the Board foresees doubtless the Government of Spain would look favorably upon the expansion of such facilities but it is felt that no good purpose could be served by endeavoring to press the proposal of the Board until such time arrives.

The efforts of the Board to assure further destinations to which these refugees can proceed should be of the utmost value regardless of arrangements made for their care within Spain. During the past year the most important single obstacle to the complete effectiveness of Blickenstaff's work has been the lack of such destinations. It is to be noted in this connection that the French authorities have rejected nearly one fourth of the Fedhala applications which have been submitted so far to North Africa for final approval.


HAYES

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DOCUMENT

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AIRGRAM

  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

A-387, August 16, 1944, 4 p.m.

FROM: American Embassy,  
Madrid, Spain

DATE: August 16, 1944

REC'D: August 29, 1944

A group of 410 French refugees departed from Spain for North Africa via Gibraltar on August 14, bringing to approximately 2,400 the total number of such refugees evacuated from Spain since beginning of year. It is estimated that not more than 200 French refugees remain in Spain as of this date.

BUTTERWORTH

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DOCUMENT

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AIRGRAM

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

A-188 May 10, 1944, 7:00 p.m.

FROM: American Embassy

Madrid, Spain

DATED: May 10, 1944

REC'D: May 20 11 a.m.

[REDACTED] Group of 221 French refugees sailed from Algeciras May 7 for North Africa, bringing to 906 total number of such refugees evacuated from Spain since beginning of year. It is estimated that approximately 650 French refugees remain in Spain as of this date, with new arrivals crossing frontier at estimated rate of 10 a day.

BUTTERWORTH

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DOCUMENT

137

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Madrid  
DATED: March 18, 1944  
NUMBER: 752

Given below is the substance of license No. W-2155 issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of New York City by the Treasury Department. It is requested that the substance of this license be transmitted urgently to Mr. Samuel Sequerra, JDC representative, whose address is Hotel Bristol, Barcelona.

(A) Notwithstanding General Ruling No. 11 authorization is hereby granted to your representative in Spain, together with such agents as he may appoint, to communicate with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory by any means which he may deem expedient or necessary for the purpose of arranging the evacuation, to such areas of safety or relative safety as may be selected by such representative, of persons in such territory in imminent danger of their lives and to arrange for the safeguarding and sustenance of such persons until such evacuation is possible and to pursue any other action which may be appropriate for said purposes, including the payment of funds to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory who may have provided either goods or services in connection with the foregoing. In order to acquire the necessary local currency for the purpose of financing the operations referred to above, the following three methods are authorized provided that method No. 3 should not be used if it is feasible to use either method No. 1 or No. 2 to obtain the local currency or exchange. (1) The currency or exchange of the country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in Spain if your representative is reasonably certain that the sellers have held such currency or exchange since before the date as of which such countries were frozen by the Government of the United States or, if acquired subsequent to that time, that the seller acquired such currency or exchange under circumstances which were not beneficial to the enemy, your representative to consult with the United States Embassy in Madrid when possible in such cases. The sellers of such local currency or exchange may be reimbursed in pesetas at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Spain. (2) The local currency or exchange of country or countries in which the operations are to take place may be purchased in enemy or enemy occupied territory provided that reimbursement is not made until after the war. Reimbursement to

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the seller of such local currency or exchange subsequent to the war may be insured by the establishment of blocked accounts on your books in the United States or such blocked accounts may be in a bank in the United States or Spain, provided that there shall be no assignment of any interest in such blocked accounts or payment from such blocked accounts unless specific approval is given by the Treasury Department in each case. (3) Necessary local funds, exchange, goods, or services may be purchased in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, the reimbursement therefor to be made in free currency notes or foreign exchange, provided that such reasonable steps as may be possible are taken by your representative to prevent such foreign exchange or free currency notes being acquired by persons who may give them to the enemy.

(B) The total amounts represented by claims established against any blocked account established in accordance with this license, plus the sums paid out or otherwise obligated pursuant to this license, shall not exceed \$100,000 or the peseta equivalent.

(C) A full report should be made to the United States Embassy in Madrid concerning the financial transactions completed pursuant to this license and your representative should insure to whatever extent possible that the sellers of local currency or exchange are persons acceptable to the United States Embassy at Madrid. Insofar as may be possible, your representative should be satisfied that any payments made to such persons will not be of benefit to the enemy.

