

HISTORY OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD WITH SELECTED DOCUMENTS,
Volume III, Pages 1068-1191

000749

HISTORY OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD WITH SELECTED DOCUMENTS

VOLUME III

DOCUMENTS

PAGES 1068 - 1191

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DOCUMENT

359

Plain
Lisbon
DATED: April 20, 1944
REC'D: 3:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.
1176, Twentieth, 11 a.m.

Following message is from Joseph Schwartz for War Refugee Board
and Leavitt, Joint Distribution Committee, New York.

"Barlas supplies following figures concerning emigration services from Turkey to Palestine from December 1943 to March 31, 1944. Local Turkish residents 1084 of whom 194 required assistance. From Bulgaria 276 including 46 children who arrived in March. From Hungary 169, from Greece 176, from Rumania 285, which includes 239 SS MILCA passengers who arrived March. Financial statements not yet ready but will advise as soon as available. Thus far Turkish repatriates arriving from France No. 340 of whom 175 receiving assistance which over a period of 6 weeks amounted 14,000 Turkish pounds. Resnik advises passengers boarding both steamships MILCA and MARITZA at Constanza were required to pay fantastic sums."

NORWEB

000751

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

360



C
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Y

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 3, 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Permit me to draw your urgent attention to the desperate plight of a large number of Jews claiming Turkish nationality who are in France and other areas under German control. It is understood that the Turkish Government has recognized some of these claims but that in most cases no action has as yet been taken with the result that some of the persons involved have already been transported to Poland and almost certain death. Information now available to the Board indicates that an additional group of approximately 800 Jews claiming Turkish nationality are in imminent danger of deportation from France to Poland.

It is understood that Turkish consuls in France have forwarded a list of these persons to Ankara for confirmation of their status, but that as yet no determination has been made by the Turkish Government. While the Board recognizes that the determination of these claims is a matter solely within the province of the Government of Turkey, the Board feels constrained to address you on this subject because it is the established policy of this Government to take all measures within its power, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

We appreciate that the investigation of these claims to Turkish nationality must necessarily take considerable time. It is feared, however, that pending such investigations, the claimants, or a number of them, are likely to be deported. For this reason, we suggest that the Turkish Government might find it appropriate to advise German and other authorities in France that upon the assertion of a claim to Turkish nationality, the claimant is to be extended all the rights, privileges and immunities of a Turkish national unless and until, after investigation, the Turkish Government advises such authorities that it has rejected such claim. The Government of the United States has taken that position with respect to refugees within German-controlled areas claiming American citizenship.

It is sincerely hoped that the Turkish Government will find it appropriate to take the position above suggested and otherwise to extend its protection to victims of German oppression in France and elsewhere. Thus, the Board has been informed that many of these claimants

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to Turkish nationality are Turkish born and that the validity of their claims may often depend upon an interpretation of their acts since leaving Turkey in the light of the Turkish Nationality Law. In view of the dire consequences of adverse determinations of such claims at this time, the Turkish Government might find it appropriate in such cases to postpone making adverse determinations in such cases until after the termination of the war. Furthermore, should the Turkish Government find it possible; pending investigation, to bring about the evacuation from German-controlled areas of claimants to Turkish nationality who may be in danger, the Board will undertake to make funds available from American sources for their maintenance and support and will further undertake promptly to find havens outside Turkey for such evacuees whose claims to Turkish nationality are rejected by the Turkish Government.

In view of the desperate situation in which these claimants to Turkish nationality find themselves, and the deep concern which this Government has for such victims of German oppression, I feel free to express the hope that the Turkish Government will find it possible to extend its protection in the manner suggested, or in some comparable manner, to the persons concerned.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Hon. Mehmet Munir Ertegun
The Ambassador of Turkey
Washington, D. C.

000753

DOCUMENT

FMH-94

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

Montevideo
Dated June 3, 1944
Rec'd 8:13 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.
509, June 3, 5 p.m.

For Knapp from Sanders

Text of "Resolution concerning the exchange of persons between the American Republics and Germany" is as follows:

"Whereas A. The Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense in its resolution 20 approved May 21, 1943 recommended to the American Republics that as a general policy they not permit the repatriation of unofficial German nationals except in very small numbers and only for the exchange of American nationals under German control or for similar special reasons of particular importance.

B. There are in Germany or German-controlled areas in Europe approximately 2,000 individuals, most of them presently in concentration camps, who while identified with various European minority groups are nevertheless in possession of documents and certificates which have been issued by or in the name of many American Republics as well as other non-European states and which reflect a right of admission to or of protection by such states.

C. It has not previously been possible to nominate such detained individuals for inclusion in the recent exchanges which have been effected of nationals of American Republics for German nationals because of the strict standards governing exchange as established in Resolution 20 and because of the extraordinary difficulties involved in discovering identifying and communicating with such individuals.

D. The Committee is informed that the German Government apparently believing that the American Republics and other non-European States concerned are indifferent to the fate of these individuals, now intends to deprive them of any protection, and to subject them to the severe persecution, including slave labor and extermination, suffered by other members of the racial and political minorities with which these individuals are identified.

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E. The prospect of such dire consequences is repugnant to the common ideals of liberty and humanity held by the American Republics and calls for the utmost humanitarian and preventive efforts on the part of the governments of this hemisphere consistent with their own security.

F. Safe refuge for and support of all such individuals, including those whose admission to the country concerned may not be feasible, may be provided for under existing arrangements.

G. There are now available in the American Republics a number of German nationals whose repatriation under present circumstances would not materially conflict with the strict standards of Resolution 20 of the Committee.

The Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense resolves:

One. To direct the attention of the Governments of the American Republics to the desperate plight of those persons now in Germany or German-controlled areas who are identical with European racial or political minority groups and who possess certain documents issued by or which in the name of the American Republics reflect a right of admission to or protection by said republics.

Two. To inform the American Republics that, in the opinion of this Committee, the need to rescue such persons constitutes a sufficient basis for their admission to this hemisphere in exchange for German nationals resident in the American Republics selected with due regard for security requirements set forth in Resolution 20 of this Committee.

Three. To recommend strongly to the various American Republics that they immediately take such uniform action in concert as may be necessary to facilitate the exchange of these individuals for certain German nationals in this hemisphere, and in particular

A. That they inform the German Government through the appropriate channels that the individuals who possess documents of the character mentioned in the first paragraph and issued by or on behalf of an American Republic, are entitled to full protection in accordance with the terms or customary incidence of such documents.

B. That they authorize negotiations with the German Government on their behalf in order to effectuate the exchange of such individuals for German nationals from the Western Hemisphere who desire to be repatriated and who are selected in accordance with such security safeguards as the Republics may mutually deem appropriate in the light of all the circumstances surrounding each particular case.

DAWSON

000755

DOCUMENT

June 17, 1944

CIRCULAR

To American Embassies
in all the other American Republics
Except: San Salvador, Montevideo, Asuncion,
La Paz, Buenos Aires. [*]

In support of the program of the Department and the War Refugee Board which has been the subject of instructions by airgram to the Embassies in various of the American republics, the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo on May 31, 1944, adopted upon the recommendation of the United States member a resolution favoring, subject to essential reservations regarding security, the exchange of German nationals in this Hemisphere against certain persons belonging to the oppressed peoples of Europe who bear documents issued by or in the name of the American republics or other non-European states reflecting a right of admission to or protection by such republics or states.

The Department feels that it is essential to proceed as quickly as possible with the presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals based upon the Resolution in question and hopes that the government to which you are accredited, which has presumably by this time received official notification of the Resolution from the Committee, will be willing to join in this common program with the other American republics and this Government. The Department will be glad to learn of any initiative taken by the government to which you are accredited to implement this desirable step in strengthening the common front against the Axis.

A suggested translation of the Resolution was sent you on June 3 under cover of a letter signed by Mr. Sanders, the representative of the United States on the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. The Department is sending you in the near future a copy of the official translation of this document. There will also be sent you in the near future an instruction outlining certain points of action in respect to the program on which your report is desired.

HULL
JHK

[*] Repeated in substance on same date to Bolivia, El Salvador, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

000756

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: May 27, 1944
NUMBER: 1846

Information contained in your telegram of May 9, 1944 No. 2937 was appreciated by the Department and the promised further report will be awaited with interest.

You are requested to advise the Government of Switzerland that the preliminary steps necessary in order to place before the German Government a concrete proposal or to consider any proposal that Government may desire to make are being undertaken by the Department of State.

Obtaining the adoption by Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo of a resolution which broadens exchange standards in its outstanding Resolution XX which narrowly restricts repatriation of German nationals from this Hemisphere at the present time, is the first step to be taken. We are expediting action to this end.

As contemplated at present time, the proposal of the Department will suggest the progressive exchange of all non-Germans, including Jews and persons of doubtful nationality, interned or otherwise confined in German territory for German nationals resident in the Western Hemisphere at the present. The suggestion will be made that first consideration will logically be given to those bearing passports, visas or other documentation of non-European origin indicating a destination abroad. A proposal such as this will be independent of any being negotiated at the present and will suggest the formulation and exchange of lists for prior approval by both parties. In the main such exchanges probably would depend upon existent neutral passenger vessels plying between the two hemispheres for transportation.

As regards your telegram of May 9, 1944, No. 2928, you may inform the Germans that provision for inclusion of close alien relatives accompanying American citizens will be made in future exchanges of German and United States nationals. Those to be included with American citizens would normally be limited to alien minor children and alien spouses, although other relatives might be considered for general exchange also. Moreover exchange of the alien relatives still held in internment camps in Germany of American citizens repatriated in 1942 will be provided for.

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If contemplating the transfer of individuals susceptible of inclusion in contemplated exchanges, the German Government may desire to move them to places whence their delivery for exchange will be facilitated rather than impeded, in view of the foregoing.

Receipt at the earliest possible moment of the Swiss Government's report of the reaction of the German Government to the foregoing possibilities would be appreciated by the Department in order to assist it in its further consideration of the possibility of arranging such exchanges.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

364

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amembassy, Madrid
DATED: May 25, 1944
NUMBER: 1485

Nothing contained in Department's 1384 of May 16, particularly the first sentence thereof, is to be construed as modifying in any way the policy expressed in Department's 992 of April 10. 1384 was intended to apply, as the Department believes you understood, only to the current GRIPSHOLM exchange.

Use of GRIPSHOLM for exchange of other than repatriated nationals of the participating country is precluded by terms of the charter. Therefore, the Department is exploring other means of effecting the exchange against Germans in the other American Republics of all persecuted persons whom the German Government is willing to release. Bearers of passports of the other American Republics or other foreign travel documents will have first consideration.

(Unsigned)

000759

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Madrid
DATED: May 16, 1944, 10:00 p.m.
NUMBER: 1384

[REDACTED] (NIACT)

Contrary to the recommendations of the United States Government and the other American Republics associated with it, there are included, (a) alien relatives of American citizens and (b) persons bearing Latin-American passports whose nationality has not yet been established, in the list of nationals of the United States and the other American Republics approved by the Germans for exchange against a group of 60 Germans from the United States being repatriated on the GRIPSHOLM.

In respect to (a) and persons under (b) for whose embarkation authorization is contained in this telegram, you are informed that upon arrival in Barcelona the Department is waiving non-immigrant visa requirements for all alien passengers not in possession of appropriate visas. After their admission on a temporary basis, those persons coming to the United States as immigrants will be admitted as non-immigrants and will be able to arrange for the procurement of immigration visas. Admittance will be granted only in transit to those aliens in transit to Western Hemisphere destination.

With respect to (b), Pedro and Lydia Chuprine and Jules and Anna Grunstein, bearers of Costa Rican passports, the Costa Rican Government has authorized entrance into that country. Embarkation on the GRIPSHOLM will therefore be accorded to them.

Authorization has not as yet been granted for admission to their respective countries of the following individuals:

Mexico	-	1. Alexander Schweitzer
Colombia	-	1. Ramon Morano 2. Alvarex Morano
Peru	-	1. Clementine Muller 2. Isidore Poiry 3. Zisold de Valdes 4. Mario Baretto
El Salvador	-	1. Bruno Hecht-Sandoval
Nicaragua	-	1. Herman Zwillenberg 2. Zwillenberg - wife 3. Zwillenberg - child 4. Zwillenberg - child

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Dominican Republic	-	1. Sinia Maria Castillo
		2. Jacques Castillo
		3. Robert Castillo

The surname is given last in the foregoing list.

Authorization is granted by the Department for embarkation on the GRIPSHOLM of such of the foregoing individuals who are bona fide nationals of the American Republics and whose status has been clearly established upon the arrival at Barcelona. You should telegraph most urgently from Barcelona passport or other identifying data regarding them. The Department will inform you urgently if it is subsequently informed by the Republics named that any of the above individuals, who may be unable to qualify for embarkation on basis of examination at Barcelona, are admissible to their territory.

Information has already reached the Department that admittance to the countries whose documentation they bear will be denied to the following individuals:

Nicaragua	-	1. Otto William Strauss
		2. Regina Strauss nee Maier
Dominican Republic	-	1. Jenny Muller nee Silverstein

Accordingly, authorization for embarkation of the foregoing individuals on the GRIPSHOLM cannot be granted.

Until they can be included in a transfer of refugees to the Fedhala Camp, North Africa, arrange through Blickenstaff to provide at the expense of the War Refugee Board for care of those of the foregoing individuals who are not embarked on the GRIPSHOLM.

The foregoing message was repeated to Barcelona for attention of Smith.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

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PLAIN
Madrid
Dated July 17, 1944
Rec'd Noon, 18th

Secretary of State
Washington

2500, Seventeenth

Fifteen members of supplementary exchange group left Irun July 15 by train for Lisbon. Other seven members of group proceeded to Madrid on same date and are now in care of Blickenstaff's organization awaiting completion of arrangements for their transfer to Fedhala. Repeated to Lisbon as 179 and London as 596.

BUTTERWORTH

000762

DOCUMENT

367

Department

Plain

Amlegation
Bern
3082, sixth

September 6, 1944

AMERICAN INTERESTS - EUROPE, REPATRIATION

Please inform Swiss Government for guidance of its representatives in Europe in charge of American interests that following classes of individuals are established in order to permit United States Government to designate which classes of individuals eligible for exchange are to have priority in any given operation. Lists for any specified exchange will be made up from one or more of these priority groupings depending upon the administrative, transportation and other circumstances attendant upon each exchange. The priority groupings are as follows:

A. Persons receiving financial assistance through the protecting Powers under authorization of the government to which they owe allegiance, and their spouses and/or children. Under this heading unqualified first priority shall be extended to those persons who are ill, mentally afflicted or aged but able to travel, and unqualified second priority shall be given to those women and children who are unaccompanied by the head of the family. Among the rest, priority shall be accorded to those arrested or interned over those who are at liberty.

B. Persons not receiving financial assistance who have otherwise been extended formal recognition of their nationality through the protecting Power since the outbreak of hostilities. Priorities under this heading shall be the same as under A. Spouses and/or children are to be included.

C. Immediate family members, regardless of the state of their documentation, of citizens of the United States or of the other American republics who were repatriated in earlier exchanges. This heading is intended to cover spouses and/or children. Other categories of relatives or dependants should not (repeat not) be included under this heading unless specifically authorized by the Department.

D. Bona fide nationals of the Western Hemisphere countries, regardless of the state of their documentation, who are confined in institutions for the mentally or incurably afflicted. This covers also the spouses and/or children of such persons.

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E. Individuals whose lives are in jeopardy whose claim to nationality is not questioned but whose right to protection may be doubtful because of extended residence abroad, lack of ties in the Western Hemisphere or some other technical reason. Within this category the same priorities shall be applied as under A. Spouses and/or children shall be included.

F. Individuals whose lives are in jeopardy and who bear documentation reflecting a right to exercise citizenship of or, alternatively, a right of protection by or admission into one of the republics of the Western Hemisphere, the circumstances of whose cases preclude adequate examination of the juridical basis of such right by the interested government until peace is restored in Europe or appearance is made before a consular or diplomatic officer of the respective republic, whichever first occurs. Priorities within this group shall be the same as under A. Spouses and/or children are included.

The Department is notifying the other American republics of the foregoing priorities system with the invitation to join with the United States in its adoption and inform their protecting Power accordingly with the request that lists of their nationals desiring repatriation be compiled in accordance with the foregoing categories.

HULL
(AAB)

000764

DOCUMENT

AIRGRAM

A-540
5:35 P.M.

November 9, 1944

Amlegation
Bern

The Department considers it necessary to add another category to the priority grouping of persons eligible for exchange given in Department's telegram no. 3082, September 6, 1944.

