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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 20, 1944
NUMBER: 916

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Given below is the substance of a message which you are requested to please deliver to Intercross, Geneva, from War Refugee Board, referring to your cable of March 4, No. 1334.

The following concerns the equivalent of \$100,000 in Swiss francs received from the Joint Distribution Committee which was referred to in your letter of February 29, 1944, addressed to the United States Legation at Bern: Joint has informed the War Refugee Board that full discretion in respect to the use of the funds under reference has been placed in the Intercross, but Joint hopes that the Intercross will, after consulting with Saly Mayer, coordinate the proposals set forth in February 29 letter with the feeding program being carried out in Turkey at present and with the work which is being done by Saly Mayer. Joint assures the Intercross that no exploitation for propaganda purposes will be made of this relief action.

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THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1944

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Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As agreed in our conversation yesterday we are referring to you for consideration the request of United Czechoslovak Relief for clearance of a project involving \$150,000 to be expended on a special labor relief project for Czechoslovakia in 1944 and a similar request relating to a \$200,000 Norwegian project through American Relief for Norway, Inc. These two projects are outlined in the attached copies of a letter from United Czechoslovak Relief dated December 20, 1943 and a letter from Norwegian Relief, Inc. (now known as American Relief for Norway) dated January 20, 1944.

As further indication of the nature of these projects we are also enclosing a copy of a letter dated January 13, 1944 from Mr. Abraham Bluestein, Executive Director of the Labor League for Human Rights United Nations Relief (A. F. of L.) and a letter dated January 26, 1944 from Mr. Siegmund Jeremias of the Division of Foreign Relief and International Relations of the National CIO War Relief Committee. As indicated in this correspondence these two organizations have sponsored projects to be operated through various relief agencies participating in the National War Fund which involve approximately \$1,000,000 during 1944. As in the case of the two present requests the funds for these projects will actually be handled through agencies such as United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway under plans worked out in collaboration with the labor groups.

As we indicated yesterday these two proposals were referred to the Department of State through Mr. Kuppinger and more recently to the Treasury Department through Mr. O'Flaherty. We understand that the Department of State has already referred the matter to the American Embassy in London. We are asking them to transmit to you and to us any pertinent information that results from their inquiry.

Clearance by this Board is necessary before United Czechoslovak Relief or American Relief for Norway can actually expend funds on these projects and before the National War Fund can advance money to those organizations for that purpose. The Board is prepared to give such clearance immediately upon receipt of notice from the War

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Refugee Board that the projects can be carried out under their authorization and, as required by the Executive Order establishing the President's War Relief Control Board, in conformity with foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of State.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
CHARLES P. TAFT

Charles P. Taft
Acting Chairman

Encls. [Omitted - Ed.]

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No. 2042

Tangier, Morocco, April 10, 1944

Subject: Food Packages for Jews

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegrams Nos. 38 of March 30, 10 p.m., and 43 of April 6, 3 p.m., and to the Legation's reply No. 79 of April 10, 1944, regarding the sending by Mrs. Renee Reichmann, of Tangier, of food parcels to certain Jews in central and eastern Europe.

Mrs. Reichmann was requested to come in to the Legation to outline her plans. It appears that Rabbi Kalmanowitz and Mr. Kleg have misinterpreted the letter under reference in the Department's telegram No. 38. They telegraphed:

"Greenwald received your letter which outlined the possibility of sending parcels of food to Jews in ghettos. We guarantee payment up to \$3,000. All ghettos in Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and wherever else possible should receive parcels at once."

The Legation was dubious about the present possibilities of being able to despatch food parcels from Tangier to ghettos in Lithuania and Poland, with any assurance whatsoever that they would arrive at their proper destination. Mrs. Reichmann has explained that this was not the suggestion she had offered. For some months she has been sending 500-gram food packages to relatives and friends in two internment camps located in Czechoslovakia, Theresienstadt and Birkenau. The recipients are allowed to send form slips acknowledging the receipt of these packages, and Mrs. Reichmann brought with her to the Legation a number of these slips from Theresienstadt notifying her of the safe arrival of the food packages. She had no such slips from Birkenau, which does not permit them, but she informed the Legation that she has definite knowledge that the Birkenau packages also are being received safely there. She stated that in these two internment camps there are more than 2,000 Jews without private resources or without friends to assist them in supplementing the insufficient camp rations.

The Legation has discussed Mrs. Reichmann's plan with Mr. Mordecai Kessler, a representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee, at present in Tangier. He reports that Mrs. Reichmann and her group are favorably known in the local Jewish community. He also feels that the form receipts constitute an adequate assurance that bona fide

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internees do, in fact, receive the food shipments. He said that the Joint Distribution Committee in Lisbon is already sending some food parcels to Theresienstadt, but that Mrs. Reichmann's present list of 100 names has been checked with the Lisbon list of recipients to avoid any duplications. The Jewish community of Bratislava has undertaken to furnish Mrs. Reichmann with the balance of the names of the 2,000 destitute Jews in the two internment camps and this list, in turn, will be checked against the Lisbon list to prevent any overlapping.

The 500-gram food parcels are sent from Tangier through the Spanish Post Office and have taken as short a time as eight days in transit. Bulkier packages are delayed as long as two or three months. It would, therefore, seem advantageous to continue sending the small packages. The internees are allowed to receive two kilos per month, or one package each week. So far, the local Spanish authorities have raised no objection to the export of foodstuffs from Tangier in the small packages under reference. However, if the plan is greatly extended, as is now envisaged, there may be some difficulty. It is hoped, none-the-less, that through the good offices of the Spanish Red Cross, through which it was recently possible to send small, supplementary packages of matzoth free of postage charges to those internees, it will prove possible to overcome any obstacles of an official nature. In the last instance, should the Spanish place an embargo on all food parcel shipments, the money can readily be transferred to Portugal whence it is still possible to send such packages though at much greater cost.

There appears to be no way in which parcels can be sent at present from Tangier to Lithuania, Poland, or Hungary.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

C. BURKE ELBRICK

C. Burke Elbrick
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington

March 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I apologize for my erroneous statement Thursday about the letter from the War Relief Control Board to the President. I was very glad to hear of the progress made that afternoon on the jurisdictional question. I assume it is being settled.

Meanwhile, Mr. Thorold, of the British Embassy, called on me and at my suggestion put his inquiry in writing. I enclose a copy of his letter, together with a copy of my reply.

I presented the matter to the Policy Committee on Wednesday morning. As a result, I am instructed to urge you to communicate at once with the British and to acquaint them fully with the situation. This is an important matter of economic warfare in which the two governments have been collaborating in the closest possible way. Nothing should be permitted to injure this relationship, and future programs should be worked out with this Department, Mr. Stone of Foreign Economic Administration, and Mr. Thorold, in their economic warfare aspects. Mr. Warren, of course, can secure the views of Mr. Merchant, our economic warfare man.

I might add that Mr. Thorold apparently had a copy of the license to the World Jewish Congress, and assumed that \$100,000 was the total authorized. I told him the sum was in excess of \$250,000, but gave no further information.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
CHARLES P. TAFT

Charles P. Taft
Director, Office of
Wartime Economic Affairs

Enclosures:
cc Mr. Thorold's letter 2/29
cc Mr. Taft's letter

The Honorable
J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board

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[Enclosure No. 1 to letter
from Wartime Economic Affairs.]