(D) Periodic reports with respect to the operations consummated under this license should be filed with the United States Embassy in Madrid by your representative.

It is requested that you inform Mr. Sequerra that Dr. Joseph Schwartz, the JDC representative in Lisbon, will give him instructions with regard to beginning the operations envisaged by license W-2155 and that he should comply with such instructions. The operations envisaged by the above quoted license are approved by the Treasury, the Department and the War Refugee Board and we request you to take such reasonable steps as may be necessary to facilitate carrying them into effect. Furthermore, you are requested to report to the Department at once with respect to any difficulties, especially in connection with financial operations, that may be encountered and an indication as to progress made should be contained in your report. You should promptly forward to the Department reports filed with you pursuant to paragraph (C) of the license.

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Delays are to be avoided as time is frequently of the essence in matters of this kind. To this end you are requested to make liberal interpretations concerning the authority granted under license, reporting any such interpretations to the Department as and when made. It should be noted in this connection that license W-2155 is substantially the same as license issued previously to this and other private agencies for the purpose of carrying out similar operations from Switzerland. We wish specifically to call your attention to the provisions of paragraphs (A-1) and (A-3) of the license. Paragraph (A-1) has already been construed as allowing the purchase from persons in Spain of local currency or exchange irrespective of where the currency or exchange may in fact be located. You should note that even though under paragraph (A-3) foreign exchange may be made available in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, this method should be used if, under the circumstances, the relief and evacuation operations which the license permits can be carried into immediate execution most effectively thereby, although either one of the first two methods should be used in preference to the third method if operations will not be prejudiced in any way.

This Government considers the saving of lives to be of paramount importance, as will have been recognized from previous communications concerning the War Refugee Board's programs; although a vital part of our economic warfare is still preventing the enemy from acquiring foreign exchange, this consideration is to be subordinated to the maximum fulfillment of the rescue programs being undertaken at the present time, of which the operations envisaged by the license discussed above are a part.

The Treasury Department has issued to the JDC a license authorizing operations from Portugal which is identical in all respects with W-2155. The JDC representative in Lisbon, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, is expected to return to Lisbon in the near future, and the operations by Mr. Sequerra in Spain and the operations in Portugal are to be carried out under the general supervision of Dr. Schwartz.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

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PARAPHRASED OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Madrid  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: March 22, 1944  
NUMBER: 997

I have not transmitted the substance of Department's 752, March 18, to Sequerra, JDC representative in Barcelona, by reason of the following considerations:

(a) David Blickenstaff is understood by me to be the principal JDC representative in Spain, and not Sequerra; all business with the JDC has been transacted by the Embassy through Blickenstaff.

(b) Sequerra's loyalty to the Allied cause is not considered to be beyond doubt although apparently this fact has not been brought to the Department's attention. Sequerra is a neutral subject (Portuguese) and although he has apparently done effective work in the field of relief of refugees, we have no basis for assuming that he would not deal with our enemies, particularly if pressure is applied. Until recently, Sequerra had a personal representative in Madrid who was a disreputable individual to whom a Palestine visa was refused by the British on the grounds that he was suspected of having given information to the Germans. It therefore appears to me to invite obvious and unnecessary risks which could have the most serious repercussions to entrust a person of this type with the responsibility of carrying out the operations described in the Department's telegram under reference.

(c) For any American charitable organization or its representatives to engage in clandestine operations of the type contemplated by the license could well jeopardize in Spain the entire position of these organizations. The work of these organizations has in the past been centralized in Blickenstaff's office, and with the Embassy's support, they have won respect and confidence of the Spanish Government, which has enabled them to do valuable work on behalf of unprotected and stateless refugees. This has frequently caused extreme discomfort to the Germans who want the Spanish Government to suppress the activity of these organizations, and welcome every pretext to bring force to bear to this end. We must assume that the operations contemplated by license W-2155 would soon become known to the Germans and a pretext to apply such force to the Spanish Government would be provided by the participation of the organizations in such operations.

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(d) On the other hand, if the Germans considered that these operations could be turned to their own advantage, they might accomplish this purpose by using these operations as an additional channel for getting their agents into territory controlled by Spain and the Allies.