The priority groupings listed in telegram under reference are therefore amended by the addition of the following classification:

G. Immediate family members, regardless of the state of their documentation, of alien residents of the United States or of other American Republics. This heading is intended to cover spouses and/or children.

Please inform the Swiss Government accordingly.

ACTING

STETTINIUS
Acting
BL

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DOCUMENT

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Amlegation
Bern
4289, Twentieth

Plain
December 20, 1944

The Department considers it advisable to amend category "G" of the priority grouping of persons eligible for exchange given in Department's airgram no. 540 of November 9, 1944 by the insertion of "of American citizens and" between the words "documentation" and "of alien residents".

Please inform Swiss Government accordingly.

STETTINIUS
(EAP)

000766

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 23, 1944, 3 p.m.
NUMBER: 8293

The following concerns the exchange of civilians and interests of Americans in Germany.

Burden of the Swiss note of December 22 is as follows:

Concerning Switzerland's right to negotiate to include Paraguayans in on-coming exchange, Swiss Legation says that United States' right to represent all western hemisphere countries in making exchange proposals has never been contested by Germany. Neither has the German Foreign Office ever contested Swiss Government's exchange negotiations for non-Swiss represented countries. So far, however, Swiss Legation has proposed exchange only for nationals of Swiss protected countries, which is also true of the 50 to 57 possessors of Latin-American documentation to be exchanged in Category F. Information that the American Government contemplates special German-Paraguayan and German-Colombian exchanges.

The Spanish Embassy gives consent to the Swiss Legation, in the case of Paraguay, to appoint certain possessors of Paraguayan documents at Bergen-Belsen for exchange. Thus it seems that the Spanish representative and the German Foreign Office concur in the Swiss' right to represent Paraguayans in arranging general exchange between Germans and Americans.

German List A, which accompanied November 27 note, recording 642 internees of Bergen-Belsen, is likewise transmitted. (Comment of Legation: 641 is the actual count — including 45 Americans, 3 Venezuelans, 33 Argentinians, 8 Brazilians, 111 Ecuadorans, 1 Guatemalan, 20 Haitians, 96 Hondurans, 267 Paraguayans, 33 Salvadorans, 12 Peruvians, and 12 Uruguayans). None are listed who were deported from Vittel in April and May 1944. German Foreign Office says they will later transmit List (B) which gives the names of persons with relatives in the United States.

As the Swiss Legation at Berlin has received only one copy of List A, it retained same until now to make a careful study and compare it with its files on Latin American Jews so that the Swiss find this list of 125 has previously been reported, which rises to 132 (including 44 Paraguayans) after the addition of a few relatives. In selecting individuals to be included in F Category, this list will act as a basis. Regarding this selection, the Swiss Legation makes these observations:

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Since it is the expressed desire of the German Foreign Office in the note referred to above that the Germans interned in South and Central America (among whom would be the Paraguayans and Colombians) be added to the group of internees now in the United States and exchanged with the latter, difficulties from the German side seem to be occasioned by the organization of a special German-Paraguayan exchange. It is to be noted, in respect to the special exchange between Germany and Colombia that at Bergen-Belsen there are no possessors of Colombian documentation, which information comes in German note of November 27.

The names of those for whom special representations have been made would first be proposed to the Germans by the Swiss Legation; and last, to be compared with the Netherland Jewish Committee list will be the German List A. The Swiss Legation has actually detected that there are, on German List A, 162 of those named in the Dutch list as possessors of Latin-American documentation.

Neither the files nor any other source bear information allowing the Swiss Legation to render judgment on the cases of the balance of those which the German List A sets at 400.

Further, there are a certain number of Category F cases at Liebenau and Tittmoning which, according to the Swiss Legation, are not comprised in its list of 132, though one cannot be assured of the fate of these Jews under present circumstances.

The Swiss Legation requests early advice should the Department wish to include persons from Tittmoning and Liebenau in group of 75 Category F repatriables.

More specific information will soon be transmitted by the Swiss Legation concerning the composition of group of 75 for whom there is now provided exchange in categories.

A competent German Foreign Office official has again urged the point that German authorities wish an increase in the number of Category F repatriables. This comes via the Swiss Foreign Office from the Berlin Legation's late communication which adds that the future repatriation of Bergen-Belsen internees bearing Latin-American documentation looms more urgent when one considers the disquieting nature of their future fate. Only if the American Government's interest for this category of Jews is expressed in specific exchange proposals and promptly executed, can they be protected from the measures directed against Jews not bearing Latin-American documentation. Summary end.

In Legation's airmail despatch 10349 of December 23, there is being forwarded above mentioned German List A and Swiss Legation list of 132..

HUDDIE

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DOCUMENT

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

January 3, 1945

8 p.m.

AMEMBASSY
PARIS

33

The following for Hodgdon is from Department and War Refugee Board.

Reference Department's 438 of November 15, 1944 and 15 of January 2, 1945.

The Department and War Refugee Board would appreciate your arranging for the care and custody of the 50 to 75 ad hoc Latin American passport holders upon their arrival in Marseilles on or about January 18 and until such time as arrangements for their onward movement can be completed. Philippeville rather than Fedhala will probably be the temporary destination for some of this group.

It is suggested that you immediately contact Dr. Joseph Schwartz and Arthur Greenleigh of the Joint Distribution Committee who are now in Paris and who are prepared to lend financial and technical assistance in connection with the immediate maintenance and onward transportation of these passport holders. Since it would seem to be desirable to have Schwartz and/or Greenleigh in Marseilles for this purpose, you should give them all possible assistance in arranging travel to Marseilles.

As soon as possible after the arrival of these people in Marseilles, Department and War Refugee Board should be furnished with a complete list of this group of ad hoc passport holders, giving their names, ages, true nationality, number of family units, etc. In addition, Department and Board would appreciate report from you as to the number holding Palestine certificates and as to the attitude of the individuals themselves with respect to ultimate destination.

STETTINIUS
(12V)

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

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COPY

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 12, 1945

Dear Governor Lehman:

Reference is made to my letter to you of November 16, 1944, describing a possible movement of 8,000 refugees through Switzerland. Reference is also made to MAT 435 of December 4, 1944, indicating that AFHQ and UNRRA have agreed to hold the Philippeville Camp in Algeria in reserve for emergencies that may arise as a result of the arrival of this group of refugees in Switzerland.

The War Refugee Board has been advised by the State Department that there is included in a group of approximately 841 persons who are to be exchanged in Switzerland for German nationals approximately 50 to 75 refugees from the Bergen Belsen concentration camp who are holding ad hoc Latin American passports which do not authorize the holders to enter countries in the Western Hemisphere. Accordingly, arrangements will have to be made for their reception elsewhere upon their arrival in Marseilles on or about January 27th.

It would be appreciated if arrangements could be made to receive this group of refugees at Philippeville. The War Department has been advised in order that arrangements may be made by SHAEF for the transportation of these refugees to Philippeville.

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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DOCUMENT

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

373

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 12th regarding some fifty to seventy-five refugees from the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp who are holding ad hoc Latin American passports, and who are expected in Marseilles on or about January 27th.

We have informed the Chief of UNRRA's Italian Mission of their arrival, and he will consult with the Military authorities regarding their final disposition.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Herbert H. Lehman
Director General

000771

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: June 3, 1944
NUMBER: 4411

To Ambassador Winant, London, England.

Repeated inquiries are made of War Refugee Board concerning eligibility for exchange of Jews in German-controlled territory holding Palestine certificates. Please inquire from proper Foreign Office officials whether such persons declared eligible by Britain and Germany, whether any such exchanges have actually taken place, and if response is affirmative, the procedure followed in placing such persons on exchange lists.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 20, 1944
NUMBER: 4889

[REDACTED]

We have now received from the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office a letter answering the inquiries of the War Refugee Board concerning the eligibility for exchange of Jews now in German-controlled territory who hold Palestine certificates, as forwarded in Department's cable of June 3, No. 4411.

It is stated by the Foreign Office that the Palestine Government in collaboration with the Jewish Agency for Palestine nominates persons whom it would be willing to exchange for German citizens held in Palestine and then the names of such persons are communicated to the German Government through the protecting power (Switzerland). However, in practice the German Government often declares itself unable to trace the persons named and other members of the Jewish race have been substituted by it. Two exchanges have taken place up to the present, one in December 1941 and another in November 1942 involving about 350 German citizens and 180 holders of Palestine certificates and their next of kin. Thus the balance is to the advantage of the Germans and to redress it we are now negotiating a third exchange on a basis of 280 certificate holders and 110 Germans.

With respect to the procedure to be followed in placing persons on exchange lists, it is suggested by the Foreign Office that the War Refugee Board might be told that Jewish organizations or individual inquirers should be told to communicate names of persons in whom they are interested to the Colonial Office in London, which would then forward them to the High Commissioner at Jerusalem and the Jewish Agency for decision as to the suitability of their being placed upon the list for exchange in the manner which we above outlined.

WINANT

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 8, 1944
NUMBER: 5396

[REDACTED]

For the attention of the War Refugee Board.

We have just received from the Foreign Office a communication with further respect to the procedure to be followed in placing on exchange lists Jews now in German-controlled territory who hold Palestine certificates, as outlined in the last paragraph of Embassy's cable dated June 20, No. 4889.

It is stated by the Foreign Office that the Colonial Office has informed it that Jews holding Palestine certificates should not apply through the Colonial Office but that all applications from the general public for inclusion of people in the Palestine-German exchange should be addressed direct to the Commissioner of Migration and Statistics, Jerusalem. It is stated that if they are accepted for exchange, the High Commissioner will then forward the names to the Colonial Office, and so to the protecting power through the Foreign Office.

WINANT

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DOCUMENT

377

Ankara
Dated April 7, 1945
Rec'd 11:42 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

PRIORITY

473, April 7, 6 p.m.

Prior to the receipt today of Department's reference cable I had discussed with Foreign Office, the British Embassy and the Swedish Legation the question of the 134 Jewish persons on board the DROTNINGHOLM which is expected in Istanbul on Monday. (REDEF-TEL 393, April 5 and London's 19, March 23).

Just prior to his departure on April 5 for the San Francisco Conference as a member of the Turk delegation, Acting Secretary General Erkin informed me these individuals were embarked on the DROTNINGHOLM without prior notification to or the consent of the Turk Government; that few if any of them have any claim to Turkish nationality; that the Turk Government would probably not (repeat not) permit them to disembark from the DROTNINGHOLM even for a temporary stay in Istanbul; and it might send them all back to Sweden from Turkey on the return voyage of the DROTNINGHOLM. I informed Erkin that I thought any such action on the part of the Turk Government might have an unfortunate effect particularly at this time, upon Turk-American relations in view of the publicity in the United States press that would be sure to attend any such action its part.

In conversation yesterday with the Foreign Office official who has this matter immediately in charge (REEFES 450, April 3) I reiterated to him the point of view expressed to Erkin which he said he shared. He stated the Turk Government had not yet decided what position it would take with respect to permitting these persons to land at Istanbul.

I expressed the above mentioned point of view last evening to the British Ambassador before he saw the Acting Foreign Minister with whom he discussed this matter. The Foreign Office official last referred to above informs me this afternoon the British Ambassador was informed by Sumer that the Turk Government is prepared to permit the persons in question to enter Turkey in transit if the British Government will undertake to permit them to enter Palestine. The British Ambassador informs me this afternoon that he informed Sumer during their conversation last night that he would telegraph to London (he has since done so) requesting instructions as to

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whether the British Government is willing to let these individuals enter Palestine under the quota scheme. Peterson states some of the persons are German Jews, some of other nationalities. He states further he cabled to London some days ago on this subject and the reply he received did not encourage him to believe these persons will be admitted to Palestine. I gather he feels a reply from London may not be forthcoming immediately.

In view of foregoing Department may desire to discuss this phase of the matter with the British Government. I had discussed this subject with a Secretary of the British Embassy at the time London's 19 was received and learned the cable referred to above by the British Ambassador had been sent to London. The Secretary promised I would be informed when a reply was received. Yesterday the Swedish Minister informed me that if the Turkish authorities declined to permit these persons to disembark in Turkey all (repeat all) Turkish nationals on board the DROTENSHOLM might be prevented from disembarking and taken back to Sweden along with the 134 Jewish persons concerned.

Repeated to London as 29.

PACKER

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DOCUMENT

378

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: April 9, 1945
NUMBER: 2757

U. S. URGENT

See your March 28 cable No. 3186. War Refugee Board and Department assume that you have discussed with the Foreign Office Ankara's April 17 cable No. 29. Along these lines, you should stress the desirability from a security standpoint of removing German nationals and officials from Turkey as soon as possible, a view which the Foreign Office presumably shares. Also, it is believed by the Department to be very undesirable that any Jews released from Germany for purpose of exchange be returned ultimately to Germany as such a development, apart from almost certain hardships to persons concerned, would probably imperil seriously pending negotiations, looking toward the departure of Jews from Germany in exchanges, between this Government and the German Government.

STETTINIUS

DECLASSIFIED

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MF-1971

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

Ankara

Dated April 15, 1945
Rec'd 4:45 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

US URGENT

519, April 15, 10 a.m.

I informed the appropriate Foreign Office official yesterday that rooms had been reserved for the 80 refugees ex-SS DROTTHING-HOEN now on board another vessel at Istanbul (REEMBS 503 April 12) (*) more hotels in that city and inquired whether it would not be possible to allow them to come ashore particularly in view of the fact that no sleeping accommodations were available on board the small vessel in question and of the fact that eating facilities on board were unsatisfactory. He informed me later that instructions had been issued to allow the refugees to come ashore.

PACKER

(*) Apparent omission

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DOCUMENT

380

MMG
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special arrangement.
(S-W)

To Be Sent in [REDACTED] "W"
July 28, 1944

War Refugee Board

Amembassy
Ankara
665

The cable below from Department and Board is War Refugee Board 83.

1. There follows the substance of a message received from Am-
legation Bern:

QUOTE A note from the Foreign Office, dated yesterday,
states that according to a telegram from the Swiss Legation
at Budapest, authorization has been given by the Government
of Hungary for the departure of all Jews from Hungary who
hold entry permits for another country, including Palestine.

This same message states that transit through occupied
territories will be permitted by the German Government. As
soon as possible the Swiss Legation, in collaboration with
the Palestinian Bureau, Budapest, will take necessary measures
for evacuation. It is probably that Hungarian police pass-
ports will constitute travel documents. UNQUOTE

In view of the foregoing it is of the utmost importance that no
effort be spared to induce the Turkish Government promptly either to
issue transit visas to every person in Hungary holding a Palestine
certificate or to inform the Hungarian Government that all such per-
sons may enter Turkey enroute to Palestine without the formal
issuance of visas, and to advise the Hungarian Government of its
willingness to do so. Furthermore, every effort should be made with
Jewish Agency representatives to secure the speedy issuance of as
many additional Palestine certificates as possible to persons in
Hungary. Time is obviously of the essence and the Board should be
informed promptly of any difficulties that may be encountered.

2. Since the above quoted message may have broad implications,
please endeavor urgently to ascertain whether the Turkish Government
will promptly advise the Governments of Germany, Rumania, and Bulgaria
and such authorities as there may be in Slovakia (as well as Hungary)
that Turkey is prepared to issue transit visas to all persons holding
Palestine certificates or to admit such persons enroute to Palestine

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without the formal issuance of transit visas. If Turkey has already taken this position, it would nevertheless seem appropriate at this time formally to restate it to all Axis governments. Please keep the Department and Board advised.

3. There follows the substance of the pertinent portion of a message to Amembassy London:

QUOTE In further response to message from Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, this Government is prepared to advise the Hungarian and neutral governments that all Jews arriving in neutral countries from Hungary will be afforded havens in United Nations territory just as promptly as military considerations permit, neutral governments to be given adequate assurances as to the maintenance of such persons in the meantime and to be requested to advise the Hungarian Government of their willingness to receive such persons. Please endeavor to ascertain from the Foreign Office whether the Government of the United Kingdom will join this Government in this attempt to save lives. American missions in neutral countries are being instructed to take appropriate action along these lines in collaboration with their British colleagues if possible, alone if necessary. Since time is of the essence, British missions should be advised of Foreign Office views promptly. UNQUOTE

Accordingly, you are requested to consult with your British colleagues and either in collaboration with them or alone, as the circumstances may develop, approach appropriate officials of the Turkish Government with the request that Turkey advise the Hungarian Government that it is prepared to receive Jews released by Hungary and permitted to go to Turkey. You may assure appropriate Turkish officials that if Turkey so advises the Hungarian Government, Jews arriving in Turkey from Hungary will be evacuated to United Nations territory as promptly as possible and that in the meantime the United States will undertake to make arrangements for their maintenance and support in Turkey. You should inform the Department and the Board promptly of the results of your consultation with your British colleagues and your approach to the Turkish Government.