W.T. 532/TG/16/44

BRITISH EMBASSY
Washington, D.C.

February 29th, 1944

Dear Mr. Taft:

As I informed you during our conversation this morning, the Ministry of Economic Warfare have telegraphed us to enquire regarding the information recently given by the United States Embassy in London to the Intergovernmental Committee, to the effect that the U. S. Government has agreed to license the transfer of \$100,000 to the International Red Cross for the purchase of supplies in Hungary and Roumania to be dispatched to Jews in enemy territory.

I should like in the first place to emphasise that there is no intention on the part of the British Government to place obstacles in the way of relief measures on behalf of the Jews in enemy territory; any such measures have their full sympathy. But the Ministry of Economic Warfare are concerned lest the enemy should derive financial advantage and in particular they are most anxious that no action should be taken which might constitute a breach in agreements which have been reached safeguarding the possible provision to the enemy of foreign exchange, at least until full consultation has taken place between the British and American Governments. Preliminary examination of this matter took place at the end of last year when certain proposals were put forward by the U. S. Treasury in connection with a proposed transfer of \$25,000 in connection with plans for the evacuation of Jews from Roumania and France. These proposals were considered in London and, as stated in Sir Ronald Campbell's letter to Mr. Breckinridge Long of January 8th, 1944, it was felt that there need be no insuperable objections to the financial side of the transaction, though there were certain difficulties against which it was considered suitable safeguards should be provided. We have not had an opportunity of discussing the question of these safeguards with you in greater detail, but in the meanwhile it would appear from the telegram referred to in the beginning of this letter, that the scope of the proposals has been very widely increased, and that they now involve not only much larger sums, but also purchases of supplies in enemy territory by the International Red Cross which were not included in the original proposals as we understood them.

However this may be and apart from the merits of the transactions in question, I am sure you will agree that the financial

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side of the proposals is a subject which requires careful joint consideration by the two Governments, more particularly in view of the precedents which may be created by any modification of rules which have hitherto governed financial measures of this nature. I should therefore be very grateful if you would look into this matter, and let me have particulars of the transactions involved, for transmission to my Government.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Stone of Foreign Economic Administration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
G. F. THOROLD

Mr. Chas. Taft,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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[Enclosure No. 2 to letter
from Wartime Economic Affairs.]

March 4, 1944

My dear Mr. Thorold:

I have received your letter of February 29, and have sent a copy of it to Mr. J. W. Pehle, Acting Director of the War Refugee Board, with the urgent request that he acquaint you with the existing situation, and clear future transactions with you in their economic warfare aspects.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
CHARLES P. TAFT

Charles P. Taft
Director, Office of
Wartime Economic Affairs.

Mr. G. F. Thorold,
British Embassy.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 16, 1944

Dear Mr. Stettinius:

I have received Mr. Taft's letter of March 4, 1944, enclosing copies of a letter from Mr. Thorold of the British Embassy and of Mr. Taft's reply.

As requested by Mr. Taft, I have informed Mr. Thorold of the various specific projects approved by the Board and which are now under way, after appropriate licensing by the Treasury Department with the approval of the State Department. I have asked him to urge his government actively to cooperate in the concrete measures which we are taking. As you know, a detailed report of the activities of the War Refugee Board is being prepared for despatch to Ambassador Winant for the information of the British Foreign Office.

In view of Mr. Taft's comments, it appears to me that he may not be familiar with the background of the licensing problems involved in these rescue operations. The World Jewish Congress, which first presented to this Government a proposal for the rescue and relief of people in the occupied territories, did not obtain the necessary license until five months after the proposal was presented. This delay was due in part to the objections which had been raised by the British and finally on December 17, 1943, after detailed memoranda on the delays were presented by the Treasury to the State Department, after several conferences between the Secretaries of State and Treasury and after receipt of a cable from London stating the British position, the State Department itself issued the necessary license to the World Jewish Congress.

Following this, the Treasury Department, with the approval of the State Department, and without clearance with the British, issued licenses to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to permit these organizations to carry on relief and evacuation operations in enemy-occupied territory from Switzerland. The World Jewish Congress license was amended so that the terms would be identical to the license issued to the two other organizations.

Since the creation of the War Refugee Board, the projects of several other private organizations in this country have been called to its attention and the Board has approved the issuance of the

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necessary licenses by the Treasury Department. Bearing in mind the determined policy of this Government to save these people and the task which has been given the War Refugee Board by the President, the Board will continue to approve and sponsor projects designed to save lives. It seems clear that in cases of this kind the humanitarian considerations are paramount.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)
J.W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius,
Under Secretary of State.

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BRITISH EMBASSY AIDE MEMOIRE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT DATED
MARCH 27, 1944

AIDE MEMOIRE

The War Cabinet Committee on Refugees has had under consideration the question of the licensing of remittances to Switzerland to be used in operations on behalf of Jews in enemy occupied Europe. The Committee is much concerned that licences are now being issued for transactions which, by making dollars or Swiss francs available in enemy countries, may be directly harmful to the successful prosecution of the war.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom wish to emphasise that in protesting against the issue of such licences they are in no way inspired by any lack of sympathy with the aims of the War Refugee Board whose creation they have welcomed and with whom they have stated their determination to cooperate; they are only anxious that help should be given to the refugees in a form which will not aid the enemy.

His Majesty's Government understand that the transactions permissible under the licences now being issued fall generally into three categories:

- (a) Purchases from residents in Switzerland of French francs or other occupied countries' currencies where it can be shown that such currency has been held since before the war or subsequently acquired in a "legitimate" manner.
- (b) Acquisition of French francs or other occupied countries' currencies as a "credit" against dollars to be paid over after the war.
- (c) Use of dollars or other "hard" currency in the occupied countries themselves where this is deemed necessary in order to secure necessary assistance for the Jewish refugees.

His Majesty's Government see no objection to method (a) above, but they consider that method (b) is so far superior from the blockade point of view to that outlined under (c) that they consider we should aim at its extension as far as possible. Already much has been done by way of credits; it is understood that those provided by Mr. Mayer, a leading Swiss Jew, and backed by Joint Distribution Committee, already amount to eight million dollars. The memoranda submitted by the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee to the British and United States Governments, show that much more local currency could be obtained in many of the countries concerned, if more backing were available for payment after the war. (This

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does not apply to Poland where such credit does not operate, but for which other schemes are under consideration with the Polish Government.)

His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that in their view the use of dollars or other hard currency on a scale sufficient to be of any real use would be an embarrassment to the organisations concerned, since on that scale it would be likely to disrupt the credit scheme. Those who up to now have accepted credit would be encouraged to demand cash; it is presumed that the United States Government would agree that there can be no question of allowing cash to be remitted to occupied Europe on the scale of operations which appear to be practicable.

His Majesty's Government wish therefore, after consideration of the Inter-Governmental Committee memoranda mentioned above, to propose the following scheme:- The charitable organisations who have set aside sums for credit schemes of the kind envisaged will doubtless continue to do so; but more can be spent than can be raised from those sources. His Majesty's Government propose accordingly that we should supplement these schemes, and those which are already being run by exiled governments, by setting up a guarantee fund in the hands of the Inter-Governmental Committee, to which His Majesty's Government and the United States Government would contribute in equal shares under their normal arrangements for covering the Committee's operational expenses. It is possible that other governments represented on the Inter-Governmental Committee may wish to contribute, but most of those principally concerned are already running their own schemes.