(e) My most serious objection is the danger that existing underground facilities within German occupied territory for accomplishing the escape of American and Allied airmen who have thereby been enabled to reach the Spanish frontier without detection, may be compromised by these operations. I am firmly convinced and determined that no steps should be taken which might in the slightest measure jeopardize the chances of escape to safety of these airmen whose safety must be given first priority by our Government (prior to that of any other class of refugees) irrespective of humanitarian considerations, with which last I am, of course, in complete sympathy.

(f) In view of the inevitable military significance which must be attached at this crucial time with any activities involving communication or the passage of persons into or out of occupied France, and having in mind the above considerations, I feel that the Joint Chiefs of Staff should give prior approval to the operations envisaged by the license embodied in Department's telegram under reference, and that my views in the matter should be conveyed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in connection with their consideration of the matter.

Pending consideration by the Department of the points mentioned above, I intend to take no action on Department's telegram 752 under reference.

This telegram has been repeated to Lisbon and London.

HAYES

000360



DOCUMENT

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TELEGRAM SENT

CM

April 12, 1944

9 p.m.

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (SC00)

Amembassy  
Madrid  
1008

In an endeavor to cause the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to give refuge to additional refugee children from France, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued pursuant to Section 58.55 (a) (16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended regarding aliens entering the United States.

Consular officers in Spain and Portugal are authorized to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to one thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who shall have arrived in Spain and Portugal on or after January 1, 1944 and before July 1, 1944. This latter date may be extended by specific instruction from the Department. The visas are to be issued to the children without regard to the question of availability of means of transportation to the United States and without regard to religious, nationality or stateless status. The children covered by this instruction shall be under sixteen years of age at the time of the issuance of the visas, and are, of course, subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1917, except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements in view of the fact that the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements have been made for their support. In connection with the determination of questions under Section 58.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering the United States, the existence of the relationships described in Section 58.48 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may be issued during the same quota year to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under sixteen years of age at the date of the issuance of such replace visas. Subject to the quota laws it is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota. The foregoing further assumes no pertinent adverse change in present quota laws. Cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new or replace visas should be reported to the Department for further instructions. Children under 14 years of age need not be registered and fingerprinted.

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The Embassy at Madrid will be the supervisory and control office for the assignment of quota numbers to offices in Spain and Portugal. For this purpose the following inclusive nonpreference quota numbers are allotted to Madrid:

[*]	to	German
	to	Polish
	to	Belgian
	to	Netherland

541

	to	Czechoslovak and
	to	French quotas

The visas may be issued at the rate of one-third of each allotment per month. Consolidated quota reports should be submitted by telegraph by Madrid at the end of each month returning any unused numbers and giving name of child, quota number, date and place of issuance. If additional quota numbers of the countries mentioned or of any other country are desired, they should be requested by telegraph. Submit by telegraph before June 1st estimate of quota numbers needed for fiscal year 1944-1945. Inform consular officers in Spain and Portugal. Advise the appropriate Spanish and Portuguese authorities regarding this instruction and state that it is the earnest hope of this Government that the Spanish and Portuguese Governments will promptly take such action, direct and indirect as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France. You may also inform the Spanish and Portuguese Governments that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Spain and Portugal.

Report Spanish and Portuguese reaction and keep Department advised regarding developments in this matter which may be of interest. Repeated to Legation at Lisbon.

HULL  
(EBC)

\* Omitted.

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DOCUMENT

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LFG-737  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (S. [REDACTED])

Lisbon  
DATED: July 8, 1944  
REC'D: 2:06 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.  
2110, July 8, 11 a.m., (Section One)

This Message for Pehle from Mann

During my visit to Spain the Embassy received your message should not undertake trip and suggested that I take up with the Ambassador problems which MacDonald was to have discussed.

Among other things matter of boards sending special attache for refugee problems to Spain was discussed at length. Ambassador Hayes stated that he was not convinced that there was any necessity for such a representative since refugee matters there had been ably handled by the Embassy and Blickenstaff organization. Furthermore, he mentioned that many agencies desired to have representatives in Spain and that in such cases he had to determine which should be represented on the basis of necessity and their contribution to the war effort since he could not approach Spanish for all who decided to come as attaches. It is clear to me that there is a necessity for a board representative and I gave the Ambassador my reason for the appointment of such a person. However, my reasons did not convince him and he stated that he was not prepared to agree that there was such a necessity.