4. There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date when present existing procedures and security checks became effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, the Swiss Government is being requested to advise enemy governments that American consular

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officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941, and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

Accordingly, American consular officers in Turkey are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report dated subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Please advise appropriate Turkish officials of the foregoing authorization and attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Turkey's willingness to permit the entry into Turkey, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the foregoing authority will follow promptly.

5. The foregoing measures represent an attempt on the part of this Government to take advantage of the information contained in the message from Amlegation Bern, the substance of which is quoted above, on various bases. The Board would appreciate any views that Hirschman may have with respect to any further action that might be taken. In this connection, Hirschmann might consider, in the light of Department's 627 of July 11, WRB's 78, and such information as he may have through channels available to him, the advisability of requesting the Rumanian Government freely to admit Jews from Hungary into South Eastern Rumania pending their evacuation therefrom. Any views that Hirschmann may have should be transmitted to the Board promptly.

6. The instruction set out in paragraph marked three above is issued notwithstanding your 1287 of July 15.

STETTINIUS
Acting
(GLW)

000781

DOCUMENT

381

ECC-195

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special arrangement,
(S. [REDACTED] W)

Stockholm

DATED: August 12, 1944

REC'D: 8:28 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington
3074, August 12, 9 p.m.

WRB No. 71.

Following is substance of note dated August 11, received from
Foreign Office (re Department's 1501, July 28, 10 p.m. WRB 58).

Swedish Legation Budapest authorized issue Swedish visas Jews
holding American immigration visas issued on or after July one, 1941.
Swedish Legations Budapest, Berlin instructed inform respective govern-
ments that effect.

JOHNSON

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DOCUMENT

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

382

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: August 5, 1944
NUMBER: 1430

[REDACTED]

With reference to Department's cable 665, dated July 28, 1944, following a consultation with my British colleague and after being advised that no instructions from London had been received by him on the subject, this morning I discussed the matter of issuance of Turkish transit visas to people in Hungary who hold Palestinian certificates or American immigration visas which were issued on or subsequent to the first of July, 1941, with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the conversation I requested having instructions sent at once to Turkish Consular officers in Hungary to issue Turkish transit visas to such people without prior consultation with Ankara. In addition, I requested him to have like instructions dispatched to the Turkish Consular officers in Slovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania. The reply of the Secretary General was that he was sure his Government would be willing to take the measures requested immediately. It was his hope that the transportation of refugees from Hungary could be arranged for in such a manner that they would go to Istanbul by vessel, from Burgas or Varna preferably.

With respect to our assurance that the U. S. would be willing to arrange for the support and maintenance of refugees while in Turkey, he declared that it should be of the most aid to the Turkish Government at this time when a highly increased burden has been placed on the railroads of Turkey as a result of the halting of Turkish coastwise shipping services, if the U. S. could make arrangements to make available a few passenger cars to the Turkish railroads from one of the Near Eastern nations, in order to accelerate the transportation of refugees. It is my strong recommendation that WRB and the Department put forth every endeavor to comply with this very reasonable request of the Government of Turkey.

Referring to paragraph No. five, as reported in Embassy's cable 1365, dated July 25, 1944, Hirschmann has urged Cretzianu to persuade his Government to issue, without limit, Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees who are departing for Palestine from Hungary via Rumania. Cretzianu advised Hirschmann, in another conversation on this matter today that the Government of Rumania has concurred in principle to issue Rumanian transit visas to Jewish refugees departing from Hungary, provided authorization to grant transit visas to such people has been given by the Turkish Government to their representative.

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Refer Embassy's cable 1391, dated July 30, 1944. Hirschmann has collaborated with the Jewish agency in obtaining prompt issuance of Palestine certificates, through the channel of the Swiss Legation in Hungary and the Swiss Minister in Ankara, to 8,200 Jewish Refugees in Hungary. This is with reference to paragraph 3 of the paragraph numbered one.

KELLEY

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DOCUMENT

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

383

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: August 24, 1944
NUMBER: 2918

Cable to Minister Harrison and McClelland from the Department of State and the War Refugee Board.

(1) Reference your 4983 of August 3, Section 2. It is not the policy of this Government to deal in specific numbers. You may in your discretion, however, authorize the Swiss Foreign Office to reply to inquiry of German Legation, Budapest, by referring to the position of this Government as indicated by items 2 and 3 of Department's 2605 of July 28, WRB's 94, Department's 2977 of August 21, WRB's 122, and Department's 2657 of August 2 and item 3 below.

(2) Notwithstanding recent developments as indicated in your 5197 of August 11, this Government intends to pursue further the reported offers of Hungarian authorities as typified by your 4604 of July 19.

(3) Accordingly, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

(4) Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or first preference status has been established by the approval of the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried

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minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, the names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cabled to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States.

(5) Please keep Department and Board advised of any developments in this program. Reference your 5042 of August 5 and your 5248 of August 12.

Please express to M. Pilet Golaz the appreciation of Department and Board.

This is WRB Bern Cable No. 133.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

384

AIH-1085

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Bern

Dated December 16, 1944

Rec'd 4:52 p.m., 17th

Secretary of State
Washington

8177, December 16, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE)

Department's 3844, November 11 (WRB 269)

All lists mentioned have been received and transmitted to Swiss with exception number 222 which not yet received. However, list bearing number 220 received but not mentioned by WRB.

Swiss note dated December 7 referring to contents second paragraph Department's 2605 July 28 and third group of lists mentioned Department's telegram under reference states that Swiss Legation Berlin has requested that following be brought to Legation's attention before Swiss representative notifies list to German Government:

Judging from experience Swiss Legation considers that representations which it would make to German authorities in this connection would contribute nothing to assure effective protection to persons covered by Department's 2605 so long as they cannot participate in American-German exchanges. It would appear preferable to refrain for the present from notifying to German Foreign Office these lists of non-exchangeable persons to whom the American Government is prepared to extend its hospitality because communication these lists could only create confusion prejudicial to smooth conduct of negotiations for forthcoming American-German exchange. Inquiry is made whether, notwithstanding foregoing, communication of lists to German Government is desired.

In another note also dated December 7 Swiss refer to contents first sentence numbered part three of Department's 2918, August 24 and to first and second groups of lists mentioned Department's 3844, November 11 and transmit following observations of Swiss Legation Berlin:

American Legation by note dated November 21 (which transmitted contents Department's airgram A-540 on November 9) gave notification that Department had established a seventh category of persons entitled to participate in American-German exchanges that is, category G which includes wives and children of alien residents of United States or of other American Republics.

/End of Section One/

HUDDLE

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JMM-1099
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arrangement. ([REDACTED] W)

Bern
Dated December 16, 1944
Rec'd 7:05 p.m., 17th

Secretary of State
Washington

8177, December 16, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

(?) (?) (?) persons resident in United States in a single category such as category and accordingly eliminate distinction established by Department's 2918.

Owing foregoing Foreign Office inquiries whether persons referred to in said telegram could be assimilated to category G. If this not possible it desires know whether Swiss Legation Berlin may be authorized defer transmission lists to Germans until negotiations for forthcoming exchange are completed.

Question of authorizing Swiss entry visas individually or collectively is still under consideration by federal police. In preliminary discussion chief of police expressed grave doubt as to protective value of authorizing Swiss visas to large number of persons whose present whereabouts is completely unknown and whose last addresses are several years old. His experience with German police led him to believe that they would take very little action on basis of lists in question and in view of Jewish race of persons concerned disclaim any knowledge as to their whereabouts.

In view of Swiss Legation's observations it appears to Legation that classification of persons as exchangeable would afford a better possibility of according protection that authorization of Swiss entry visas.

Legation wishes also confirm receipt WRB lists Nos. 265, 269, and 274 which already forwarded to Swiss. Lists Nos. 276, 277, 27(?), 302, 303, 305, 306 and two lists both bearing No. 307 have been received and their transmission to Foreign Office will be withheld pending Department's observations to comments given above.

/End Message/

HUDDLE

Large portion at beginning undecipherable and serviced.

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DOCUMENT

385

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.
TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
DATED: December 30, 1944
NUMBER: 4398

Board and Department agree with suggestions made in your 8177 of the sixteenth of December. In accordance with this, you are asked to advise the Swiss officials that individuals whose names were or will be forwarded to you pursuant to Department's 2605 of the twenty-eighth of July and 2918 of the twenty-fourth of August are eligible for exchange against German civilians under Department's 3082 of the sixth of September and A-540 of the ninth of November as amended by Department's message number 4289 of the twentieth of December. Although all of these individuals might be considered as bearing "documentation reflecting a right of admission into one of the Republics of the Western Hemisphere" for the sake of uniformity, they should be included under category G of Department's A-540 as amended by Department's 4289 of the twentieth of December. In the event the Legation or the Swiss because of special circumstances prevailing in a given case find that any persons so named are entitled to classification in a higher category, with reference to the Department such reclassification is authorized.

We hope that under this procedure nothing will stand in the way of the speedy transmission of the names given in the lists in question to the German officials.

This is WRB Bern cable number 346. The foregoing is for McClelland.

STETTINIUS

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386

AVH-731
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Stockholm
Dated December 9, 1944
Rec'd 11:26 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

5043, December 9, 11 a.m.

(SECTION ONE OF TWO)

Receipt confirmed of WRB lists of persons in enemy occupied Europe who are close relatives of United States citizens on whose behalf petitions for issuance of immigration visas have been approved (Department's 2273, November 11, 8 p.m.): 99, 100, 102, 112, 113, 116, 222, 240, 248, 249.

Relatives of resident aliens whose verification of last entry approved: 104, 108, 111, 221, 224, 237, 245, 246, 250.

Persons to whom United States visas authorized on or after July 1, 1941: 82, 87, 98, 103, 107, 232, 234.

All of above lists have been transmitted to the Foreign Office with exception of 248, 249 and 250 which were received December 5 and are being typed preparatory to submission.

This our 111 for WRB and Iver Olsen.

In conversation today with Legation member, Foreign Office official stated no action taken to forward these lists to Swedish Legations in countries concerned. Swedish authorities doubt such action would benefit intended beneficiaries. Transmittal of lists to Budapest Legation difficult because no departing courier for 2 months and telegraphing list felt impractical.

Following reason advanced to explain their retention of lists: special measures taken during last months were by Swedish Legation in Budapest is doing everything

/End of Section One/

JOHNSON

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ASB-742
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arrangement. () W)

Stockholm
Dated December 9, 1944
Rec'd 12:03 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

5043, December 9, 11 a.m. (SECTION TWO)

possible to save and succor a large number of Jews under a special arrangement recognized by Hungarian Government. According to last reports Sweden has about 15,000 Jewish proteges under this program; 5,000 of these have protective passports. Swedish authorities are loath to do anything that in any way could jeopardize or retard this venture. They are of opinion that presentation of WRB lists to Hungarian Government would have unfavorable result and might conceivably damage their other Jewish relief work. Swedish officials further feel that no practical value is to be derived by presenting lists inasmuch Swedish Legation in Budapest stands ready to aid all Jews who apply.

Again as respect WRB lists of persons in France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, et cetera, Swedish authorities after consultation with Swedish Minister in Berlin are reluctant to submit lists to German Government as it is feared presentation of names would adversely affect outcome of the rather large number of special relief cases already being handled. It was suggested by Foreign Office that perhaps Swiss Government could hand lists to German Government with recommendation that advantage be taken of this opportunity to send Jews to United States. It was recalled by Foreign Office official that Sweden in August of this year informed German Government that Sweden is willing to allow entry into Sweden of any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued on or after July 1, 1944. He further stated Sweden simultaneously with presentation of lists by Swiss could repeat this assurance.

Legation is not optimistic concerning possibility of many benefits arising out of present procedure and feels Swedish standpoint and suggestion have merit.

/End Message/

JOHNSON

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387

EK
Distribution of true
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arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

December 16, 1944
Midnight

AMLEGATION
STOCKHOLM

2537

The following cable is WRB 270.

Reference your 5043 of December 9.

We appreciate weight of Swedish arguments reported therein and would be inclined to accept them. But before doing so, we suggest that you draw the attention of Foreign Office to the fact that, after having informed German Government in August that Sweden is willing to allow entry of persons with American immigration visas, there would appear to be a basis for Sweden to follow this up by informing the Germans of the names of the people concerned. Viewed in this light, our suggestion does not (repeat not) involve any new step.

The problem mainly involves Jews and other Nazi victims in Germany and German-occupied territories other than Hungary. In view of developments in Hungary, we agree that transmission of names of Jews still there would be of no (repeat no) likely benefit, but since many such Jews have been deported to other Axis areas, the transmission of their names may still be beneficial.

Board is inclined to share your doubts as to the effectiveness of the suggested procedure, but feels that no (repeat no) possibility of saving lives should be overlooked.

STETTINIUS
(GHW)

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DOCUMENT

388

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 7, 1944
NUMBER: 770

The fact that you have had approaches through various channels from one or more of the Governments of Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary and that you have channels through which messages can be conveyed to one or more of these Governments is borne in mind by the Department.

We instruct you to convey through such channels to the Governments of Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary, or any of them to which you have such access, the following information:

At the present time the Government of the United States is aware that these Governments are pursuing programs of persecuting their Jewish minorities and refugees of other nationalities who have escaped into their territories. The persecution consists among other forms in sending such refugees beyond the borders of their own countries into Poland where they undergo various forms of cruelty and even death, dictated by Nazi degeneracy. Still another form of persecution consists in preventing the refugees from escaping to neutral countries where their lives may be saved.

The Government of the United States is determined to do everything it can to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of losing their lives and to find them havens of refuge. Any continuation by these Governments of the execution of these policies of Hitlerite persecutions is viewed with great seriousness by this Government and will be kept in mind. The President, in establishing the War Refugee Board, recently restated unequivocally the position of the United States Government in this matter. (Department's cable to Bern of January 25, 1944 No. 201). The Government of the United States takes the view that these Governments, as well as their subordinates and functionaries, are fully responsible for the actions of persecution committed on their territories and in the interests of humanity they should desist immediately. Moreover, they should be informed that in their own interest, they will be well advised to take advantage in the future of such opportunities as may be available to them to allow refugees to depart across their borders into territories of any neutral countries which may be prepared to receive them.

You are requested to try to ascertain through appropriate channels that the Governments in question have received the substance of this message, and the results of the representations, if any.

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- 1111 -

The foregoing message was repeated to Cairo for MacVeagh as Greek Series 37 and to Stockholm, Lisbon, and Ankara as the Department's Cables No. 372, 713, and 177 respectively.

STETTINIUS

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DOCUMENT

389

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Lisbon
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: March 11, 1944
NUMBER: 779

Through appropriate channels the substance of the message contained in the Department's number 713 dated March 7 has been launched and within a comparatively short time may be expected to reach both the Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments. Although it may still take a few more days to expedite it from here steps are also being taken to see that it is conveyed to the Government of Rumania.

Although we have reason to believe already that we may expect an answer in due course from the Government of Hungary, no such information has been conveyed as yet concerning the intentions of the Government of Bulgaria or of course of the Government of Rumania, with the channel of approach to which we have not yet made contact.

These answers will be sent to you as quickly as possible when and if we receive them.

NORWEB

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DOCUMENT

390

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: American Legation, Lisbon
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 12, 1944
NO: 1013

War Refugee Board sends the following for the attention of Minister Norweb.

Your telegram of March 11, 1944 No. 779 is referred to herewith.

The Swedish press carries reports that there has been an intensification of pressure by the Nazis on Hungary to strengthen the anti-Jewish policy and to deport Polish and other Jews who have escaped to Hungary.

In view of the German military's reported operations in Hungary, we request that you again approach the channels to the Government of Hungary that are available to you and state again the position taken by this Government and make it clearly understood that in spite of the current pressure by the Nazis any action on the part of the Hungarian Government to inflict new and further persecutions or to continue existing persecutions designed against foreign or native Jews or the deportation to Germany itself or any territory controlled by Germany of foreign or native Jews will be considered by this Government with the greatest disfavor and will be taken into account at the end of the war. You should also again approach the Rumanian Government through the channels that are available to you and inform them regarding the foregoing message to the Hungarian Government, explaining the circumstances that the approach is based upon. You should clearly intimate that in spite of any actions taken by the Nazis to intensify the deportation or other persecution of foreign or native Jews, which may result in military defeats of the Nazis or from either causes, the foregoing view will also be taken by this Government with respect to the Government of Rumania.

(Unsigned)

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391

Amlegation
Bern
3461, Seventh

Plain
October 7, 1944

The Department has recieved information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely, Oswiecim, Birkenau and Nacuss. Probably some 65,000 Jews are involved.