It is suggested that receipts for goods and services supplied to refugees should be made out to lenders in enemy territory and deposited in a Swiss bank for redemption after the war, and that lenders should be verbally informed. These receipts should be guaranteed by the fund in question. Details should be worked out between our two Governments and the Inter-Governmental Committee.

No final estimation can be given of the amount which could be effectively used in this way, but on the basis of such information as His Majesty's Government have, they propose to ask Parliament to vote whatever sums may be necessary for this purpose up to one and a half million pounds, provided the United States Government will contribute a like sum. The contribution which His Majesty's Government would make to this credit would be part of their share of the Inter-Governmental Committee's operational expenses.

His Majesty's Government believe that the advantage of the above proposal lies in the fact that it would not only avoid the risk of bringing benefit to the enemy, but would extend the possibility of benefiting persons whose relief and safety is a cause both Governments have equally at heart. Cooperation with the War

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Refugee Board so far as His Majesty's Missions abroad are concerned has already started, and His Majesty's Government are anxious that there should be the same complete cooperation at the centre; otherwise, there will be confusion and competition between different interests, and above all, the licensing of remittances, once begun, may become of such dimensions and so get out of control that substantial advantage to the enemy would be the result. As this would affect our common interest, His Majesty's Government hope that the United States Government will agree on the necessity of maintaining existing agreements for common action in all these matters of economic warfare.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 27th, 1944.

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STATE DEPARTMENT AIDE MEMOIRE TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY, UNDATED

MEMORANDUM

Reference is made to the British Embassy's Aide Memoire, of March 27, 1944, concerning the question of supplying funds in Switzerland to be used for the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

This Aide Memoire raises two important matters, which can be most satisfactorily dealt with by treating them separately. These matters are:

(1) The participation of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression through the establishment of a guarantee fund such as that referred to in the Aide Memoire.

(2) The policies to be followed by the two Governments in permitting private organizations in their respective countries to finance operations in and communicate with enemy territory in an effort to save the lives of oppressed peoples in enemy territory.

As the British Government is aware, representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick Malin, came to Washington in early April for general discussions with the War Refugee Board concerning refugee problems. These discussions were most cordial and complete agreement was reached on working arrangements between the Committee and the Board. It is assumed that the Intergovernmental Committee has already informed the British Government of the decisions which were made. During these discussions the contents of the Aide Memoire were fully considered. There follows a brief summary of the action which this Government has now taken toward implementing the proposal to set up a guarantee fund in the hands of the Intergovernmental Committee.

There also follows a discussion of the second question raised in the Aide Memoire, namely the policies to be followed by the two Governments with respect to the activities of private organizations. It should be emphasized that it was fully understood by the Intergovernmental Committee that this second question was one which should be discussed between the two Governments independently of the Intergovernmental Committee.

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I. The credit scheme submitted by the Intergovernmental Committee to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Aide Memoire stated that the British Government proposed to ask Parliament to vote whatever sums might be necessary, up to £1,500,000, to implement the credit scheme of the Intergovernmental Committee, provided that the Government of the United States was prepared to provide the same amount. In discussions with representatives of the Intergovernmental Committee it developed that in terms of the immediate proportions of the proposed operations the sum still owing to the Intergovernmental Committee by the two Governments in fulfillment of commitments for 1944, namely £900,000 (\$3,600,000) would be adequate for the time being. Accordingly, the Intergovernmental Committee submitted the following basic proposal to the United States Government:

"The IGC has provided in its estimate of operational expenditure for 1944 the sum of one million pounds, of which one half will be furnished by the American government and one half by the British government. It has been agreed by the two governments that if this expenditure is exceeded, the IGC, under the agreed procedure, may submit proposals for supplementary grants. At present the IGC has not in prospect operational expenditure of any considerable amount. It could therefore allocate £900,000, namely \$3,600,000 for the purpose of credit operations provided it is clearly understood that if and when the necessity of undertaking other projects arises it will be free, in accordance with the approved procedure, to submit applications to the two governments for further grants. Such applications might include requests for further grants towards credit operations if they exceeded £900,000 from the budget grant and could be usefully extended beyond this figure.

"It is therefore proposed that, on the above understanding, the credit operations should be financed in the first place to the extent of £900,000 out of the budget grant of £1,000,000."

The United States has now paid to the Intergovernmental Committee the sum of \$1,800,000 and if the needs of the Committee require further sums in the future sympathetic consideration will be given at that time to making the necessary additional funds available.

II. The policies to be followed in issuing licenses to private organizations for the relief and rescue of victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death.

With respect to this matter, the Intergovernmental Committee has taken the following position:

"It is proposed that (1) financial assistance by the IGC should be limited to credit operations; (2) that cash operations should continue to be financed by the voluntary

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organizations through licenses issued by the governments of the U.K. and U.S.A., respectively, according as the organizations are British or American, and that any question of policy which may arise between the two governments regarding the issue of such licenses should be discussed between the two governments, independent of the IGC."

The United States Government also regards the arrangement with the Intergovernmental Committee as completely independent of the question of the policies to be adopted by the respective governments in licensing private organizations to engage in rescue and relief activities.

The United States Government, with the approval of the Department of State, the Treasury Department, and the War Refugee Board, has issued a number of licenses to private organizations authorizing such organizations to finance operations in and communicate with enemy territory in an effort to save the lives of oppressed peoples. The British Government has already been advised of the basic provisions of these licenses. As the British Government knows, such licenses permit the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes only if it is not feasible to obtain the local funds by the other methods which are prescribed.

The United States Government has concluded, in issuing these licenses, that any danger involved in permitting the enemy to acquire relatively insubstantial quantities of foreign exchange is far outweighed by the saving of lives. Experience has shown that the use of money is in many cases the only means by which refugees can be assisted to escape or otherwise save their lives, and it is felt that every effort should be made to see that adequate funds are available for this purpose.

The United States Government is convinced of the need for operations of this character, in addition to those to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Committee in extension of credit operations hitherto conducted by private organizations.

The United States Government, motivated by humanitarian considerations, intends to continue to follow the policy which it has been pursuing now for several months in connection with the issuance of licenses to private organizations. It is most anxious that its efforts in this regard should not be unilateral, and that the two governments will be able to follow a common line so that there may be full cooperation in this matter as well as in the case of operations through the Intergovernmental Committee.

Accordingly, the United States Government hopes that the British Government will decide to adopt a similar policy in connection with authorizing and encouraging the sending of funds by private organ-

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izations to neutral countries for the relief and rescue of victims of enemy oppression. In this way, the two governments will be able most effectively to carry out the policy heretofore agreed upon to take all possible measures, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, for the speedy rescue and relief of the oppressed minorities of Europe.

Department of State,
Washington.

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

October 10, 1944
Midnight

AMEMBASSY
LONDON

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The cable below for Winant from Department and Pehle of War
Refugee Board is WRB 8.

Reference Pehle's message forwarded as Department's No. 6809
of August 25, 1944. After discussion with Arthur Goodhart, Pehle
and Goodhart agree that best arrangement will be for Goodhart to
be available for special consultation and advice on an informal
basis, and not be designated as War Refugee Board representative.