In our conversation I suggested Saxon as a possible representative but stated that I was not certain that he was available and that board might have other plans. I took the liberty of suggesting Saxon as an acting representative because (1) my observations indicated that he possessed the operating qualities necessary to do the job, (2) his experience in the field, (3) he is familiar with certain difficulties in North Africa which thus far have affected the Spanish evacuation program, (4) I considered it important that we have a representative in Spain immediately. Saxon is near and I could talk with him without necessitating too great delay in his arrival.

/End of Section One/

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HM-977  
Distribution of true  
reading only be special  
arrangement. (SECRET W)

Lisbon  
DATED: July 8, 1944  
REC'D: 7:30 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington  
2110, July 8, 11 a.m. (Section Two)

After some discussion the Ambassador stated he could not agree to accrediting him to the Spanish Government but would welcome Saxon's coming to Spain to make a thorough study of the situation not to exceed two months and if at that time Saxon could convince the Ambassador that a WRB representative in Spain could perform functions not being performed and that the performance of such served a useful purpose the Ambassador would ask to have him accredited to the Spanish Government as Attache of Embassy. If he did not convince the Ambassador he would leave at that time. While Saxon was mentioned it is my belief that the Ambassador would accept any qualified representative on the same conditions.

My lack of knowledge of present board plans makes it difficult for me to comment fully on the above proposal. However, I do emphasize the importance of a board representative going to Spain soon if one is to go there.

At present fewer refugees are entering Spain than at previous times. Some no doubt are waiting to see progress of invasion. French resistance is said to have cut rail communications with southern border. Also rescue operations do not appear as active as might be expected. It seems likely that if invasion moves slowly and Germans increase persecutions as in Hungary the Pyrenees will erupt with refugees attempting to escape. The new problems with which we may be confronted there makes it imperative in my opinion that we have a representative in the area.

Pursuant to the practice the two Embassies, copy of this being sent Madrid.

(End of Message)

NORWEB

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DOCUMENT

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HM-43  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

Madrid  
DATED: July 15, 1944  
REC'D: 11: 57 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington  
2479, July 15, 5 p.m.

As consequence of Embassy's representations Spanish Government has authorized issuance of visas to 500 Jewish children in Hungary whom Jewish organizations in Tangier hope to transfer to temporary refuge in Spanish Morocco (Tangier's 157, June 2 to Department and Embassy's 2389, July 9). Spanish Legation Budapest has been instructed to do everything possible to facilitate travel of this group to Spain and it is understood that Vatican has requested papal representatives in Berlin and Budapest to use their good offices to same end.

Sent to Tangier in pouch.

BUTTERWORTH

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DOCUMENT

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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Madrid, Spain, July 25, 1944.

No. 2790

Subject: Transmitting copy of Note to Minister of Foreign  
Affairs on subject of reported delivery of refugees by  
Spanish border officials to German patrol.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to enclose a copy of Note No. 2809 of July 24, 1944 which I have addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning a series of frontier incidents reported to have taken place during the early part of June 1944 in the Province of Huesca, in the course of which a number of refugees of French and other nationalities are reliably stated to have been refused entry into Spain and to have been handed over by Spanish frontier officials to German border patrols.

A high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed a representative of the Embassy, in this connection, that immediately upon receipt of information concerning these occurrences the Ministry issued drastic instructions countermanding the provincial order upon which the action of the frontier officials concerned appears to have been based, and that a careful investigation of the circumstances surrounding the issuance and execution of those orders is now in progress. He expressed the personal opinion that the reported incidents may, in fact, have been the result of the misinterpretation by local border officials of orders intended to apply to attempted incursions into Spain of armed Spanish dissidents, the presence of such groups on the frontier having been recently reported. (Embassy's telegram No. 2472, July 15, 1944, noon.) It was, of course, made clear to him that this circumstance, even if true, could in no way be considered as condoning or excusing the conduct of the border officials concerned.

The incidents in question have been made the subject also of forceful representations on the part of the British Embassy and the French Mission in Madrid, and it is the Embassy's opinion that the Spanish Government has been sufficiently impressed with the gravity of these incidents to do everything possible to prevent their recurrence.