You are requested, through any channels available to you, to convey to the German Representative at Bern that the United States has this information and further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler, to be carried out by certain other officials. Direct responsibility for this proposed crime is thus fixed, and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government, and will attach to all participants.

Kindly report any developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

HULL
(SWB)

000797

DOCUMENT

392

DMH-709
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arrangement. ([REDACTED] W)

Stockholm
Dated October 16, 1944
Rec'd 4:20 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

4206, October 16, 7 p.m.

Substance of Department's 2041, October 12, midnight (WRB's 105) has been communicated to Eric von Post, head of Political Department Swedish Foreign Office. (This is our 93 for WRB) and he has undertaken to make every effort to have the message conveyed to the German authorities.

JOHNSON

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DOCUMENT

393

CSS -341
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arrangement. (T-W)

Lisbon
Dated October 14, 1944
Rec'd 1:21 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

3149, October 14, 1 p.m.

This WRB 221

Taking steps through available channels convey substance your
telegram 2701, October 10, to German authorities Lisbon. Will re-
port result later.

NORWEB

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DOCUMENT

394

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Dublin
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 17, 1945
NUMBER: 9

In connection with the following message please refer to Department's message of January 13, No. 12.

I am informed by External Affairs that in response to the inquiry made by Briscoe regarding the rumor that the Germans intended to liquidate the inmates of the two camps in question, they addressed inquiry to the Government of Germany and then replied as follows to Briscoe.

Reply from the German authorities to our inquiries about the two camps, Oswiecim, and Hoss and Birkenau, has now been received by us. The Germans state that the rumor that it is their intention to exterminate the Jews in these camps is devoid of all foundation, is pure invention, and that the inmates of these camps would be evacuated if the camps were to be abandoned.

I am informed by Briscoe that he made no public statement and that he made no statement on his own authority, but that he merely forwarded the above to London to the Jewish agencies there. For this reason it seems that the statement in question is merely the reply of the Government of Germany to the inquiry of the Government of Ireland, which is vouched for by neither Briscoe nor the Irish Government.

GRAY

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Dublin
DATED: January 22, 1945
NUMBER: 20

URGENT

From Department and War Refugee Board

Reference your 9 of January 17.

Please express to Irish authorities this Government's appreciation of their humane initiative in the matter of threatened Jewish inmates of German camps.

In this connection, Department and WRB would greatly appreciate it if Irish government could inform German Government that the reply of German authorities to Ireland has been noted by the Government of the United States, and this Government accordingly expects that Jewish and other survivors of these and other concentration, detention and labor camps in Germany and German-controlled territory will be kept alive by German authorities.

In view of the nearness of Oswiecim and Birkenau to the front, it is urgent that the above communication reach German authorities with the greatest possible speed.

STETTINIUS.

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DOCUMENT

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DOC-1651

Dublin
Dated February 6, 1945
Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington

26, February 6, 2 p.m.

I have just received from External Affairs (reference my 19, January 29,) the following information. Irish Charge in Berlin made inquiry as instructed and was informed that inmates of the two camps in question had been evacuated to points in the interior. Irish representative, of course, makes no suggestion as to truth or falsehood of this reply.

GRAY

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DOCUMENT

397

MH-1904
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement [REDACTED] W)

Bern
Dated January 25, 1945.
Rec'd 10:10 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington

520, January 25, noon.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Substance Department's 368, January 22, was delivered in an
urgent note to Federal Political Department on January 24.

HUDDLE

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DOCUMENT

398

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

January 9, 1945
5 p.m.

AMLEGATION
BERN

127

The following for Huddle and McClelland is WRB 356.

In view of well-known German practice of exterminating Jews surviving in any area previous to its evacuation, Department and WRB consider it necessary once more to draw attention of Swiss and Intercross authorities to the danger faced by the Jewish survivors in German-controlled territory.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will visit newly appointed Swiss Foreign Minister and President of Intercross, and urge that continued efforts be made from now on to keep the surviving victims of Nazi persecution alive during the coming stages of hostilities in Europe. You should specifically mention in this connection the three largest concentrations of Jews in Axis territory known to exist, viz. Lodz with 60,000 to 80,000 inmates, Theresienstadt with 40,000 to 60,000 inmates, and camps near Vienna with 18,000 inmates, and you should also mention any other localities or regions where Jews are believed by you to survive.

In your conference with Swiss Foreign Minister and Intercross President it should be made clear that this Government considers that frequent and extended visits of Swiss Consuls and Intercross delegates to places and regions where Jews are concentrated constitute one of the most effective means of preventing their further extermination. This method proved its efficacy in Budapest where, thanks to the presence of Swiss and Intercross personnel, many lives appear to have been saved.

Furthermore, you should emphasize to Foreign Minister and Intercross President the mounting evidence of confusion among local German officials and their increasing accessibility to psychological pressure seeking to dissuade them from executing extermination policies ordered by certain German authorities, and urge that full advantage be taken of this state of mind in the interest of saving lives, through unofficial as well as official channels.

More particularly, in view of German consent to permit Intercross inspection and care for Hungarian Jews engaged in forced labor in Germany and German-occupied territory (enclosure 1 to your despatch 10132 of December 6), please request immediate and

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continuing Intercross action to safeguard lives of this largest group of Jews surviving under German rule.

Please endeavor to make clear to Swiss and Intercross that the activities suggested above should be actively pursued as long as the danger continues.

Please advise Department and WRB of Swiss and Intercross reaction.

The following from WRB for McClelland:

It would be helpful if you inquired at frequent intervals what specific action Swiss and Intercross are taking to carry out the above suggestions.

In view of the situation as outlined above and in view of your recent reports indicating effectiveness of publicity and other forms of psychological pressure upon German officials, you are requested to make special efforts through all channels available to you to increase such pressure with a view to safeguarding the lives of the surviving victims of Nazi persecution.

SEETTINIUS
(CHW)

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399

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: January 27, 1945
NUMBER: 581

The following is for WRB.

The substance of WRB's message 356 has been brought to the attention of all competent authorities of Federal Political Department and ICRC and discussed with them earnestly. See Department's 127 of the ninth of January. On the fifteenth of January, I took the matter up with Minister Walter Stucki at this time in charge of Foreign Office awaiting assumption of duty of the Foreign Minister (newly appointed). Have approached Petit Pierre, and officials of Foreign Interests Division. It is said by the Foreign Office that official Swiss representatives have thus far not been able to visit any of the three camps names Viz-Vienna, Lodz, Thereisienstadt. In addition, it feels that there is considerable doubt of possibility of its representative making frequent or extended visits to locations where Jews are concentrated unless it can be satisfactorily established that persons are there who legally fall under protection of Swiss. However, it is stated by the Swiss that every attempt will be made in regard to this and they think that camps near Vienna likely offer most favorable prospects as in that vicinity there are numerous Swiss interests. The Swiss will attempt to take complete advantage for purposes indicated by you.

When interviewed on the matter by McClelland, President Burckhardt ICRC assured him that committee purposed continue doing all in its power to aid in every possible manner Jews and other surviving victims Nazi persecution still in hands of Germans. Therefore, ICRC is endeavoring to enlarge the number of its delegates in Germany. It was urged by McClelland that ICRC continue this effort as the more competent and energetic men on spot as internal confusion increases in Germany the greater will be chance of influencing officials of Germany and possibly dissuading them from carrying out policies of extermination.

Shortly ICRC will report on extent of supervision which it has been able to exercise over Hungarian Jewish deportees working in territory of Reich. Especially in the last six weeks this supervision has been fairly satisfactory in Austria but is probably less extensive within Germany.

HUDDLE

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arrangement. [REDACTED] W)

February 12, 1945
Midnight

AMLEGATION
BERN

677

The following for Huddle and McClelland is WRB 399.

Reference your 869, 885, and 887 of February 8, appreciate
your energetic steps.

In pursuing them further, will you please explain, with
special reference to your 887, that Department's 127 of January 9
had in mind indirect influence of Swiss consular officials ex-
ercised by their presence near places where Jews are concentrated
and such informal conversations which they could hold on the spot
rather than official acts of intercession.

GREW
(Acting)
(CLW)

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DOCUMENT

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Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S-1-W)

January 19, 1945
8 p.m.

ALLEGATION
STOCKHOLM

106

The following for Johnson is WRB 293.

In view of well-known German practice of exterminating Jews surviving in any area previous to its evacuation, Department and WRB consider it necessary once more to draw attention of Swedish authorities to the danger faced by the Jewish survivors in German-controlled territory.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if you will visit Swedish Foreign Minister, and urge that continued efforts be made from now on to keep the surviving victims of Nazi persecution alive during the coming stages of hostilities in Europe. You should specifically mention in this connection the four largest concentrations of Jews in Axis territory known to exist, viz. Lodz with 60,000 to 80,000 inmates, Theresienstadt with 40,000 to 60,000 inmates, camps near Vienna with 18,000 inmates, and camp Belsenbergen with 9,000 inmates, and you should also mention any other localities or regions where Jews are believed by you to survive.

In your conference with Swedish Foreign Minister it should be made clear that this Government considers that frequent and extended visits of Swedish Consuls to places and regions where Jews are concentrated constitute one of the most effective means of preventing their further extermination. This method proved its efficacy in Budapest where, thanks to the presence of Swedish personnel, many lives appear to have been saved.

More particularly, in view of large number of relief parcels recently reaching camp Belsenbergen, with the assistance of Swedish YMCA and Red Cross, please urge upon these organizations the desirability of their delegates being stationed in or sent on an extended visit to that camp, to assist in the distribution of such parcels. You may explain informally that this suggestion is made in the light of the above considerations with a view to safeguarding the lives of over 9,000 inmates reported to be in Belsen-Bergen.

Furthermore, please emphasize to Foreign Minister the mounting evidence of confusion among local German officials and their increasing accessibility to psychological pressure seeking to dissuade them from executing extermination policies ordered by cer-

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tain German authorities, and urge that full advantage be taken of this state of mind in the interest of saving lives, through unofficial as well as official channels.

Please endeavor to make clear to Swedes that the activities suggested above should be actively pursued as long as the danger continues.

Please advise Department and WRB of Swedish reaction.

The following from WRB for Minister Johnson and Olsen:

It would be helpful if you inquired at frequent intervals what specific action Swedes are taking to carry out the above suggestions.

In view of the situation as outlined above and in view of recent reports indicating effectiveness of publicity and other forms of psychological pressure upon German officials, you are requested to make special efforts through all channels available to you to increase such pressure with a view to safeguarding the lives of the surviving victims of Nazi persecution.

STETTINIUS
(GLW)

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DOCUMENT

402

MF-83
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

Stockholm
Dated February 7, 1945
Rec'd 11:55 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

483, February 7, 9 p.m.

SECRET

I have personally discussed briefly with Foreign Minister Gunther and several times at length with Von Post substance Department's 106, January 19, 8 p.m. (WRB 293). Official Swedish reaction entirely favorable but both Gunther and Post skeptical that Germans would be in any way amenable to Swedish suggestions in this matter. Full memorandum of our views was transmitted by Foreign Office to Swedish Minister Richert at Berlin who has replied that in his opinion approach by Sweden alone to German Government under present conditions would have completely negative results. Richert also reported German authorities entertaining no requests by Swedes or others to visit these Jewish concentration camps. Foreign Office then on February 3 sent instructions to Swedish Ministers Berlin and Bern to take up secretly with Swiss Government and Vatican through Papal Nuncio at Berlin suggestion that Sweden, Switzerland and Vatican make joint approach in this matter to German authorities pointing out deep concern aroused by statements attributed to Goebbels in DAS Reich on January 21 indicating lives of Jews in camps in extreme danger and pointing out disastrous reactions on German reputation which would result if they come to harm. No reply received yet from Swedish Minister Bern but Richert reports Papal Nuncio considers such approach not only useless but might under present conditions produce effect contrary to its intentions. Same opinion expressed by Swiss Minister Berlin.

Swedish Government keenly aware of dangers and all their implications. I was assured by Post that they are examining every possibility for useful action. Fact that Swedish Government has made these exploratory suggestions to Vatican and Swiss Government should be kept secret and given no publicity.

There exists bare possibility Intercross might be able to take some action. Richert expressed opinion it is only possible body which could be employed.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington 25, D. C.

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February 21, 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

The Swedish press has recently reported that the present regime in Slovakia headed by Dr. Josef Tiso has undertaken the registration of all Jews preliminary to their deportation. It is further reported that there are about 15,000 Jews remaining in Slovakia whose deportation is being pressed by the German Government.

President Roosevelt in establishing the War Refugee Board clearly announced the intention of the United States Government to take every action within its power to preserve the lives of those who suffer at the hands of our enemies and to rescue those whose lives are in imminent danger. In furtherance of these humanitarian objectives we earnestly seek your good offices in presenting to the Holy See the request of the War Refugee Board which has full support of this Department that efforts be made to persuade Dr. Tiso and his associates to refrain from further aiding and abetting the Nazis in their persecution of the Jews.

This Government views most seriously and will take into account in the future any part which Dr. Tiso or his associates may play in the deportation and persecutions of the Jews in Slovakia.

In view of the urgency of the matter it is possible that the Holy See may wish to express simultaneously its own views on the threatened deportations.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, JR.

His Excellency

The Most Reverend

Amleto Giovanni Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,

The Apostolic Delegate,

Washington.

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DOCUMENT

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

United States of America

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42.

This No. should be prefixed
to the answer

February 26, 1944.

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

Referring to your letter of February 21, 1944, and my reply of February 23, 1944, concerning the welfare of the Jews remaining in Slovakia, I beg to inform you that I am in receipt of a reply from the Cardinal Secretary of State on this question.

His Eminence, the Cardinal, states that he has interested the Papal Representative in Bratislava in the condition of these Jews. The Representative sent a communication to the Secretariate of State to the effect that, although the present condition of the Jews in Slovakia is indeed sad and still uncertain, the census that was taken had only one purpose, the investigation of certain specific suspicions. Furthermore, according to a promise from the President of the Republic, Dr. Josef Tiso, the Jews will not be persecuted, that is, will not be condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned and will be given opportunity and facilities to withdraw to some other country.

In bringing you this communication from the Apostolic Nuntiature in Bratislava I wish to assure you that the Holy See will continue its interest in the welfare of these unfortunate people.

With highest personal regard and sentiments of esteem, I beg to remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A.G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Acting Secretary of State
Departments of State
Washington, D. C.

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

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 3, 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letters of March 25, and March 31, 1944. In reply, I wish to express to you, on behalf of the War Refugee Board, its deep appreciation of your speedy action in invoking the assistance of the Holy See, and the Board's gratitude to the Holy See for its efforts to assist the suffering Jews in Hungary and Rumania.

I take this opportunity to draw your particular attention to the treatment of Jews in Slovakia. The attention of the War Refugee Board has been drawn to a letter addressed by the Apostolic Delegation to Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, of the World Jewish Congress, on February 26, 1944.

In this letter, it was stated that

"the Holy See has taken up the interests of these unfortunate people. It seems that the census was made for the purpose of investigating certain specific suspicions. It likewise appears that the President of the Republic has promised that the Jews will not be persecuted, that is, condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned and will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country.

"The Holy See will continue to take interest in the sad and uncertain condition of these unfortunate people."

In view of this Government's deep concern for the welfare of the Jews in Slovakia and elsewhere under Nazi domination, the War Refugee Board is happy to note the assurance contained in your letter to Dr. Perlzweig regarding the interest which the Holy See takes in their condition. At the same time, the common interest which the Government of the United States shares with the Holy See prompts me to bring to your attention the view that the assurances given by Dr. Tiso to the Holy See, referred to in the aforementioned letter to Dr. Perlzweig, are not of a nature to allay any fears regarding the fate of Jews in Slovakia.

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Thus, the assurance that "the census was made for the purpose of investigating certain specific suspicions", is not without ambiguity since it does not contain any specific indication as to the use to which the information gained by the census will be put.

Similarly, the assurance that Jews in Slovakia "will be given opportunity and facilities to go to some other country", is of uncertain meaning since it is susceptible to the interpretation that Dr. Tiso and his associates contemplate the deportation of Jews to Poland or elsewhere, in accordance with the pattern and for the purpose heretofore evidenced in other countries under Nazi domination.

Furthermore, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the clarification of the meaning of the statement that "the Jews will not be persecuted, that is, condemned to severe punishments, but will only be interned."

It is the view of the War Refugee Board that no assurances from Dr. Tiso and his associates could be considered adequate unless they include undertakings that Jews in Slovakia will not be persecuted, and that under no circumstances will they be removed from Slovakia to Germany or to any territory occupied by the German military forces.