Accordingly, the Board proposes to appoint Mr. James H. Mann
as Special Representative of the Board in England with the designa-
tion by the Department as Special Attache to the Embassy on war
refugee matters. The President's Order of January 22, 1944, pro-
vides that the State Department shall appoint such Special Attaches
on the recommendation of the Board, that they shall have diplomatic
status, and that their duties and responsibilities shall be defined
by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

If the appointment meets with your approval, you should ad-
vise Mr. Mann that he is so designated and that he is to have dip-
lomatic status. It is assumed that there will be no objection on
the part of the British Government to this designation, although
you may in your discretion approach the British authorities in-
formally if you consider it necessary or advisable to do so.
Please confirm action by telegram.

Please request Mann to contact Goodhart as soon as he returns
to England and to consult freely with Goodhart on War Refugee Board
problems as they arise.

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FROM: London
DATED: October 4, 1944
REC'D: October 12, 5 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.
A-1211, October 4, 1944.

Reference Embassy's 7860, September 22 and 3145 September 29.
Following is the report of the Special Committee on Relief setting forth its recommendations concerning the relaxation of present blockade policy with respect to relief shipments to occupied territory:

"RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT ANGLO AMERICAN RELIEF
COMMITTEE 3rd OCTOBER 1944

NORWAY

1. (1) The United States and British Governments will permit compensating imports into Sweden to replace foodstuffs sent as relief to Norway (as far as supply considerations permit) and will allow the onshipment to Norway of foodstuffs imported through the Allied controls. They will also relax the rule forbidding the export from Sweden to Norway of produits similaires. These relaxations in blockade policy will be made to enable an increase in the extent of relief feeding in Norway both as regards numbers of beneficiaries and variety of diet.

- (a) In schools,
- (b) In canteens for aged people,
- (c) In organized community centers or under special schemes approved by the Joint Standing Commission in Stockholm.

(ii) They will also permit children's clothing to be sent in small lots provided that the despatch of each consignment will be contingent upon receipt of satisfactory reports on the distribution of previous consignments.

(iii) All proposed shipments, both of food and clothing, will be submitted to the Joint Standing Commission in Stockholm as constituted under the Anglo-American Swedish War Trade Agreement of 1943. The United States and British members of the Commission will be given wide discretion to approve consignments and will only refer to Washington and London,

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(a) in cases of doubt, and

(b) for goods other than those specified above.

(iv) Reports on distribution will be submitted to the Joint Standing Commission, Stockholm.

2. The Norwegian Government will be informed of these proposals and consulted as to the form and extent of relief to be provided. They will be asked to submit proposals for the finance of these operations.

3. The Swedish Government will be asked to submit estimates of the additional relief assistance that can be provided through the existing machinery and the approximate quantities of additional imports required through our controls.

4. The German Government will be asked for,

(a) safe conducts for all transport carrying relief supplies, complete freedom of movement and guarantees of personal safety for supervisory personnel;

(b) assurance that rations will be maintained and that imports to Norway from German Europe will be maintained at a rate, not less than that prevailing at the corresponding period of the previous year;

(c) an assurance that the distribution of relief supplies will be permitted in any part of Norway selected by the approved neutral organisations, after consultation with the Joint Standing Commission;

(d) release from the Baltic and safe conducts for any additional tonnage required. (The United States and British Governments will be prepared to give the same assurances as now given in the case of Swedish ships in the Greek Relief Service.)

POLAND

5. (i) The International Red Cross Committee will be informed that the United States and British Governments are willing to admit

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through their controls food for distributions:

- (a) in selected cities where the International Red Cross Committee report urgent need and where distribution can be made by them or through their agents in canteens, schools or other community centres; all food will be consumed in these centres;
 - (b) in other areas by means of food parcels sent to individuals or groups of individuals provided the International Red Cross Committee can obtain verification that the parcels are received and retained by the intended beneficiaries.
- (ii) The United States and British Governments will also permit children's clothing to be sent in small lots provided that the despatch of each consignment will be contingent upon the receipt of satisfactory reports on the distribution of previous consignments.
6. The Polish Government will be informed of these proposals and consulted both as to the form and the extent of the relief to be provided; they will be asked to submit proposals for the finance of those operations.
7. The International Red Cross Committee will be asked,
- (a) to submit names of cities where need is acute and estimates of the quantities of food that they can distribute in both bulk and parcel form, and
 - (b) to indicate the extent and form of control which they can exercise in each case.
8. The German Government will be asked by the International Red Cross Committee for,
- (a) safe conducts for all transport carrying relief supplies, freedom of movement and guarantees of personal safety, for supervisory personnel,
 - (b) assurances that rations will be maintained and that no reduction will be made in normal supplies to the area concerned,
 - (c) assurance that distribution of relief supplies will be permitted in any cities and any parts of such cities selected by the International Red Cross Committee.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DENMARK

9. Although it is not thought that there is acute need for relief in Czechoslovakia and Denmark, the Czech Government and Danish Council will be consulted and if it appears that need in any particular areas has become urgent, action similar to that proposed for Poland will be authorized.

OTHER AREAS

10. In view of the present military situation it is not thought necessary to make recommendations for the Netherlands and for Yugoslavia. Should however these countries or any part of them remain under settled enemy occupation during the winter, similar action to that proposed for Poland will be authorized.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

11. The policy of the United States and British Governments with regard to concentration and internment camps and Jews in ghettos will be the same as in recent months, namely that the International Red Cross Committee will be permitted to despatch relief foodstuffs to any such camp or ghetto where it is satisfied as to the conditions of distribution.

12. The United States and British Governments have been in communication with the International Red Cross Committee regarding the possibility of the safe distribution of clothing in such camps and if adequate assurances are received, they will be prepared to permit experimental consignments of children's clothing.

VITAMINS

13. Arrangements have already been made to despatch vitamin D to occupied territories in the same way as medical supplies.

It is now proposed to add vitamins B and C.

MONETARY RELIEF

14. It is suggested that licenses which involve or may involve the placing of funds in neutral territory at the disposal of enemy persons should only be issued after consultation between the United States and British Governments. Normally such consultation should take place between the State Department and the British Embassy in Washington, who would be given a wide discretion to agree to their issue, reference to the Relief sub-committee in London only being

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necessary in doubtful cases.

(Note: The American representatives on the Committee reserved their position on paragraph 14 and the United States Ambassador is referring the matter separately to his Government)."

WINANT

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Embassy, Moscow
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 9, 1944
NUMBER: 775

The following message refers to circular airgram dated January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., from the Department.

There are no private or public agencies in Russia which are active in bringing war refugees into the country so far as the Embassy can find out. The enormous refugee problem of taking care of the millions of Soviet citizens whom the German invasion displaced is the one with which Russia is essentially concerned.

The relief of the Jews and the Poles whom the Government of the U.S.S.R. sent to Siberia and Central Asia from the portion of eastern Poland which the Russian forces occupied in 1940 is another of their problems. The breaking of diplomatic relations between Poland and Russia has complicated this problem. The Australian Legation which represents Polish interests in the U.S.S.R. has been able to secure exit visas for only a very few although many of the persons mentioned above would like to get out of Russia.

Steps to repatriate Russian war refugees from North Africa were taken by the Government of the U.S.S.R. you may remember.