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It may be mentioned that a copy of the Ministry's Note Verbale No. 701 of November 17, 1943 to which reference is made in the enclosed Note was transmitted to the Department under cover of the Embassy's despatch No. 1692 of December 7, 1943.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)  
W. WALTON BUTTERWORTH  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Note No. 2809, July 24,  
1944, to Foreign Minister

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[Enclosure to despatch No. 2790,  
July 25, 1944, from Madrid.]

No. 2809

Madrid, July 24, 1944.

Excellency:

Although Your Excellency has, I am certain, already been fully acquainted with the circumstances of the recent frontier incidents in the Province of Huesca, I cannot let these deplorable occurrences pass without conveying to Your Excellency, on behalf of my Government as well as for myself, an expression of profound shock and deep regret that they should have been permitted to occur.

According to information which has come to my attention, an order appears to have been issued on June 9, 1944 to frontier guards in that Province instructing them to turn back certain categories of refugees attempting to enter Spanish territory without proper documentation, with the consequence that a considerable number of refugees of French and other nationalities were, on and shortly after that date, refused entry into Spain and turned over to the custody of the German authorities from whom they were fleeing.

According to this information, a group of approximately 23 persons, including a considerable percentage of women and children, arrived at the frontier town of Sallent early in the morning of June 9, 1944, were temporarily detained by the Spanish border authorities at that point, and were several hours later given false directions to Canfranc which, in fact, took them back into German-held territory. They were prevented from falling into the hands of German patrols solely by their chance meeting with another group of refugees travelling in the opposite direction and, together with the latter group, returned to Sallent where they arrived on the morning of the following day. It is reported that the 12 men included in this party were thereupon placed by the border authorities at Sallent in a motor truck and driven back across the frontier into German-occupied territory to a depth of five kilometers where they, together with 26 other refugees who had had the misfortune to be encountered en route, were handed over to a German frontier patrol. It had been subsequently reported that these 38 persons were then taken in German custody to the concentration camp of Oloron where a number of the women and children were released and the rest of the group sent on to the Fort du Ha at Bordeaux, a place of detention understood to be an habitual stopping point for such prisoners on the way to Germany.

Other incidents of the same sort have been reported from other border points in Huesca Province, but in these instances there appear

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to have arisen circumstances which led the Spanish border authorities to refrain from carrying out their expressed intention to return the refugees concerned to German custody. It is reported, for example, that a group of refugees arrived at Bielsa on June 11th, and that the order for their expulsion was rescinded by the border authorities only in the face of public indignation on the part of residents of that village which arose following the attempt of one of the refugees concerned, a Netherlands subject, to save himself from such a fate by committing suicide. Frontier police at Somport, moreover, are understood to have endeavored on June 12th to send back to France a citizen of the United States and a stateless refugee, and to have been dissuaded from such action only after prolonged argument on the part of the refugees concerned.

Your Excellency, who, I am confident, has been as shocked as I at what has occurred, will not fail to recognize the grave implications of these incidents, which have amounted to open connivance on the part of Spanish border officials in the persecution and possible assassination by the German authorities of innocent persons attempting to find on Spanish soil asylum from Nazi tyranny, and, in view of the reiterated assurances which the Embassy has in the past received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly in the latter's Note Verbale No. 701 of November 17, 1943, to the effect that no refugees would be delivered against their will to the German authorities or expelled from Spain except across the frontier of their own choice, I should be most appreciative of assurances from Your Excellency which I could convey to my Government that immediate and effective steps have been taken to ensure against a repetition of such incidents and to make certain that the above mentioned assurances of the Ministry will in the future be scrupulously and unfailingly respected by Spanish officials at every level of authority.

Your Excellency will understand that the grave concern which my Government is bound to feel in the face of the incidents cited herein springs not only from its determination that political and military refugees of all nationalities fleeing from the shadow of Nazi persecution shall not be denied the asylum to which the neutrality of Spanish territory entitles them, but also from its ever-present apprehension lest the denial of this right of asylum result in the delivery into enemy custody of citizens of the United States, an eventuality the effect of which on public opinion in the United States should not be underestimated.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency  
Lieutenant General Count Jordana,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Signed)  
W. WALTON BUTTERWORTH  
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

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