These observations are submitted in the earnest hope that they may assist the Holy See in any conversations with Dr. Tiso or his associates proceeding from the Department of State's letter of February 21st last to the Apostolic Delegation with respect to the Jews in Slovakia.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)
J. W. PERLE
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington.

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DOCUMENT

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

No. 581/42

This No. Should be Prefixed to the Answer

April 25, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Referring to your letter of April 3, 1944, and my reply of April 4, 1944, I wish to inform you that I have received a reply to my communication to the Cardinal Secretary of State to the effect that Monsignor Burzio, Charge d' Affair of the Vatican, has been directed on acting for the interests of the Jewish people in Slovakia.

When further information about this matter is received, I shall immediately forward it to you.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A.G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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DOCUMENT

407

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

No. 581/42

This No. Should be Prefixed to the Answer

May 24, 1944

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Referring to your esteemed letter of April 3, 1944, regarding the treatment of Jews in Slovakia, I beg to inform you that I have received a communication from the Cardinal Secretary of State relative to this matter. I am informed that the Apostolic Nunciature in Slovakia has notified the Holy See that competent civil authorities in Slovakia have given assurances to the effect that the Government absolutely has no intentions of taking other measures against the Jews in that country, and that the question is considered as definitely settled.

Confidentially, the Apostolic Nunciature adds that, despite assurances, the possibility of new reprisals cannot be excluded. The Holy See will continue to interest itself in the welfare of these Jews and will do everything within its power to protect and assist them.

With sentiments of esteem and highest personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A.G. CICCONANI

Archbishop of Iaodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 21, 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

Referring to Mr. Stettinius' letter of February 21, 1944, and my letter of April 3, 1944, with respect to the plight of the Jews in Slovakia, I regret to report that information reaching the Board's representative at Bern indicates that the authorities in Slovakia are now resuming the forced deportation of Jews.

Since, however, the reservation contained in penultimate paragraph of your letter of May 24, 1944 (your No. 581/42) has been borne in mind, the renewal of deportations by Dr. Tiso and his associates has not been altogether unexpected. Nevertheless, the resumption of deportations by them makes it appropriate for the Board to reiterate that this Government views most seriously and will take into account in the future any part which Dr. Tiso or his associates have played in the deportation or other persecution of the Jews in Slovakia.

We are advised that Carol Sidor, a member of Dr. Tiso's entourage may yet be at Vatican City. I express the earnest hope that the Holy See may find it appropriate to inform Dr. Tiso through Mr. Sidor or other wise of the views of this Government.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend,
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington, D. C.

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DOCUMENT

409

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington 8, D.C.

No. 581/42

This No. Should be Prefixed to the Answer

September 23, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to acknowledge your esteemed communication of September 21, 1944, informing me that according to reports reaching the War Refugee Board the authorities in Slovakia have resumed the forced deportation of Jews.

I shall inform the Holy See without delay regarding the attitude of the Government of the United States in respect to all authorities responsible for such deportation or other persecution of Jews in Slovakia, and I trust that appropriate representations will result in some beneficial change in the situation.

For your confidential information I may state that just in these days I have received from Vatican City a delayed despatch, dated May 20, 1944, in answer to a particular request for news of certain Jewish persons interned at Theresienstadt, Bohemia. When the matter was presented by the Apostolic Nuncio in Berlin to the German Foreign Minister, he immediately replied that since the persons involved were Jews the German Government could not grant the request to furnish news of them. The Holy See informs me that in all similar cases it has been impossible to obtain any positive result in dealing with the German authorities.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A.G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

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DOCUMENT

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

United States of America

3339 Massachusetts Avenue

Washington, D.C.

October 2, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Pehle,

I have just received from the Vatican Secretariate of State a response to the radiogram which, as I advised in my letter of September 23rd, I despatched regarding the reported intensification of anti-Jewish measures by the Government of Slovakia. I am informed that, even prior to receipt of this communication, it had come to the attention of the Holy See that the situation of non-Aryans in Slovakia had become more critical. In consequence of these reports, the Holy See immediately made representations to the Slovakian Government, and at the same time exhorted the Bishops of Slovakia to increase their work of relief on behalf of the victims of racial discrimination. In addition, His Excellency, Mr. Myron C. Taylor, has been duly advised of the steps thus taken.

With sentiments of esteem and with every best wish I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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411

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

3339 Massachusetts Avenue

United States of America

Washington, D. C.

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

October 14, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have received the following communication from the Secretariate of State, Vatican City: The Holy See has continued its efforts in favor of the Jews in Slovakia. According to the Apostolic Nunciature in Bratislava, on October 5th the Minister of Foreign Affairs notified the German Legation that the Slovak Government could not consent to the deportation of Jews since they are under the protection of the Constitution and Laws of Slovakia.

Likewise, Mr. Carol Sidor wrote as follows to the Vatican: Jews having American citizenship, who have asked the protection of the Slovakian Government, have been gathered together and are living in a castle at Marianka where they are protected by Slovak police.

Referring to your letter of September 21, 1944, I wish to say that the Secretariate of State assures me that your message for Dr. Tiso has been transmitted to the Apostolic Nunciature in Bratislava.

Any further information that I receive concerning these matters will be forwarded to you immediately.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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412

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

3339 Massachusetts Avenue

United States of America

Washington 8, D.C.

November 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to convey to you the substance of a message recently received from the Secretariate of State, Vatican City:

The Apostolic Nunciature in Berlin has been directed to take further and insistent steps with the German Government to permit Jews interned in Germany, especially those from Lithuania, to receive packages containing food and clothing.

The Apostolic Nunciature in Bratislava has been directed to insist anew with President Tiso in the name of the Holy Father, who indicates the obligations incumbent upon him as a priest, that he act to protect the rights of Jews in Slovakia and to assure them of just and equitable treatment.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Under Secretary of State

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DOCUMENT

413

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Delegation, Vatican City
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: December 1, 1944
NUMBER: 393

See number 56 from the Department of the twenty sixth of October and 64 of the eleventh of November.

In reply to my communication a note dated the twenty sixth of November from the Vatican states that unfortunately Nunciature in Bratislava has not been able to secure data concerning the whereabouts of 400 Jews who were, in fact, transferred to Germany toward the middle of October from Slovakia. On being questioned repeatedly by Nunciature and local representatives of International Red Cross Committee, the Slovakian Government invariably responded that it was ignorant of the current whereabouts of these individuals.

In addition, the Vatican note states that Holy See has lately renewed its appeals through Nunciature to Slovakian Government that the Jews in Slovakia be treated in a humane and Christian manner and has approached the Slovakian Legation here in same sense expressing the regret that removal of Jews should have occurred contrary to assurances given before.

The Vatican note finally states that the Holy See will continue to do everything possible to relieve those suffering because of their race in the future, as in the past.

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

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 24 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

There is herewith transmitted a copy of the statement issued today by President Roosevelt.

Recent events have brought new tragedy to millions of people in Hungary and Rumania. The occupation of these countries by German military forces will spell added persecution, if not transportation and death, to nearly two million Jews unless the people and such native regimes as may continue to exist take measures to protect them. Consequently, the War Refugee Board earnestly seeks your good offices in presenting to the Holy See the suggestion that action by the Holy See, through the Nuncios or otherwise, may be effective to foster and facilitate the adoption of such measures of protection. The War Refugee Board is cognizant of the Holy See's deep interest in the welfare of these unfortunate people and ventures to hope that the Holy See will be able to take all appropriate action.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle

Acting Executive Director

His Excellency

The Most Reverend

Amleto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington.

Enclosure [Omitted. - Ed.]

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DOCUMENT

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

March 31, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In reply to my recent communication to the Cardinal Secretary of State, Vatican City, mentioned in my letter to you under date of March 25, 1944, I received the following message:

The Holy See has taken advantage of every possible occasion to bring assistance to suffering Jewish people. Sometime ago the Apostolic Nuncios in Bucharest and Budapest were called upon to interest themselves in the lot of unfortunate Jews in Rumania and Hungary. The Appeals to these Nuncios have been repeated from time to time and now further insistent recommendations are being made by the Holy See, although, sad to say, no great assurance can be given that they will succeed.

If other information regarding this matter reaches me, I shall notify you at once.

With assurance of highest personal regards and with sentiments of esteem, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

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DOCUMENT

416

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: May 26, 1944
NUMBER: 1819

For American Representative Harold H. Tittman, Jr., Vatican City.

Please deliver the following message from the Government of the United States to the Cardinal Secretary of State:

"The wave of hate which has engulfed Europe and the consequent mass persecution, enslavement, deportation and slaughter of helpless men, women, and children have, we know, sorely grieved His Holiness. We know also that His Holiness, with great compassion for the sufferings of a large portion of mankind has labored unceasingly to reinculcate a decent regard for the dignity of man. So, too, we know of His Holiness' tireless efforts to alleviate the lot of the persecuted, the hunted and the outcast. His Holiness, we are certain, is aware of the deep feeling of abhorrence which the persecutions, mass deportations, enslavements and slaughters in France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Balkans, Norway and elsewhere have aroused in the American people. His Holiness, we are confident, is also aware of the deep concern of the Government of the United States with respect to these reversions to usages of ancient barbarism, and of its constant efforts to prevent their recurrence.

In view of the common concern of the Holy See and the Government and people of the United States with such matters, we believe it appropriate to call to the Holy See's attention the seemingly authentic reports that the present authorities in Hungary have undertaken to persecute the 800,000 Jews in Hungary merely because they are Jews, and are planning their mass slaughter both in Hungary and after deportation to Poland. The Government of the United States has warned the authorities and people of Hungary of the material consequences that will follow the perpetration of such inhuman acts of barbarism. We believe, however, that it is both timely and fitting that the Hungarian authorities and people should be reminded of the moral values involved and of the spiritual consequences that must flow from indulgence in the persecution and mass-murder of helpless men, women and children. To that end we earnestly suggest that His Holiness may find it appropriate to express himself on this subject to the authorities and people of Hungary, personally by radio and through the Nuncio and clergy in Hungary as well as through a representative of the Holy See specially dispatched to Hungary for that purpose. His Holiness, we deeply hope,

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may find it possible to remind the authorities and people of Hungary, among whom great numbers profess spiritual adherence to the Holy See, of the spiritual consequences of such acts and of the ecclesiastic sanctions which may be applied to the perpetrators thereof."

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, 8, D. C.

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

July 7, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

- In recent weeks I have had various requests from Jewish organizations and individuals asking me to seek the intervention of the Holy Father in behalf of the persecuted Jews of Hungary.

I communicated these appeals to His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, stressing the desirability of public action in order that the Bishops, clergy and laity of Hungary would cooperate to impede the massacre and persecution of the Jewish population of that country.

His Eminence now replies that the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest has been carrying on an intense activity in behalf of the non-Aryan Hungarians, and in every way is seeking to aid and to protect them.

On Sunday, June 25th, the Holy Father addressed an open telegram to Regent Horthy to voice his personal appeal that the Regent do everything possible in favor of the many unfortunate persons who are suffering because of their race or nationality.

The Regent responded to this telegram, giving assurance that he will do everything in his power to cause the demands of humanitarian and Christian principles to prevail.

I have already communicated the substance of this letter to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, to the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, and to the Honorable Joseph M. Proskauer, President of The American Jewish Committee.

In each instance I have requested that no publicity be given to the foregoing lest untimely publication prove a detriment to the work of the Holy See for the cause of the Jewish people of Europe.

I take this occasion to assure you that the Holy Father personally, the Holy See and its Representatives throughout Europe

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will continue to take every possible measure to lessen and to impede the persecution of the Jewish people, and I ardently trust that their efforts will be productive of beneficial results.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely

(Signed)

A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

P. S. Just now I have received your letter of July 7, 1944, which I believe answered by the foregoing. AGC.

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DOCUMENT

418

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington 8, D. C.

July 24, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In further reference to my letter of July 7, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Hungary, I am pleased to inform you that I have received another communication on the subject from His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State.

His Eminence states that according to a communication of July 15, 1944, from the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest, the personal appeal of the Holy Father to Regent Horthy has lead /sic/ the latter to assume a more determined attitude of opposition to the racial laws. Likewise the members of the Catholic Hierarchy were encouraged to carry on a more intense activity in favor of victims of racial laws.

It seems that the Government of Hungary has now given assurance to His Eminence, Cardinal Seredi, Primate of Hungary, that deportations of Jewish people will cease. The Apostolic Nunciature adds that in fact the whole racial situation is somewhat improved.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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

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DOCUMENT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

419

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 20, 1944



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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

As you are undoubtedly aware from the press, the Jews remaining in Budapest and other parts of Hungary under German control, variously reported to number between 200,000 and 300,000, are once more threatened with imminent deportation and death.

The situation in those areas is now such that it seems unlikely that approaches to the Hungarian authorities would have any beneficial effect. On the other hand, the Board feels that a public appeal broadcast by the Holy See to the people and clergy of Hungary, urging them to aid to the utmost of their abilities the temporary concealment of Jews and to oppose deportation and extermination, may well save many lives.

In bringing this suggestion to your attention, the Board is confident that you will urgently transmit it, with your own favorable recommendation, to the Holy See. The warm interest which His Holiness and Your Excellency have shown in the past in the cause of the hapless Jews of Hungary makes us hopeful that, in the present critical situation, we may once more have your generous cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed)

J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle

Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington

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DOCUMENT

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
United States of America

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

NO. 581/42.

November 4, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 2, 1944, and I assure you that I have already transmitted the substance of your communication to the Holy See by radiogram. I am sure that everything possible will be done for these Jews.

I take this occasion to enclose a memorandum containing a message which I have just received from the Vatican relative to activity in favor of the Jews in Hungary.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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MEMORANDUM

In response to numerous appeals from various sources the Holy See, through the Secretariate of State, Vatican City, had transmitted the following definitive communication relative to activity in favor of the Jews in Hungary:

Whenever reports, that the situation of the Jews in Hungary was becoming worse, reached the Holy See, steps were immediately taken to assist these people and to alleviate their condition. The Holy See gives assurance that it will continue to act in favor of these Jews.

Following instructions from the Holy See the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest has repeatedly intervened with the Hungarian Authorities so that violent and unjust measures would not be taken against the Jews in that country. The Bishops of Hungary have engaged in intense activity in favor of persecuted Jews. The action on the part of the Nunciature and the Bishops will continue as long as it is necessary.

The twenty-ninth of October was designated as a day of prayer for refugees by His Eminence, Cardinal Seredi, Archbishop of Strigonia. The Holy Father took this occasion to a personal, open telegram to the Cardinal and in this communication His Holiness again manifested his heartfelt interest in promoting the welfare of all those who are exposed to violence and persecution because of their race or religion or on account of political motives.

The above communication clearly indicates the attitude of the Holy See relative to Jews suffering in Hungary and gives the assurance that the Holy Father will in the future, as he has in the past, do everything possible in favor of these people, whether they be in Hungary or in any other European country.

November 4, 1944.

Washington, D. C.

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OFFICE OF
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Mr. John Russell, Second Secretary of the British Embassy, has just called at the Department and left with us the attached copy of a telegram dated January 25 sent to the British Embassy here by the British Foreign Office. You will note that a reply is requested and we should greatly appreciate the advice of the War Refugee Board as to the reply.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
HAYDEN RAYNOR

Hayden Raynor,
Special Assistant to
the Under Secretary

Enc.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

000833

[Enclosure No. 1 to
letter from State Department.]

Executive officers of World Jewish Congress in London have for some time been pressing us to give favourable consideration to a proposal that United Nations should issue a new declaration concerning continuing execution of German policy of exterminating Jews in Europe. They have recently reverted to this proposal and in favour of it have maintained that deportation of Jews from Greece, Bulgaria, France and other parts of Europe and their mass execution in Poland are being systematically continued and that situation of Jews remaining in occupied territories and satellite countries is becoming increasingly perilous. They maintain that omission of any specific reference to crimes against Jews from Moscow declaration on German atrocities has caused deepest anxiety and disappointment among Jews throughout world.

2. H. M. G. are not in favour of issue of any new declaration specifically concerned with atrocities against Jews, their attitude in matter was made clear in their declaration of 17th Dec. 1942. There is nothing that could now be added to that declaration and it seems unlikely that any repetition of it would be any more successful than was original declaration in restraining Germans. There is little evidence that 1942 declaration perceptibly lessened persecution of Jews. On contrary it seemed to indicate to Germans a means whereby they could distress and embarrass Allies while among Jews it raised hopes and expectations of far-reaching action whose fulfillment has in circumstances of war proved impossible as U.S.G. will be aware from their experience at Bermuda conference and after. World Jewish Congress may be moved in part by a desire to secure from Allies some statement which they could represent as constituting a measure of recognition of separate national status for Jews.