The only immigrants who are likely to receive a welcome here during the period of the war at least, would be persons with a Communist background and entrance into the country in all probability would be desired by very few others.

I do not believe it would be advisable under these circumstances to approach the Government of the U.S.S.R. on this subject unless in developing our own specific plan of action we find that for its execution we need the cooperation of Russia.

HARRIMAN

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TELEGRAM SENT

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

March 11, 1944

7 p.m.

Ambassy
Moscow
554

For the Ambassador from the War Refugee Board.

Our circular airgram of January 26 described the functions of the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board has been established by the President to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jewish people of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is actively engaged in carrying out the policy of this Government as announced by the President, and is seeking the cooperation of all members of the United Nations in this tremendous task.

The Board is fully conscious of the great work which the Soviet Government has done to date in saving the lives of untold numbers of refugees, including Jews, from Hitler who were rescued in the midst of battle from the jaws of the German army. At the same time the Board is convinced that if it could secure the cooperation of the Soviet Government in some of the projects on which this Government is working, the chances of saving many people from death would be greatly increased. In view of the outstanding record of the Soviet Government in this whole matter we are not suggesting that pressure be put on them to do more than they are now doing. We feel, however, that if the Soviet Government can be convinced of the fact that we are sincerely determined to do what we can to prevent the murder of the Jews and other persecuted peoples by Hitler, they may be prepared to cooperate in some of the programs which we have under consideration.

There are many ways in which the Soviet Government might be of assistance in connection with these programs. The representative of the War Refugee Board in Turkey, Ira Hirschmann, at the suggestion of Ambassador Steinhardt, has already discussed two specific problems with Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Turkey. Vinogradov was informed of our intention to exert pressure on Bulgaria and other satellite countries and was requested to take parallel action. Vinogradov was also informed of our efforts to get the Turkish Government to give permission for the use of a ship for evacuating refugees and was asked to support our request. Although Vinogradov agreed to speak to the Bulgarian Minister informally, he pointed out that on both of these matters he could not act formally except through Moscow.

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Vinogradov suggested that you should request the assistance of his Government on these two problems and he agreed to do likewise.

We feel that it is very important that you discuss this whole matter with the Soviet Government immediately. You should make clear the policy of this Government and discuss frankly the problems with which we are faced.

The following information concerning some of the things we are working on and some of the obstacles we have encountered is furnished for your information and use in connection with your discussions with the Soviet Government:

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. The Board believes that parallel action on the part of other Allied Governments would do a great deal to assure the success of this endeavor. At the moment it is important that pressure be brought to bear particularly on Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, because in those areas there are many refugees in imminent danger of death who can be evacuated to Turkey and other places if those Governments permit it.

In addition to bringing pressure to bear through various channels on the governments of the satellite countries, the Board feels that there should be employed in this campaign all available means for effecting the widest dissemination of our attitude not only to the governments themselves but to the largest number possible of the people of satellite countries. In this connection the Office of War Information is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in bringing home to the people in Germany and the satellite countries the fact that we consider this matter to be of paramount importance and intend vigorously to pursue all possible means of accomplishing our objective.

This cable has been repeated to Ambassador Steinhardt at Ankara.

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amembassy, Moscow
DATED: March 11, 1944, 7 p.m.
NUMBER: 555

War Refugee Board sends the following for the Ambassador's attention.

The following message immediately follows the Department's previous cable on the subject dated March 11.

In addition to the proposed plan designed to effect a change in the attitude as well as the actions of our enemies, the Board is convinced that there is an opportunity for actually moving many of these refugees out of enemy controlled areas. The Board believes that in the localities close to Turkey and the Black Sea there exists one of the most promising opportunities for actually accomplishing the rescue of such people. It is known that there are considerable numbers of refugees in Rumania, Bulgaria and Transnistria. It seems possible that arrangements can be made with the Turkish Government to receive refugees from these localities. Furthermore it appears possible that the Rumanian Government will grant to a substantial number of these persons permission to leave Rumania. The need for immediate means of transportation is imperative.

The Board is trying to arrange for a small Turkish vessel to proceed to Constanza in order to evacuate about 1,000 children from Constanza to Turkey. The Board's representative in Turkey has reported that if we would offer a guaranty to the Turkish Government that the ship would be replaced if it were lost there might be a possibility of chartering the S. S. Vatan, a small Turkish ship. Our Government promptly offered such a guaranty. It is hoped the Russian Government may be of some assistance in our negotiations with the Government of Turkey. Also the possibility of using Swedish ships for this purpose is the subject of negotiations between this Government and the Government of Sweden. During the discussions with the Soviet Government you are requested to keep in mind that this problem of transportation seems to be the key to evacuation in the Black Sea Area.

One of the functions of the Board is the finding of places of temporary havens of refuge to which persons now in enemy dominated European countries may be moved. The cooperation of the Governments of Spain and Turkey depends upon our ability to move refugees coming into those countries to other places as quickly as possible.

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Preparations have been made to move refugees now in Spain to a camp which has been established in North Africa in order to facilitate the entry of additional refugees into Spain.

Refugees are entering Palestine by the way of Turkey. The Government of Turkey has been requested to relax its border and other controls and in other ways increase the flow of refugees from occupied territories through Turkey. The Board is offering to finance the establishment of reception camps to accommodate refugees entering Turkey and the Board would arrange for their transportation to other places as quickly as possible.

It seems to the Board that it would be necessary to find at least temporary places of refuge in a number of places if the evacuation of a substantial number of refugees can be effected as is planned. It appears from negotiations with the Swiss Government that Switzerland will now accept refugee children if a guarantee can be given that they will be removed after the war. We are making every effort to provide Switzerland with assurances which will meet her requirements.

It would greatly increase the possibility of evacuating large numbers of refugees if the Soviet Government were prepared immediately to take refugees, Jews and non-Jews, who manage to reach neutral countries from enemy controlled territories and who could be given at least a temporary refuge in the Soviet Union after being transported across the Black Sea from the Balkan countries. If the Soviet Government would give assurances that she would take refugees from those countries after the end of the war, Switzerland and other countries might possibly give more favorable consideration to taking refugees now. You should make every attempt in your negotiations with the Soviets to obtain their complete cooperation if it seems that they would be willing to accept such refugees even on a temporary basis.

From the foregoing, particularly taking into consideration the time and physical factor to be contended with, you can understand that a number of the obstacles which we are encountering could be solved with the Soviet Government's aid. If you will give personal and prompt attention to this matter it will be greatly appreciated.

The foregoing message has been repeated to Ankara for Ambassador Steinhardt.

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BE-530
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. () W)

Ankara
Dated August 24, 1944
Rec'd 6:14 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

1553, August 24, 2 p.m.
()

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN ANKARA NO. 140

The written reply received from the Apostolic Delegate Istanbul indicates in summary that the assistance which the delegate can afford in matters relating to Hungary all his time is limited to the extension of facilities mainly in the nature of courier service. (REEMBS 1438, August 7.) Principal aid thus far has been the transmission to the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest of several thousand Palestine immigration certificates authorized by the Jewish Agency for Jews in Hungary. The Apostolic Delegate is without independent information on the present situation of Hungarian Jews. The reply further indicates that matters in which the assistance of the Catholic Church is to be enlisted should be taken up with the Cardinal Secretary of State at the Vatican.