3. Since however World Jewish Congress is mainly American in inspiration and in view of pressure which they will doubtless seek to bring to bear on U.S.G. in election year, we should prefer, before turning down present proposal, to have an indication of U.S.A.'s views and if possible some assurance that we may count upon their support, should a similar request be made to them.

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UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION

December 17, 1942

The attention of the Belgian, Czechoslovak, Greek, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norwegian, Polish, Soviet, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslav Governments and also of the French National Committee has been drawn to numerous reports from Europe that the German authorities not content with denying to persons of Jewish race in all the territories over which their barbarous rule has been extended, the most elementary human rights, are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft-repeated intention to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe.

From all the occupied countries Jews are being transported in conditions of appalling horror and brutality to Eastern Europe. In Poland, which has been made the principal Nazi slaughterhouse, the ghettos established by the German invader are being systematically emptied of all Jews except a few highly skilled workers required for war industries. None of those taken away are ever heard of again. The able-bodied are slowly worked to death in labor camps. The infirm are left to die of exposure and starvation or are deliberately massacred in mass execution. The number of victims of these bloody cruelties is reckoned in many hundreds of thousands of entirely innocent men, women and children.

The above-mentioned governments and the French National Committee condemn in the strongest possible terms this bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination. They declare that such events can only strengthen the resolve of all freedom-loving peoples to overthrow the barbarous Hitlerite tyranny. They reaffirm their solemn resolution to insure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape retribution, and to press on with the necessary practical measures to this end.

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COPY

DOCUMENT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
February 11, 1944

423



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Stettinius:

Reference is made to your letter of February 5, enclosing a copy of a telegram dated January 25 from the British Foreign Office to the British Embassy here, concerning the issuance of a declaration regarding Hitler's extermination of the Jews of Europe. The advice of the War Refugee Board is requested.

There are of course two important phases of carrying out the announced policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death. One is the taking of action designed to get the Hitlerite forces and particularly their subordinates and their satellites to cease committing atrocities against the Jews and other civilian victims of enemy savagery. The other is the taking of action designed to rescue the persecuted minorities of Europe from death despite the attitude of our enemies.

The essential feature of the first phase of this job, as I see it, is to convince the leaders and the people in Germany and Germany's satellites that this Government and other members of the United Nations view most seriously the policy being followed by the enemy and are determined to see to it that those responsible will be punished. This involves not only the making of appropriate statements and representations, but also making them under such circumstances as will convince the leaders and the people in enemy countries that we mean business and seeing to it that such statements are brought home to these groups.

A program of this character offers the best potentialities for saving hundreds of thousands of lives. The number of persons we can reasonably hope to rescue despite the attitude of our enemies obviously can not be compared with the far greater number which might be saved from death by changing the attitude of enemy governments and particularly their functionaries and subordinates.

If it is a fact that, as the British state, there is little evidence that the 1942 declaration perceptibly lessened the persecution of the Jews, the question arises as to whether this declaration was issued under such circumstances and was given such publicity by the enemy countries as to maximize the effectiveness of what was said in the declaration.

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In this connection, it must be borne in mind that the 1942 declaration was issued at a time when Germany and her satellites had high hopes for victory. A declaration issued at a time when Germany and her satellites know they have lost the war has potentialities so great that it can hardly be compared with the declaration which was issued in 1942.

The statement by the British that the 1942 declaration seemed to indicate to the Germans a means whereby they could distress and embarrass the Allies is not fully understood. So long as any government participating in such a declaration is determined to do all in its power to prevent the murder of the Jews, and this fact is made clear to the Germans by action as well as words, it is difficult to see how any such statement could embarrass such government. On the other hand, if the position of such government is that expressed by certain British officials to our Embassy in London in December (see Cable 8717 from Winant, December 15) - in simple terms that they were apparently willing to accept the probable death of thousands of Jews in enemy territory because of "the difficulties of disposing of any considerable number of Jews should they be rescued" - and if this attitude is known to the Germans by virtue of the actions if not the words of such government, then the contention that a declaration might embarrass such government has some significance.

With respect to the statement on the punishment of atrocities issued at the Moscow Conference, there is merit in the contention that if this declaration had specifically mentioned the atrocities against the Jews, Hitler and his cohorts might have been more convinced of our attitude on their treatment of these people. In this connection, it is noted that the British themselves place chief reliance on the 1942 declaration rather than the Moscow declaration. In view of the fact that Hitler has always specially singled out the Jews - reserving, as Secretary Hull stated in his address before Congress on November 18, "for the Jews his most brutal wrath" - there is much to be said for the fact that any statement on our part which omits any specific reference to the Jews loses much of its effectiveness in Germany and among her satellites by reason of the omission.

We are now mapping out a program of action which we feel that this Government might take designed to get Germany and her satellites to desist in their persecution of the Jews and other minority groups in Europe. In this connection, we have been actively considering the issuance of a strong declaration relating specifically to the murder of the Jews.

We expect to have ready in the near future for submission

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to the members of the Board a declaration which we feel might be issued by this Government. It is anticipated, of course, that the declaration would be issued by the President.

In the meantime, it is suggested that a reply along the lines of the attached be sent to the British Embassy here. This reply has been cleared with the Treasury Department and, upon receipt of your approval, I will be glad to clear it with the War Department. When the reply is sent to the British, it is suggested that you send the text of the reply, together with the text of this letter, to Ambassador Winant for his use in discussing this matter with the British in London.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures to Mr. McCloy of the War Department.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)
J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Enclosure

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.,
Under Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM

The War Refugee Board has considered the message recently received from the British Embassy at Washington inquiring as to the views of the United States Government with respect to the issuance of a new declaration by the United Nations concerning the continuing execution of the German policy of exterminating Jews in Europe.

The War Refugee Board, which has been charged with carrying out the announced policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, has under consideration the type of action which this Government might take, designed to prevail upon enemy-governments and particularly their subordinates and satellite governments to desist from persecution of the Jews and other minority groups in Europe.

The War Refugee Board has under active consideration the issuance by this Government of a strong declaration relating specifically to the murder of the Jews. It is the view of the Board that the leaders and people in Germany and in the satellite countries must be convinced that this Government and other members of the United Nations view most seriously the policy being followed by the enemy and are determined to see to it that those responsible will be punished. The Board believes that appropriate statements and representations should be pressed home to those to whom they are directed and should be issued under such circumstances as to achieve maximum effectiveness.

The reasoning of the Board is that a program of this character offers the best potentialities for saving thousands of lives. The number of persons who can be rescued despite the exit controls imposed by the enemy will be small in comparison to the number of persons who would be saved from death in the occupied areas if the policy of enemy governments could be changed. Obviously no step can be left untaken which might serve to change this policy or to weaken the will or their functionaries and subordinates to carry it out.

The Board having considered the comment of the British Government with respect to the ineffectiveness of the 1942 declaration, points out that the 1942 declaration was issued at a time when Germany had high hopes of victory. In contrast a declaration issued when Germany and the satellite governments know that they have lost the war has infinitely greater potentialities. Further, the Board lacked sufficient information for full understanding of the comment of the British Government that the 1942 declaration seemed to indicate to the Germans a means whereby they could distress and embarrass the Allies. In its view no embarrassment can possibly result to United Nations governments, participating in such a declaration under discussion, determined to do all in their power.

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to prevent the murder of Jews. The Board has confidence that action on the projects currently under discussion between the British and United States Governments will serve to press this determination home effectively to the Germans.

The issuance of such a declaration is under active consideration by the War Refugee Board and when a decision has been reached the British Government will be informed. In the event that an affirmative decision is taken by the Government of the United States, the British Government may wish to reconsider the position stated in the message under discussion in order that they may take parallel action.

Department of State,
Washington.

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424

THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE DECLARATION OF GERMAN ATROCITIES

November 1, 1943

The United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union have received from many quarters evidence of atrocities, massacres and cold-blooded mass executions which are being perpetrated by the Hitlerite forces in the many countries they have overrun and from which they are now being steadily expelled. The brutalities of Hitlerite domination are no new thing and all the peoples or territories in their grip have suffered from the worst form of government by terror. What is new is that many of these territories are now being redeemed by the advancing armies of the liberating Powers and that in their desperation, the recoiling Hitlerite Huns are redoubling their ruthless cruelties. This is now evidenced with particular clearness by monstrous crimes of the Hitlerites on the territory of the Soviet Union which is being liberated from the Hitlerites, and on French and Italian territory.

Accordingly, the aforesaid three allied Powers, speaking in the interests of the thirty-two /thirty-three/ United Nations, hereby solemnly declare and give full warning of their declaration as follows:

At the time of the granting of any armistice to any government which may be set up in Germany, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi party who have been responsible for, or have taken a consenting part in the above atrocities, massacres and executions, will be sent back to the countries in which their abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the laws of these liberated countries and of the free governments which will be created therein. Lists will be compiled in all possible detail from all these countries having regard especially to the invaded parts of the Soviet Union, to Poland and Czechoslovakia, to Yugoslavia and Greece, including Crete and other islands, to Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy.

Thus, the Germans who take part in wholesale shooting of Italian officers or in the execution of French, Dutch, Belgian or Norwegian hostages or of Cretan peasants, or who have shared in the slaughters inflicted on the people of Poland or in territories of the Soviet Union which are now being swept clear of the enemy, will know that they will be brought back to the scene of their crimes and judged on the spot by the peoples whom they have outraged. Let those who have hitherto not

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imbrued their hands with innocent blood beware lest they join the ranks of the guilty, for most assuredly the three allied Powers will pursue them to the uttermost ends of the earth and will deliver them to their accusers in order that justice may be done.

The above declaration is without prejudice to the case of the major criminals, who offences have no particular geographical localisation and who will be punished by the joint decision of the Governments of the Allies.

ROOSEVELT
CHURCHILL
STALIN

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425

TELEGRAM SENT

Amlegation
Bern
991, Twenty-fourth

Plain
March 24, 1944

For the Minister from the War Refugee Board.

Tonight's radio bulletin contains an important statement by the President on refugees and Nazi persecutions.

The War Refugee Board is convinced that it is of utmost importance to undertake at once an organized and concentrated effort to make clear, by all appropriate means, to all Axis satellites that the Allied Governments view in a most serious light their assistance in any form to Hitler's program to exterminate the Jews, and other similar groups, regarding all such action as criminal participation in organized murder. The Board also believes it necessary to make clear to the satellites by all possible means, its intention to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death, in order not only to give the satellites a clear view of the attitude of this country in the matter, but also of the opportunities which exist for assisting in the execution of our policy. The Board feels very strongly that a campaign of this kind must be made through all possible channels and be constantly repeated at every available opportunity.

You are requested to see that the utmost publicity be immediately given to the President's statement in local newspapers, radio, and in any other manner feasible. Please make every endeavor to have this publicity included on such radio broadcasts for foreign consumption as may emanate from the country to which you are accredited. It would be extremely helpful if you could obtain favorable comment from prominent governmental or other personages with respect to the statement for use in connection with the publicity program.

For your information, in view of the importance of the statement and the program which it implements, the Office of War Information expects to employ its full facilities in calling this matter and appropriate comment thereon to the attention of Axis, satellite and other countries.

You are requested to report by cable as soon as possible the measures you have taken to comply with these instructions together with the results thereof. Significant clippings and official comment should be sent by airmail. It must be borne in mind that the effectiveness of this statement will depend in large measure upon the extent to which adequate publicity can be obtained for it, particularly in German controlled Europe.

This cable has been cleared with the Office of War Information.

HULL
(GLW)

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DOCUMENT

426

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, London
DATED: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 3934

American Embassy in Moscow has been informed of the contents of your 3641 of May 4 and has been requested to endeavor to have Russian broadcasts in appropriate languages beamed on Germany and German-satellite countries transmit warnings to German and German-satellite military and civilian personnel carrying out deportation proceedings that they personally will be held responsible by the United Nations for their actions and the deaths that may result from deportation. The Russian Foreign Office is also being approached in an attempt to use its influence upon the satellite governments and populations by all possible means to cause their resistance to German demands for the deportation and persecution of minority groups under their control.

Please make similar endeavors with regard to the Ministry of Information and the Foreign Office. Please consult with Schoenfeld in this matter with a view to having Czech Government request Moscow to take all possible action to protect Czech nationals in Sub-Carpatho-Russia.

For your information, the OWI transmitters are carrying similar warnings. The Embassy at Ankara states that the Turk Consul at Budapest had sent the Foreign Office word that every Jew entering Turk Consulate there was arrested as soon as he left and transported to an unknown place.

The Vatican is being approached with a view to obtaining its support in applying pressure on satellites, particularly Hungary, in this matter.

Action being taken on your 3642 through Ankara.

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DOCUMENT

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Amlegation
Bern
2215, twenty-ninth

Plain
June 29, 1944

The cable below is for Harrison and McClelland from War Refugee Board.

The following is the text of a statement by Francis J. Spellman, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, released today by the OWI. This statement will, of course, be short-waved to appropriate areas but such additional use as may be made of it by local papers and radio stations will be helpful, and to this end please make appropriate efforts. Text follows:

QUOTE: Almost on the feast of Pentecost, the day on which the Church of Christ emphasizes the supranational, supraracial character of her mission, we learned that the government of Hungary had agreed to enforce against the Jewish people a code of discriminatory laws. We were told that this unhappy segment of Israel in Hungary is being herded into Ghettos after its homes and its shops had been systematically looted and pillaged.

This announcement has shocked all men and women who cherish a sense of justice and of human sympathy. It is in direct contradiction of the doctrines of the Catholic Faith professed by the vast majority of the Hungarian people. It is a negation of the noblest pages of Hungarian history and cultural tradition.

Through the stormy ages Hungarian Catholics have been loyal to the lofty principles of justice, mercy and charity proclaimed by Our Divine Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. They have been steadfast whether under attack by the Mongols and the Turks in centuries past or in our own times under the bitter persecution of Bela Kun and his cruel cohorts.

It seems incredible, therefore, that a nation which has been so consistently true to the impulses of human kindness and the teachings of the Catholic Church should now yield to a false, pagan code of tyranny because of blood and race. How can men of good will fail to heed those solemn words of Pope Pius XI: INNERQUOTE Abraham is called our patriarch, our ancestor. Anti-semitism is not compatible with the sublime reality of this text. It is a movement in which we Christians cannot share. Spiritually we are Semites. END INNERQUOTE

One of the great lessons to be learned from the life of Hungary's king and Patron Saint is that no minority should be oppressed. For injustices of whatever kind can wreck and destroy the integrity of any nation's life.

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Nearly a thousand years ago, St. Stephen, King of Hungary, received his crown from Pope Sylvester II. He realized that Hungary was destined by the very exigencies of geography to be the crossroads of Europe where diverse racial stocks would necessarily meet. St. Stephen pledged himself and his people to live as common children of a loving mother country.

The same saintly national hero dreamed always of Hungary as a `INNERQUOTE regnum Marianum; END INNERQUOTE` as a realm of Mary. To this day, the coinage and the postage stamps of the country bear the figure of Mary, the Mother of Mankind. It would be all the more tragic, therefore, if a people so devoted to Mary, the Jewish Maiden who was the Mother of the Messiah, should freely countenance cruel laws calculated to despoil and annihilate the race from which Jesus and Mary sprang.

It is incredible that a people with such profound Christian faith, with its glorious history, with the oldest parliamentary tradition on the Continent, would join in a hymn of hatred and willingly submit to the blood lust and brigandage of tyranny.

No man can love God and hate his brother. No one who hates his brother can be a faithful follower of the gentle Christ. `UNQUOTE`

You are authorized to bring this statement to the attention of Hungarian and other satellite authorities through such channels as may be available to you.

Sent to Bern. Repeated to Ankara, Lisbon, Madrid and Stockholm.

HULL

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DOCUMENT

428

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

June 29, 1944
7 p.m.

Amembassy,
Ankara.
583

Congressman Bloom, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, has introduced the following resolution in the House:

QUOTE Recognizing that the United States Government has demonstrated its determination to take all measures within its power to rescue Jews and other victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death at the hands of Nazis by its actions; and

Recognizing that full advantage has not been taken of the great opportunities for the evacuation of refugees in the Balkan countries through Turkey, be it therefore Resolved:

That the Secretary of State be requested by the House of Representatives of the United States to urge that the Government of Turkey facilitate, in the interests of humanity, the entry of refugees who can escape from the Nazis into Turkey and establish a refugee camp in which such persons can be temporarily sheltered on its territory. UNQUOTE

If it will be helpful, in your discretion, this pending resolution may be used by you in bringing further pressure on the Turkish Government and given local publicity.