It is reported by persons arriving from Hungary who recently passed through Istanbul that the deportation of Jews from Hungary has ceased for the present, but that with the exception of those in Budapest few Jews remain in Hungary. We are attempting to verify the above information.

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APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No. 581/42

January 5, 1945.

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In a telegram of December 26, 1944, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of United States and Canada and the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee again appealed to the Holy See through this office to intercede that the extermination of Hungarian Jewry might cease.

I am now in receipt of a communication from the Holy See assuring me that it has never interrupted its intense activity in behalf of Hungarian Jews. The Apostolic Nunciature of Budapest and the Hungarian Bishops have constantly lent themselves to this work with every resource and effort possible. Recently too the Holy Father assigned a conspicuous sum of money to the Apostolic Nunciature as a further gift for the alleviating of the sufferings of these Jews.

I am informed that as of this date it is no longer possible for the Holy See to correspond with Budapest, but that also the Apostolic Nunciature in Berlin has been directed to concern itself with this matter.

With sentiments of esteem, and every good wish, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed)

A. G. CICCONANI

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

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LFG-261
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (b)(7)

Ankara
Dated August 12, 1944
Rec'd 1 a.m., 13th

Secretary of State
Washington

1478, August 12, 2 p.m.

FOR PEHLE WRB FROM HIRSCHMANN

Ankara's 131

For your information following was received by me in Istanbul
from an authentic source.

The Catholic Church in Hungary has taken an active part in
rescuing many Hungarian Jewish citizens by means of technical de-
vice on conversion of Jews to Christianity. Nazis have attempted
in numerous ways to oppose these measures to which the church and
especially the Dominicans, who have been most sympathetic, responded
they have authority to baptize immediately any person who is in
imminent danger of death. During air raids hundreds of Jews are
baptized in air raid shelters. When religious classes for Jews
were held in churches, groups of Hungarian Nazis entered and broke
up the classes which resulted in most of the baptism now taking
place in the shelters. It is reported that in the past month more
Jews have been converted to Christianity than during the last 15
years.

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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February 7, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As the proposed appropriation request of the Department in the amount of \$5,000,000 to cover this Government's share of the estimated administrative and operational expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee has been held in abeyance, which means it cannot be made a part of the deficiency appropriation of the Department which will go to Congress this week, I feel you will want to have for the consideration of the Board the complete details on this matter which are contained in the attached writeup. In addition, I enclose a copy of a despatch indicating that 50,000 pounds of the portion for administrative expenses is desired by the Intergovernmental Committee in February.

It is our feeling, to avoid any possible misunderstanding and possible consequent weakening of the status of the Intergovernmental Committee, that this payment should be made in February without fail. I presume, therefore, that the Board will wish to consider promptly appropriating funds for this purpose out of funds available to the Board. We should appreciate hearing from you on this as soon as possible as there is some urgency to the matter in view of the February payment.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

Encs. [Omitted]

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

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DOCUMENT
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 26, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

This is in response to your letter of February 7 concerning funds for the Intergovernmental Committee.

I understand that this Government is committed to supplying the Intergovernmental Committee with £51,998 (including £ 1,998 for administrative expenses for the period September 1, 1943, to December 31, 1943, and £50,000 for operational expenses for the first quarter of 1944) and that in order "to avoid any possible misunderstanding and possible consequent weakening of the status of the Intergovernmental Committee" it is very desirable that this payment be forthcoming before the end of February.

On the basis of this understanding I am in agreement that the payment of £51,998 should be made from the War Refugee Board's allotment from the President's Emergency Fund and a transfer of funds in this amount is being arranged at once.

I assume that all projects financed from the operation expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee, which are submitted to this Government for approval, will be undertaken only after clearance with the War Refugee Board. In addition it is my suggestion that the Intergovernmental Committee be advised that the current payment is being made from War Refugee Board funds.

It should be clearly understood that this payment implies no commitment that War Refugee Board funds will be available for this purpose after the present quarter. Any subsequent requests will be reviewed in the light of the use of the funds presently being transferred and the prospects for effective use in the future.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

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

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

At the suggestion of Myron Taylor, Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick Malin of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees came to Washington in early April for discussions with the War Refugee Board. These discussions were most cordial and complete agreement has been reached on working relations between the Committee and the Board.

The question of financing the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee was discussed and the following recommendations are submitted for your approval:

(1) Some time ago this Government committed \$2,000,000 to the operational budget of the Intergovernmental Committee, and the British Government made a like commitment. The War Refugee Board has already advanced \$200,000 to the Committee against this commitment - this advance came out of the funds made available to the Board from the President's Emergency Fund. It is proposed that the balance due the Intergovernmental Committee be set aside now, to be paid over to the Committee as its programs require (the Committee needs \$500,000 at once).

Accordingly, we request that there be made available immediately to the War Refugee Board \$2,000,000 out of the President's Emergency Fund. \$500,000 of this sum will be paid over to the Intergovernmental Committee at once; \$200,000 will be used to reimburse the War Refugee Board for the advance previously made; and the remainder will be paid to the Committee as requested by it.

There is attached a proposed allocation letter transferring the \$2,000,000 to the War Refugee Board.

(2) In addition, the British Government has indicated that it proposes to ask Parliament to vote further sums, up to a total of \$6,000,000, as may be necessary to carry out a proposed credit operation by the Intergovernmental Committee, provided the United States Government will contribute like amounts.

Until the \$2,000,000 referred to in paragraph (1) is substantially exhausted, we do not feel that it is necessary to set aside any further funds at this time for the operations of the Intergovernmental Committee. If you approve, we propose to advise the British

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Government that if the needs of the Committee require such further sums in the future, sympathetic consideration will be given at that time to making the necessary funds available.

CORDELL HULL
Secretary of State.

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.
Secretary of the Treasury

HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War.

Attachment.

(Signed)
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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Allocation No. 44-80

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MAY 15 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by law I hereby allocate from the appropriation entitled "Emergency Fund for the President, National Defense, 1942-1944,"

| <u>To</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|
| War Refugee Board | \$2,000,000 |

to be expended by said Board in connection with emergencies affecting the national security and defense for carrying out the functions of the Board as prescribed by Executive Order 9417 of January 22, 1944.

This allocation is additional to the allocation made by letter of January 29, 1944 (44-58) for the same purpose and shall be consolidated with said allocation and be available for the same objects of expenditure and under the same conditions.

Please arrange for the necessary transfer of funds and advise the War Refugee Board accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury

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DOCUMENT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
WEB

November 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Reference is made to my letter of February 7, 1944, and your reply of February 26, 1944, with respect to the contribution of this Government toward the administrative expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in London. The American Embassy in London has advised the Department of State of the request of the Finance Officer of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees for payment of the remaining half of the United States share of the administrative expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee for the period 1 September 1943 to 31 December 1944. In connection with this payment your attention is called to despatch 13250 from the American Embassy London of January 12, 1944, which stated that the contribution of this Government toward the administrative expenses of the Intergovernmental Committee for the period amounted to 3,996 pounds.

In your letter of February 7, 1944, you authorized payment of one half this amount, 1,998 pounds, in addition to 50,000 pounds toward the operational expenses of the Committee and at the same time transmitted to the London Embassy \$209,811.93 to cover both payments.