This is WRB cable to Ankara No. 58.

HULL
(G.L.W.)

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AMEMBASSY,
CIRCULAR, JUNE TWENTY-EIGHT

The cable below is from War Refugee Board.

The following is the text of a resolution which was unanimously approved today by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives:

QUOTE Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby expresses its deep concern over the plight of the threatened millions in Nazi-occupied and Nazi-dominated territories. The House of Representatives expresses its approval of the activities of the War Refugee Board, which is facilitating the actual rescue of persons so exposed, furnishing relief to such persons by making available food and other supplies, and attempting to influence through psychological and other measures the attitudes of both the leaders and rank and file populations in those territories where extermination of minority groups is imminent, and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives is not content merely to join with those who have expressed their horror at the barbarism of the governments involved in the cruelties herein condemned, but hereby expresses its determination that the criminals who are guilty of this inhuman conduct shall be brought to justice, and hereby requests the Secretary of State to convey, through such means as he may find appropriate, this concern and determination of the House of Representatives. This concern and determination, while addressed to all Nazi-controlled territories, is particularly directed to Hungary, where the lives of a million Jews hang in the balance. At this historic moment, when the tide of military battle has turned decisively in favor of the United Nations, the House of Representatives of the United States of America calls upon the Nazis and all their satellites to stem the tide of inhumanity toward helpless peoples. UNQUOTE.

You are requested to convey the contents of this resolution to the appropriate authorities and to use all possible means to give the resolution the widest possible publicity, particularly in Europe. The cooperation of OWI should be solicited.

In addition, through such channels as may be available to you, this action of the House of Representatives should be brought to the attention of the Hungarian Government.

Sent to London. Repeated to Ankara, Madrid, Lisbon, Stockholm, and Bern.

HULL
(GLW)

000848

DOCUMENT

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

July 15, 1944
11 p.m.

Amlegation
Stockholm
Circular

QUOTE We solemnly declare that the Hungarian people in their
immense majority condemn with horror and disgust the abominable crimes
perpetrated by Hungarian Quislings and their subordinates against the
Jews and other people in Hungary.

QUOTE We emphasize that these crimes are committed in flagrant
violation of the Christian, humanitarian and liberty loving spirit
and tradition of true Hungarians.

QUOTE Consequently, we have felt it our duty to give a solemn
warning to all Hungarians from the highest to the lowest and remind
hereby every Hungarian who may be a perpetrator of or an accessory
to these crimes, that he will have to bear full responsibility for
his acts and will not be permitted to invoke as an extenuating cir-
cumstance the fact that he has only carried out orders of a superior
authority.

QUOTE We address ourselves to all true Hungarians who condemn
these ignominious cruelties and request them to extend all possible
assistance to their persecuted and tortured fellow-countrymen. END
QUOTE

HULL
(HSF)

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: October 24, 1944
NUMBER: 3618

The following from Department and War Refugee Board is for Harrison and McClelland.

Reference is made to Secretary Hull's statement of October 10, 1944, reported in the Radio Bulletin of the same date.

For your information, Governor Thomas E. Dewey, Republican candidate for President, issued the following statement on October 19, 1944:

QUOTE Information comes to this country from unquestionably reliable sources that the Nazis, trapped and knowing that they are faced with inevitable defeat, are now resorting to the known gangster terror device of threatening to exterminate their very victims — Poles, Jews and other non-German nationals — now imprisoned by them in their horrible concentration camps in parts of Poland and other countries still occupied by the Nazis.

The civilized world is now in a position in unmistakable terms to warn the Nazis — military commanders, members of the German Government, their aides, abettors and supporters — that certain and inevitable justice awaits them for these brutal and wanton murders if their schemes should be carried out.

I am happy to note that our State Department has issued a warning that INNERQUOTE if these plans are carried out those guilty of such murderous acts will be brought to justice and pay the penalty for their heinous crimes END INNERQUOTE American public opinion will fully support the statement issued by our Department of State. UNQUOTE.

You are requested to convey the contents of the foregoing statements to the appropriate authorities and to use all possible means to give the statements the widest publicity through any channels that may be available to you.

This is WRB cable No. 231.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

432

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 6, 1945



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Davis:

Reference is made to my letter to you of October 31, 1944, and to Mr. Walter Carroll's letter to me of November 4, 1944, regarding the psychological warfare measures which can be taken to counteract the ever increasing Nazi ruthlessness which has already caused the deaths of millions of innocent persons, particularly those of the Jewish faith.

Since the above exchange of letters, information available to the Board points to mounting evidence that within the rank and file of German officialdom, confusion and division of views have set in with regard to the Jewish question. Officials on the spot, whether because of fear of punishment, because of a desire to establish an alibi, or because of defects in the Nazi machinery of control, do not seem so determined as they were formerly to follow to the letter instructions from the authorities in Berlin with regard to the treatment of Jews. On the other hand, the policy of the central German authorities has, if anything, grown even more ruthless. Apparently it is the German policy to exterminate the Jews still alive in German controlled territory as such territory is evacuated in the face of Allied advances. Thus, it is ironically true that the danger to these Jews increases with every Allied military success.

Our reports point to the over-riding importance of increasing at this time the psychological warfare pressure on the local Nazi and satellite officials. Heavy emphasis on General Eisenhower's statement of November 8, 1944, a copy of which is attached, would be particularly helpful. In this connection I am sure you will be interested in knowing that reports which the Board has received from Hungary indicate that your programs played an important role in halting the deportations of Jews from Hungary.

For your assistance in formulating a psychological warfare program along the lines mentioned above, there is indicated below the principal concentrations of Jews remaining in German controlled territory according to the most recent information available to the Board:

Lodz, Poland	60,000 - 80,000
Terezin (Theresienstadt) Czecho- slovakia	40,000 - 60,000

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Various labor camps near Vienna	18,000
Hungarian Jews in labor camps, presumably on the Austro-Hungarian border, in Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Southern Germany	100,000 - 200,000
Belsenbergen, near Hanover, Germany	1,000 - 2,000
Lithuanian Jews in labor camps in East Prussia	16,000

In view of the urgency of this matter, I would appreciate an early reply to this letter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Hon. Elmer Davis, Director
Office of War Information
Social Security Building
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

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433

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

January 12, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Your letter of January 6, 1945, drawing to our attention the latest information on the concentration of Jews remaining in German territory, is much appreciated. The OWI will give very careful attention to your suggestion about preparing our German programs in such a way as to have the greatest possible effect in preserving the lives of these likely victims of Nazi persecution.

I am very glad to know that information from Hungary indicates that our programs have assisted in halting the deportations of Jews from Hungary to Germany. I agree with you that the closing period of the war will probably bring more ruthlessness on the part of the German authorities and that we must do everything in our power to combat such actions. Your suggestions will be carefully considered in preparing our German output.

Sincerely,

(Signed)
WALLACE CARROLL

Wallace Carroll
Deputy Director, Area I
Overseas Operations

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

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 6, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There are persistent reports and widespread fear, based on considerable internal evidence, that the Nazis will undertake a last minute orgy of vengeance and sadism against civilian detainees, especially Jews, remaining under their control. With the chaos and disorganization occurring in Germany now, the Nazi goal of extermination for these people can and is being realized by deliberate starvation and exposure, as well as by murder in cold blood. It is feared that the systematic Nazi program for mass extermination of these people, in a frenzied last minute vengeful outburst, will be carried out not only by the Nazi hierarchy but by organized or roving bands of terrorists and by individual Germans.

The War Refugee Board presents this situation to the State Department for its serious and immediate consideration. It is our strong recommendation that a new warning be issued by this Government now, directed not only toward the Nazi hierarchy but towards all groups and individuals in Germany. Such a warning should state that this Government considers death caused by deliberate neglect and starvation the same as murder in cold blood; that such acts are war crimes and that all who share the guilt, wherever and whenever they may be, will be sought out and punished.

The warning might also include or refer to the following which was expressed by the President in his statement of March 24, 1944:

"Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal desires. Let him hide these persecuted victims, help them to get over their borders, and

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do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict them." "

Very truly yours,

(Signed)
WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amlegation, Bern
DATED: April 29, 1944
NUMBER: 1498

From War Refugee Board for Harrison.

This is WRB Bern Cable No. 10.

Following for Intercross:

QUOTE In full agreement with interested American welfare agencies War Refugee Board requests Intercross to approach the German and satellite governments, through appropriate and expedient channels, to bring about with respect to Jews and other persons, detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion, or political belief (1) treatment equal to that accorded civilian internees to whom Geneva Convention is currently applied by analogy or (2) equal treatment of such persons to the extent at least that reception and distribution of packages under Intercross supervision be permitted them under guarantees equal to those in effect with respect to the civilian internees referred to in (1) above. War Refugee Board feels strongly that (1) above is preferable and suggests that (2) should be only if in the judgment of Intercross (1) is unobtainable.

Furthermore, War Refugee Board requests Intercross to make every effort to obtain, wherever possible, for Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression (who though they may not be physically interned have been singled out for persecution) facilities and opportunities to obtain food and other necessities on the basis of equality with the local population both from local or domestic sources and through Intercross channels. In addition, War Refugee Board calls attention to the Board's efforts to bring Jews and other persecuted persons out of German controlled territory in as large numbers as possible. The Board urges that Intercross, through appropriate approaches to the German and other authorities in German controlled territory and through any other means possible, do what it can to assist the departure of these persecuted peoples to neutral countries.

The Board is cognizant of unceasing efforts of Intercross in the direction of making this general program a reality and is appreciative of the humanitarian activities of Intercross. The Board is ready to assist Intercross in every way to effectuate the realization of all of the foregoing UNQUOTE.

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Following for Harrison.

War Refugee Board considers the proposed approaches to the German and other authorities through Intercross are of utmost importance to the success of its program. In view of recent military developments, including the reported situation in Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania, the Board is convinced that special emphasis should be placed on efforts to persuade the Germans to improve the condition of Jews and other similar groups within occupied territories. Accordingly, you are requested to do everything possible to support the proposals being made to Intercross. If at any time you believe that the Swiss Government would be willing to make similar approaches to the Germans or otherwise assist in the program outlined herein, you are authorized informally to make a request for such action to the Swiss on behalf of this Government.

HULL

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 3144

A fifteen paragraph letter dated May 12 has been received from the President of IRC, Mr. Max Huber, in reply to my May 2 letter which contained information set forth in April 29 telegram No. 1498 from the Department. My May 17 telegram No. 3147 transmitted first thirteen paragraphs of text of Huber's letter under reference, in which "subjects" means "the Jews"; "umpire" means "German authorities"; "league" means "world Jewish Congress"; "respondents" mean "the International Committee of the Red Cross"; and "inquirer" means "War Refugee Boards".

The following is a paraphrase of paragraph fourteen: Nevertheless so far as conditions permitted IRC have been instrumental in facilitating emigration of Jews from some southeastern European countries to Palestine. Memorandum dated May 5 describing work done has been furnished U. S. Legation at Bern by us. (Note from Legation: If and when mailing facilities permit, copy will be forwarded by microfilm.) As regards responsibility which we can assume primarily in matter of safe conduct for vessels it does not depend upon ourselves but rather on interested governments and on circumstances.

As regards fifteenth paragraph: It is desire of IRC that War Refugee Board be informed but that since any publicity can be prejudicial to some persons we are trying to help, it requests that communication be kept confidential.

HARRISON

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Plain
Bern

DATED: May 17, 1944

REC'D: 3:23 a.m. 18th

Secretary of State
Washington
3147, Seventeenth

One. I beg to thank you sincerely for your kind letter of 2 May, 1944, in which you reproduce message from INQUIRER requesting respondents to approach certain governments with view to obtaining for subjects and other persons interned treatment comparable with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom Geneva Convention relative to treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy or failing such treatment that such persons be placed on equal footing with civilian internees as regards permission to receive relief.

Two. We desire in first place to point out that steps of this nature by respondents would go far beyond limits of their traditional capacity and that governments to whom such request might be addressed would not fail to view this proposal from that particular angle.

Three. In provisions of international agreements respondents have only slender basis upon which to found their humanitarian activities. Latter are therefore dependent upon goodwill of belligerent states and can only take practical shape insofar as they are accepted or solicited by governments concerned.

Four. Consequently respondents might lay themselves upon to objection that they were going beyond limits of their competences and trespassing upon internal concerns of state should they attempt to act on behalf of certain categories of persons whom that state considered to be subject exclusively to its domestic legislation.

Five. Exceptional position of respondents as neutral intermediary between belligerent countries precludes their seeking other solutions than those which offer practical hope of realization through appropriate action in quarters where best results may be expected.

Six. The proposal contained in point one of message from INQUIRER has we may add been submitted on several occasions to respondents by League. On each occasion respondents were obliged to answer the numerous endeavors they had made on behalf of subjects had invariably met with negative answer with exception of certain concessions with regards to relief measures.

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Seven. Under these circumstances we must admit that application by respondents to umpire in this matter would not only have no prospect of success but might even in eyes of umpire appear - quite unjustifiable - dictated by political rather than by humanitarian motives.

Eight. We deeply regret having to confine ourselves to purely relief activities on behalf of persons who do not enjoy protection of convention applicable to prisoners of war and civilian internees. This circumstance is not due to absence of endeavors of all kinds by respondents on behalf of such persons - irrespective of race - with view to their assimilation with civilian internees by reason of their enemy nationality. Unfortunately not one of these approaches has been successful.

Nine. As regards point two respondents are compelled in view of experiences in this field to admit likewise fact that such application would be considered incompatible with domestic legislation of detaining power and moreover would constitute serious menace not only to general activities of respondents on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees but also endanger limited possibilities which we enjoy of assisting few groups of persons who are not protected either directly or by analogy by international conventions. Respondents must it will be remembered take extreme care that province in which belligerents have accepted our ministrations should not be closed to future action.

Ten. Same observation applies to proposal contained in last paragraph of message from INQUIRER "to rescue from the occupied areas subjects and other persons who are victims of persecution". Any such attempt by respondents would at once have most unfortunate consequences for their entire work - an eventuality which they cannot conscientiously envisage.

Eleven. Since repeated and conclusive experience in this field leads us to suppose that any steps of this kind would not only be altogether fruitless but might even do more harm than good respondents must to their regret abide by proposals they have already submitted to authorities in Washington and to Inter-Governmental Committee in London. After careful consideration of problem and exploration of all avenues in other fields of action respondents are in other words compelled to confine themselves strictly to relief work within limits which circumstances prescribe.

Twelve. Scheme for relief of civilian war victims irrespective of race and religion with which INQUIRER is familiar is to our mind and for present only province in which action by respondents can produce useful results. Moreover scope of such action can be widened in obedience to conditions prevailing only insofar as publicity of any kind is avoided. In this connection we are happy to stress fact that respondents have achieved encouraging results in field of relief work. It was largely due to kind support given to our suggestions by INQUIRER short time ago

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that relief activities on behalf of subjects in certain countries could be undertaken. This work is worth being pursued.

Thirteen. As regards other countries mentioned in message of INQUIRER and in which respondents are also engaged actively here too we must confine ourselves to questions of purely material relief and we shall be pleased to receive as soon as possible any assistance INQUIRER is able to give us with view to our taking practical action along lines we have submitted to their consideration on behalf of civilian war victims without distinction of race or creed.

HARRISON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington 25, D.C.

June 24, 1944

My dear Archbishop:

In recent months, the Holy See, and Your Excellency personally have given the Government of the United States repeated indications of the concern with which you view the persecution of Jews in territories controlled by Germany and her satellites, and of your readiness to take measures intended to alleviate the sufferings of these victims of oppression. Consequently, this Government feels it appropriate to refer to you another aspect of the persecution of Jews in Axis-controlled areas in Europe.

As you are aware, the food situation is desperate for Jews and other persons detained in camps by the German and satellite governments for reasons of race, religion or political belief. These people are exposed to starvation and are in imminent danger of death. This Government feels strongly that steps should be taken at once to sustain their lives. Specifically, it is felt that the plight of these suffering people would be greatly alleviated if Germany and the satellite governments would permit them to receive treatment equal to that presently being accorded to assimilated civilian internees of American and British nationalities. It is the hope of this Government to secure this treatment in full or at least in part -- a hope undoubtedly shared by the Holy See and by you personally.

In view of the extremely critical condition of these people, this Government would greatly appreciate it if you would be so good as to present this matter to the urgent attention of the Holy See. It is hoped that the Holy See will find it feasible and appropriate to use its good offices with the German and satellite governments to bring about, with respect to Jews and other persons detained, interned or otherwise confined because of race, religion or political belief, (1) treatment equal to that accorded civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention is currently applied by analogy, or (2) equal treatment of such persons to the extent at least that reception and distribution of packages under the International

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington, D.C.