Payment of the balance of this Government's contribution toward the administrative expenses of the Committee for the period 1 September 1943 to 31 December 1944 in the amount of 1,998 pounds is now due and requested by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. In accordance with existing arrangements, the Department respectfully requests the payment of this balance by the War Refugee Board through facilities of the Department.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

Acting Secretary

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

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 15, 1944

My dear Mr. Stettinius:

Pursuant to your letter of November 11, I have today arranged for the transfer of the \$1,998 from the War Refugee Board's allotment from the President's Emergency Fund to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees through the facilities of the Department of State in London.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

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MEMORANDUM

504

April 14, 1944

TO: Mr. John Pehle, Executive Director,
War Refugee Board

FROM: Sir Herbert Emerson, Director
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

SUBJECT: The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and its
Working Relations with the War Refugee Board.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees was formed as a result of the conference which was convened, on the initiative of President Roosevelt, at Evian, in July 1938. Its membership prior to August 1943 consisted of the following twenty-eight governments: Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Honduras, Ireland, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The persons coming within the early mandate of the Committee were those Germans, Austrians and Sudetenlanders who had not yet left their countries but who were being forced to emigrate on account of their political opinions, religious beliefs or racial origin, and those who had already left but who had not yet established themselves permanently elsewhere. The main purpose of the committee at the time of its establishment was to arrange, by discussion with the German authorities, an orderly system of migration; this involved the finding of permanent homes for many refugees, and the member governments made valuable contributions in this respect. They also assumed the liability of financing the meetings of the committee and its administrative expenditure, but did not assume any obligations for the financing of involuntary emigration.

During the four years following the outbreak of war, the activities of the committee were restricted by war conditions, the limited nature of its mandate, and the lack of financial resources. But in August 1943 the executive committee - consisting of the governments of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, and the French Committee of National Liberation - met to consider certain suggestions made by the United Kingdom and United States as a result of the discussions which took place between the delegates of their governments at Bermuda in the preceding April. The recommendations adopted by the executive committee involved a great expansion of the committee's membership, scope, functions and finances.

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Twenty-one additional governments were invited to join the committee; Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Luxembourg, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Salvador, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Yugoslavia. Affirmative replies have so far been received from Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Iceland, India, Luxembourg, Poland, South Africa, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - bringing the present membership of the Committee to thirty-six. During this period when acceptances of newly invited members and ratifications of previous members are being received, the executive committee has been operating on the basis of the expanded mandate.

That mandate now includes, as may be found necessary and practicable, in addition to those previously covered, those persons, wherever they may be, who, as a result of events in Europe, have had to leave, or may have to leave, their countries of residence because of the danger to their lives or liberties on account of their race, religion or political beliefs. With regard to persons coming within the expanded mandate, the executive committee is empowered to undertake negotiations with neutral or Allied States or organizations, and to take such steps as may be necessary to preserve, maintain and transport the refugees. For the purposes enumerated above, the executive committee is empowered to receive and disburse both public and private funds.

Administrative expenses are shared by all member governments. With regard to operational expenditure, the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States have agreed, subject to legislative consent, to underwrite it jointly on the conditions, first, that all projects which come within this offer shall be considered individually, and the two governments consulted before a project is sanctioned or expenditure incurred thereon; and, second, that when a clearer idea has been obtained of the money required for the efficient conduct of the committee's work under its new commitments, an invitation shall be addressed to all the member governments inviting them to contribute to this expenditure also, in accordance with their abilities and their interest in the humanitarian work of the committee.

This humanitarian work falls into three classes (1) Measures relating to persecuted persons still within the territory of Germany and her European allies or territory occupied or controlled by them - measures for their rescue or escape from such areas, and measures for their preservation within such areas. These measures will be necessary for persons in each such area until the threat of persecution is ended - i.e., until Allied victory is achieved in a particular area or for the whole of Europe. (2) Prearmistice measures relating to persecuted persons who may have escaped or been rescued from such areas, or may yet escape or be rescued - measures for their physical relief (food, clothing, shelter,

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medical service), transport, employment, welfare, etc. These measures will be necessary, in neutral or liberated or conquered areas, until the allies are victorious over the whole or a considerable portion of Europe. (3) Post-armistice measures - measures for interim relief, for repatriation, and for permanent resettlement of those who cannot be repatriated.

Under the authority of the executive committee the director's office has been at work on all three types of measures since last August. The Assistant Director has visited Switzerland at the invitation of the Swiss Government, stopping in Spain and Portugal on the way; and the Vice Director has visited French North Africa, Italy, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey. Our resident representative for Italy, attached to the headquarters of the Allied Control Commission, has already begun his activities; our resident representative for French North Africa will begin work in a few days; and it is anticipated that a third representative will soon be installed in Cairo to cooperate in the Middle Eastern work of UNRRA. As a comprehensive agreement with UNRRA as to respective responsibilities is far advanced - the principle being that UNRRA, wherever and whenever it operates, will handle physical relief and initial mass repatriation, and that the Intergovernmental Committee will handle the non-relief needs of the displaced people who cannot be repatriated with reasonable speed. A plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee is scheduled for the early summer.

According to Executive Order 9417, dated January 22, 1944, establishing the War Refugee Board, that board is charged with the responsibility of giving effect to the policy of the American government "to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war". The order states further that the board "shall cooperate with all existing and future international organizations concerned with the problems of refugee rescue, maintenance, transportation, relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement." The groundwork is thus laid for working relations between the War Refugee Board, and American agency concerned with rescue and relief from enemy oppression, and the Intergovernmental Committee, an international agency concerned with that as well as other responsibilities - an international agency in whose founding and recent reorganization the American government took a leading part.

Building on this foundation, we are now engaged in discussions to insure the maximum benefit to the cause which we both serve, with the minimum of duplication and confusion. It appears that the War Refugee Board conceives of its activity as coming solely within the first class of work mentioned above in my description of the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee,

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i.e., immediate rescue and relief, except for an interest in a relatively few projects falling within the second class of work - i.e., pre-armistice care of rescued or escaped persons - which may bear directly on the success of rescue enterprises. On the other hand - though the following statements must not be interpreted as binding the executive committee, which will come to its decision after my report on our present discussions has been submitted - it would seem that the presence of neutrals within the membership of the Intergovernmental Committee, and the limitation of its executive committee to negotiations with neutral or Allied States or organizations, imply that certain measures for rescue and relief can be better undertaken by national bodies, such as the War Refugee Board in the case of the United States.

For example, radio broadcasts intended to promote escape or preservation seem not suitable for the Intergovernmental Committee. Operations relating to the removal of persecuted persons from the Balkans through Turkey seem a present to be best carried out by the War Refugee Board acting in cooperation with other interested governments, and, so long as this is so, the Intergovernmental Committee will not wish to enter this field. Licenses to American philanthropic organizations for transferring funds abroad are of course the province of the War Refugee Board.

More generally, it would seem imperative that the War Refugee Board and the Intergovernmental Committee keep each other fully, regularly and promptly informed of proposed and actual activities; and that their field representatives, in countries where both bodies are represented, should be instructed to cooperate in the same way. Any operational project submitted by the Intergovernmental Committee for the consideration of the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States in accordance with the procedure already approved by the two governments should be considered on its merits; and, if it is jointly financed by the two governments, it should usually be administered by the Intergovernmental Committee, but there might well be special circumstances which would make it appropriate and convenient for a given project to be carried out in partnership between the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board, or otherwise.