000262

Red Cross supervision be permitted them under guarantees equal to those in effect with respect to the civilian internees referred to in (1) above.

We feel strongly that (1) above is preferable and suggest that (2) should be thought only if in the judgment of the Holy See (1) is unobtainable.

In view of the generous interest and sustained activity of the Holy See on behalf of all persecuted minorities, it is hoped that this matter may be given favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, JR.

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION

3339 Massachusetts Avenue

Washington, D.C.

July 27, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

In further reference to your note of June 24, 1944, concerning the status of Jews interned in Germany and other Axis-controlled countries, I am pleased to inform you of the content of a communication just received from His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State.

His Eminence informs me that the Holy See hastened to ask the interest of the Apostolic Nunciatures in Germany, Roumania, Hungary, and Slovakia, for the purpose of obtaining for the unfortunate internees in question treatment similar to that granted to civilian internees to whom the provisions of the Geneva Convention are applied by analogy.

To the present His Eminence has received a response from the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest, informing him that the Government of Hungary will authorize the sending of packages of foodstuffs through the channels of the Red Cross to persons interned in concentration camps.

I am confident that as soon as other replies are received from the various Nunciatures His Eminence will inform me of their content, and I shall be happy to transmit them to you.

With the assurances of my highest consideration and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)
A. G. CICOGNANI

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Under Secretary of State

A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
1339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

No. 581/42

July 31, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

Following my note of July 27, 1944, on the subject of the status of civilian internees in Germany and other Axis-controlled countries, I received another communication from His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State.

His Eminence informs me that the Apostolic Nunciature in Berlin has expressly treated the question with the German Government in an effort to obtain more favorable treatment for Jewish and other internees confined to concentration camps. The Apostolic Nuncio earnestly insisted that the status outlined in your letter of June 24, 1944, should be accorded to those persons who are interned for racial, religious or political belief.

In reply to these representations the German Government answered that the Protecting Powers have free access to concentration camps.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, and of my deep personal regard, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)

A. G. CICOGNANI

A. G. Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
Under Secretary of State

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441

LC-157
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement
(~~SECRET~~)

Bern
Dated December 7, 1944
Rec'd 5:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7998, December 7, 5 p.m.

FOR WEB FROM MCCLELLAND.

I have received assurances from Burckhardt now ICRC president that German Foreign Office was definitely approached on October 2 by committee with request that Reich Government consider extending to so called "schutzhaeftling" (detainees for security reasons) treatment granted by analogy to Geneva POW convention of 1929 to enemy nationals in Germany and German occupied territory. As of December one no answer had yet been received from Germans. Late in November when delegate of German Red Cross Hartmann was in Geneva this question was thoroughly discussed with him. German consul at Geneva was also urged a few days ago by ICRC to press German Foreign Office for an answer. (Department's 3925 November 18, WEB's 281).

I personally fear that little or no positive results will be forthcoming from this approach, past experience with Germans regarding similar questions, particularly the Jewish one, having shown fairly conclusively that neither German Foreign Office nor German Red Cross exercise any real control over political detainees and deportees both non-Jewish and Jewish (*) such control being in hands of SS "reichssicher heitshauptamt" at Berlin.

With reference to a somewhat similar intercession to be made by neutrals headed by Vatican (Legation's 7170 October 28 from Sternbuch to Union Orthodox Rabbis and Department's 3788 November 7 WEB's 259) initiated through Papal Nunciature in Bern, it is important to note this is motivated by desire to secure reciprocal treatment of German civilians in territory already or shortly to be occupied by forces of Allied nations. Reciprocity is to be based on Geneva Convention and guaranteed by neutrals and Vatican. In return for this guarantee it is hoped to secure various concessions from Germans concerning treatment of non-assimilated detainees under their control. In speaking of Allied nations Angelo Donati, author of proposal, had Soviet Russia particularly in mind. To this end he has subsequently attempted to bring project to Moscow's attention by various channels: through two unofficial Soviet citizens in Switzerland Sokolin and Tcherniak reputedly in contact with Moscow and through Togliatti Italian Communist

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leader at present in Rome. If guarantee could be obtained from Russians to accord Geneva Convention treatment to German civilians in areas occupied and to be occupied by them it would indeed constitute a powerful lever with which to secure counter concessions from Nazis. Many months ago ICRC unofficially expressed to me their belief that any concessions which might be extracted from Soviets with regard to German POWS (even Russian agreement to deliver lists of names of those alive and well) would be invaluable in securing from Germans more favorable treatment of categories of detainees and deportees including Jews in their hands.

HUDDLE

(*) apparent omission

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NO
This telegram must
be paraphrased before
being communicated to any-
one other than a Government
agency. (BR)

TELEGRAM SENT

January 27, 1944
11 p.m.

U. S. URGENT
AMERICAN LEGATION

BERN
279

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, GENEVA, FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. We are familiar with the report (contained in your cable 571 of October 12, 1943, to your Washington Delegation) concerning possible feeding programs in Rumania, Theresienstadt, Slovakia and Croatia and the need of funds therefor. We desire immediate information concerning what areas you could operate in right now, assuming that necessary funds are made available to you, to provide food and medicines to Jews and other persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population. Please advise where food, medicines, and other supplies can be purchased and how much money is needed. We are prepared to see that funds are made available at once for necessary operations.

HULL
(AAB)

000868

COPIE EL

February 29th, 1944.

Dear Sirs,

Following upon our letter of February 17th, 1944, to H.E. the American Minister in Bern, we venture to submit for your consideration the following particulars concerning relief action in regard to which the support of the War Refugee Board of the United States would be highly desirable.

The War Refugee Board, in accepting a suggestion made by us to the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees in London last autumn, was good enough to notify us that the equivalent in Swiss francs of 100,000 dollars would be available free from restrictions as to geographical areas, for use in Hungary, Rumania and neutral countries, and that the license had been issued under the name of the "Joint Distribution Committee".

The International Committee have just been credited with the sum of 429,000 Swiss francs through the Swiss National Bank, on behalf of the "Joint", and we assume that it will be mainly a matter for Mr. Saly Mayer to discuss with us particulars for the utilization of this sum. We feel, however, that it may be useful to send you herewith a scheme which has been drawn up by the "Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross (Commission Mixte)". Subject to an agreement being reached with the "Joint Distribution Committee", this scheme would provide for the utilization of a sum of 429,000 Swiss francs for the benefit of groups of Jews whom we consider to be in great need. This scheme aims at speedy action, without awaiting the putting into effect of any projects which might be evolved subsequently.

We have thought it advisable to apply certain rules in drawing up this programme.

I: Relief for Jews.

1. The peculiar position of Jews in the Axis countries is not a crystallised one, and the possibilities of extending relief to them which exist at any given moment may suddenly disappear. It is therefore necessary to proceed by test cases in the absence of any basis which is firmly established by international law. We have been able more than once, by means of tests, to open up fresh channels for the distribution of relief, the facilities offered to us being very variable and differing from one area to another. We should therefore very much appreciate if a certain proportion of

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the sums which are placed at our disposal was to be set aside for test consignments the despatch of which would be attempted through hitherto untried channels. Whereas we are able to state almost with certainty that relief consignments to Rumania, to Theresienstadt and to the "Jüdische Unterstutzungsstelle" in Cracow will reach the beneficiaries, we cannot vouch in the same way for the delivery of relief to, say, the Jews in the camp at Westerbork (Netherlands), in the camps in France and in certain camps in Upper Silesia, where we should like to make the test.

2. Being apprised of the views of the blockade authorities as regards transfer of currency to Axis countries, we shall endeavour to reduce to the lowest possible minimum any purchases which may have to be made in Hungary and Rumania, and to procure goods as far as possible in the neutral countries of Europe (pharmaceutical products and some foodstuffs, which have however become very rarified). In this connection, we should like to know if we could count on additional funds if they were to be used exclusively in Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden and possibly Turkey.

3. In order, however, to limit as far as possible the purchase which would be made in Hungary and Rumania, we wonder if the War Refugee Board would consider shipping from overseas relief in kind which we propose to stock in Geneva, and upon which we would draw according as supplies were required. This method would have the advantage of enabling us to seize as they occur certain opportunities of despatching relief supplies, without having to send out fresh appeals on each occasion. The stock which would thus be built up in Switzerland could remain under the control of the War Refugee Board which, through their representative at the American Legation in Bern, would authorize us to draw upon these reserves to the extent of the amounts proposed in the schemes and projects which would be submitted by us.

The articles which are most urgently required are:

- a) warm clothing and underwear. Certain groups of Jews in Transnistria, for instance, whom our delegate has been able to visit, are practically completely deprived of clothing.
- b) boots (large sizes for men).

It would meet one of the most urgent needs if, as the War Refugee Board proposes to do, we had several thousand parcels available, containing each an assortment of clothing, underwear and possibly a pair of strong boots (parcels made up separately according as they are intended for men, women or children (not infants)).

4. The same system of warehousing could usefully be applied for food parcels, perhaps several tens of thousands of these of a maximum weight of 2 kg. 1/2. The distribution of relief to

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Theresienstadt is most easily carried out in the form of standard parcels. These should contain only articles which will keep some time (canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc.). These parcels could be sent also to the camps in Upper Silesia (if this is found to be possible), Croatia, the Netherlands and France. If, on the other hand, the War Refugee Board do not see their way to entertaining our proposal that clothing and food parcels be sent to us from overseas, we should be compelled to make them up ourselves, which would unavoidably entail the purchasing of certain foodstuffs in Hungary and Rumania, and this would mean transfer of Swiss francs to Axis countries.

Should the question of tonnage be an obstacle in the way of the War Refugee Board accepting our proposal to place food parcels at our disposal, we should be willing to have these consignments conveyed, against reimbursement of the freight charges, and in so far as the available tonnage would permit, by the ships which are at present plying under the sign of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and which carry supplies for the allied prisoners of war between the United States, Canada and Lisbon, on the one hand, and Lisbon-Marseilles (Geneva), on the other.

5. As a general rule, we should like to stress that in this matter of relief for Jews, we proceed very discreetly, and that we endeavour to avoid any form of publicity as far as our own work is concerned. The reasons for this are

a) the fact that the various Jewish associations, for certain reasons, prefer to act independently the one from the other, and it would seem impossible to succeed in centralizing the various relief undertakings which are organized by each of these groups. It is therefore not in the interest of the aim in view to reveal to one Jewish organization what is done by another.

b) Neither is it in the interest of the Jews whom we wish to rescue from a critical situation to draw too much attention to the proposed relief action. In view of certain tendencies, it is to be feared that authorizations which already exist might be withdrawn and new difficulties raised if this plan to save certain groups of Jews were exploited for propaganda purposes.

II. Relief for concentration camps in Germany.

This desire to avoid as far as possible attracting attention to our scheme has led us to propose relief work for certain groups of civil war-victims, irrespective of race and religion. The War

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Refugee Board willingly agreed to this principle, and we are therefore venturing to mention certain groups who, we feel, are deserving of assistance by the War Refugee Board in like manner to the Jews.

These groups include nationals of allied countries (Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs, etc.) who have been deported and are detained in the prisons and concentration camps in Germany.

Political prisoners are detained in Germany in concentration camps which are under the control of the secret police. The regime is more severe than in the prisoner of war and civil internment camps, and all the information we receive corroborates that the food in these camps is inadequate. The International Committee therefore, in response to the urgent appeals which they receive from these political prisoners and from their next-of-kin, applied on many occasions to the allied authorities and Red Cross Societies, with the object of obtaining permission to reforward food parcels to these concentration camps, as is done for allied prisoners of war and civilian internees in Germany. To their great regret, the blockade authorities firmly refused to authorize these consignments, insisting, as an essential condition, for such an authorization that these detainees should be assimilated with prisoners of war, i.e. that the stipulations of the Geneva Convention should be applied to them. Such a measure depends, however, upon the German authorities, which refuse to allow this assimilation. The International Committee regret that the blockade authorities should have laid down this condition which makes relief entirely dependent upon a decision to be taken by the detaining authorities and prevents the detainees from receiving what are very necessary food supplies.

Judging that the blockade authorities are not opposed on principle to this category for peculiarly afflicted war-victims receiving assistance, but that they are concerned chiefly with preventing the detaining country from deriving any benefit from the foodstuffs, the International Committee have endeavoured to discover some means of guaranteeing the safe distribution of relief in these camps. At the same time, they have sought to provide the blockade authorities with guarantees which would be equivalent (if not superior) to the means of control which are provided for under the Conventions of Geneva, the latter being unfortunately inapplicable in the present instance.

These guarantees are the following: thanks to certain small sums which have been received in Switzerland, we have been able to send some parcels to the principal concentration camps in Germany and even to certain camps and prisons in the occupied countries, asking that acknowledgments be returned to us personally by the beneficiaries. In certain camps (Oranienburg and Ravensbruck), our delegates have been able to ascertain on the spot that the parcels

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were actually delivered, and that there was no reason to fear they had been misappropriated. We are thus able at present to send parcels to Norwegian (also to the students from Oslo), Dutch, Polish, Belgian, Greek, Czech and other deportees in Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg, Ravensbruck, and in certain other camps, but for lack of funds and parcels, we are not in a position to develop this relief action on the scale which would be necessary; at present it is still in the stage of a test process undertaken to furnish the blockade authorities with evidence that the scheme is feasible, and that fully adequate guarantees could be supplied and which we should be ready to submit for the attention of the representative of the American Legation, should the latter be interested in these various test cases.

Although the detaining authorities decline to supply the International Committee with the names of political prisoners and even with information on the strengths of the camps, this action has had a noteworthy result. The parcels which we have nevertheless been able to deliver to certain detainees have as a matter of fact acted as a snowball, and the next-of-kin, in the home countries of the deportees, having doubtless been notified by letters from the camps, are now advising us spontaneously of the names and addresses of the deportees. Thus we possess the names - and we would ask you to treat this as strictly confidential - of nearly all the Norwegians, Dutch and a large number of Poles who are political prisoners in the concentration camps. Consignments could therefore be organized systematically and we would even be in a position to receive acknowledgements from the prisoners' representatives - similarly to the procedure applied in prisoner of war camps - for any collective consignments which might be despatched.

The present problem would be to send food supplies by means of standard parcels to several thousand political prisoners (approximately 1450 Norwegians, a thousand Dutch men and women, or thereabouts, and as many Polish men and women). We do not know the strengths of the other nationalities, but feel convinced that we would have their names communicated to us if we were able at last to undertake this relief action.

We are profiting by the opportunity afforded us by the War Refugee Board, thanks to their generous support, of drawing their attention once more to this very urgent problem, and of warmly recommending that they contribute to supplying a particularly deserving and severely stricken category of war-victims with relief which might be instrumental in saving the lives of many of them.

III. Relief for children war-victims, particularly in Serbia and Slovenia.

From accurate information received from Belgrade we hear that there are at present in Belgrade and several other Serbian towns more than 80,000 children who have escaped from the areas which used to be included formerly in Yugoslavia, and which are now at-

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tached to Croatia. These refugee children are in a particularly critical condition; they are undernourished and require clothing. Their health condition is pitiful. It would be necessary to organize emergency relief action for their benefit.

The same may be said of children in Slovenia (the northern section of Yugoslavia). This area was first annexed by Italy which undertook to supply it. The situation which was already serious has become worse since the events in Italy in the summer of 1943. More than 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition. Products such as milk, sugar, chocolate, ovaltine and other strengthening foods are entirely lacking. Here too relief consignments are urgently required. We enclose a distribution plan in case it should prove useful.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Joint Relief Commission (Commission Mixte) undertake to apply in any future action - as in the past - measures of control as strict as possible, and to prevent any misappropriation of relief consignments. We shall proceed to carry out relief only when we have gained the conviction as far as possible that the detaining authorities will not derive any direct benefit from the relief supplies. We shall submit to the War Refugee Board - if possible through their representative at the American Legation in Bern - all the evidence which we can gather vouching for the safe arrival of relief supplies, and reports on their distribution, in all cases where our delegates have been able to be present. Thus the War Refugee Board will be in a position to judge whether it is possible to carry out a specific undertaking or not.

Further we do not think that rigid regulations for control are expedient; we have already mentioned the example (of. point II) of political prisoners in German concentration camps to whom the blockade authorities do not consider it permissible to send relief parcels so long as they are not assimilated with prisoners of war. The criterion to be selected for control should, in our opinion, be as flexible as the relief action itself; one principle must however be strictly applied, i.e. that relief must benefit only those for whom it is intended.

We are at the entire disposal of the War Refugee Board to supply them with any additional information they may desire to receive.

Yours truly,

Carl J. Burckhardt
Member of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.

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