In one respect it is possible to speak for the executive committee with all possible confidence. It would desire me to offer to the officials of the War Refugee Board our unstinted cooperation. The comprehensive responsibility which is borne by the Intergovernmental Committee is so large, and the rescue and relief operations on which it has been working - energetically but quietly - since last summer are so tragically urgent and so often disappointing in their results at the last moment, that we need the closest possible association with the fresh vigor and interest which the War Refugee Board represents.

(Signed) H. W. Emerson
4/21/44

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MEMORANDUM

April 17, 1944.

TO: Sir Herbert Emerson, Director, Intergovernmental
Committee on Refugees.
FROM: Mr. John Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board
SUBJECT: The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and its
Working Relations with the War Refugee Board.

This is a reply to your memorandum of April 14 in which you presented your proposals as to the working relationships that should prevail between the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board. First of all I wish to state that I am in entire agreement with the proposals contained in the memorandum. It seems to me that on the basis of the working relationships which you outline, it should be possible for our respective agencies to continue to work in complete harmony toward our common goal of alleviating the plight of the refugees. We are sending copies of this exchange of memoranda to our representatives abroad, and are again emphasizing to them the necessity for the closest cooperation on the part of members of our respective staffs. *rk*

The discussions that we have held in recent days have been of extreme help to us in appreciating both the assigned duties and actual achievements of your organization. The spirit you have demonstrated leads me to believe that the relations between our two agencies will continue to be mutually helpful and friendly.

Your generous offer of unstinted cooperation is appreciated and I wish to assure you that we on our part intend to reciprocate wholeheartedly. Only in this way can we move forward together, united in our determination to meet the tragically pressing refugee problem.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
4/21/44

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMEMBASSY, LONDON
DATED: July 13, 1944
NUMBER: 5504

TO WINANT, LONDON, FOR SIR HERBERT EMERSON FROM PEHLE.

Please deliver the following message to Sir Herbert Emerson from John W. Pehle, Executive Director of War Refugee Board:

"The text of this Government's reply to British Government's Aide Memoire of March 27, 1944, is now in London and, if not already seen by you will, I am sure, be made available by Winant.

Because of the urgency of the present situation particularly in the Balkans I earnestly hope that it will be possible to start at once credit scheme mentioned in the Aide Memoire, with IGC using JDC as its agent in the several countries where need is desperate.

In this connection JDC now has opportunity to spend at least four million dollars additional on productive rescue operations from Balkans. There is general agreement among all responsible agencies in Near East now coordinating their rescue activities under one committee in Ankara, that substantial numbers may now be saved. There is further evidence of a growing willingness in Rumania to cooperate. Under these conditions I believe that IGC has an excellent opportunity to initiate credit operations. Immediate assurance that IGC will underwrite credit operations already organized, as described in cable from Baerwald to you, will enable JDC to proceed immediately with new rescue opportunities. I earnestly hope that IGC will find it possible immediately to underwrite credit operations to the extent indicated."

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, LONDON
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 20, 1944
NUMBER: 5734

Will you send to Pehle, WRB, a paraphrase of the following message from Emerson:

By way of the US Embassy your message has been received by us. Due to the fact that only yesterday we at last concluded our arrangements with the British officials, our response was delayed. The following communication which today was cabled to Baerwald we hope will be satisfactory to you.

Your communication which was received through the US Embassy is reference. We are able only now to expedite credit plan. We are in a position under arrangements made with JDC acting as our agent to allot for the quarter ending September 30, 1944, the following sums: Northern Italy \$30,000, France \$300,000, Hungary \$300,000, Roumania \$300,000 making total for three months of \$930,000. Plus the above allocations which are out of public funds, from private funds which have been put at our disposal we can allocate \$20,000 in a lump sum. This last sum we should like to be utilized for Hungary although it is not essential. There should be kept a separate account of the allocation from private moneys.

Prior to the end of the quarter if a good case were established, we would be ready to give consideration to some increase for the current quarter in these allocations.

If the necessity for allocations is established, you can assume that like allocations will be available for the quarter commencing the first of October. We would, in fact, give consideration to an increase in the allocations if a good case is made. Prior to the sixteenth of September let us have proposals for that quarter.

With JDC we have made arrangement that our allocations were not to replace but supplement those which were made out of funds of JDC. For such time as there is a gentlemen's agreement that JDC will keep on allotting funds to the extent of their ability and having a regard for their very urgent commitments in other parts we do not desire to press this understanding too urgently. JDC, no doubt, will keep us confidentially advised concerning this matter. Until we see Schwartz our opinion is that implementation of the plan should not be delayed. If you are able to get the necessary data to him, you may proceed. We do not contemplate the immediate necessity of transmitting the complete details of our

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arrangements to Schwartz unless you can do this. These can be discussed with him when he comes to London which will be presumably in early August. From our viewpoint, a vital instruction to Schwartz is that accounts be kept separate from allocations of JDC but the question of other immediate instructions we leave to you. It does not appear to be necessary for Malin to pay a visit at Lisbon at the present time in view of the arrival of Schwartz before long and as it would be inconvenient for Malin to make such a visit.

WINANT

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

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)

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

509

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 18, 1944
NUMBER: 1028

Stating that the message from the War Refugee Board (your 279, January 27) was a matter of special satisfaction since for several months past their most earnest concern has been to draw attention of the Allied authorities to the almost tragic condition of various categories of civilians in Europe, letter from CICR has now been received.

I have been asked by CICR to convey to the War Refugee Board, after they acknowledged receipt of my letter of February 11, transmitting message contained in your 437, February 9, expression of their deep gratitude for this proof of confidence and the assurance that they would do everything in their power in close cooperation with the Joint Relief Commission and taking into account wishes of the donors to draw up a program of relief action which will be submitted to the Board at an early date. Further suggestions of a practical character concerning the development of this action and the initiation of other similar action will also be made by CICR in due course.

HARRISON

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ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: September 6, 1944
NUMBER: 3074

CABLE TO MCCLELLAND

Unofficial reports reaching WRB indicate that Intercross believes Theresienstadt a privileged camp and does not consider necessary any action calculated to bring its inmates within scope of Intercross activity.

Please advise Intercross that Board has received repeated reports of recent deportations from Theresienstadt to extermination camps which, if true, indicate that its inmates enjoy no security. In addition, well-known tendencies in certain official circles in Germany to exterminate maximum number of Jews before end of war make likely sudden deterioration of position in Theresienstadt and elsewhere unless adequate precautions are taken betimes. Board is therefore unable to share moral responsibility for possible loss of human lives involved in an express or tacit approval of reported Intercross position. Board is convinced that Intercross too would not like to bear such responsibility.

Accordingly, Board earnestly hopes that Intercross will extend its protective activities to Theresienstadt inmates including distribution of Palestine certificates and other documents entitling them to partial assimilation with civilian internees, eligibility for exchange and general Intercross supervision.

In general, please submit to Intercross the Board's view that in dealing with Jews in German-controlled territory in the coming critical weeks, it is not enough to attempt to correct unsatisfactory situations already in existence. In the light of present circumstances it is urgent that all measures be taken to be prepared to deal with sudden deterioration. Therefore, Intercross is earnestly urged to take preventive as well as corrective action, however much this may go beyond the traditional pattern of Inter-cross activities. If this line of action is unprecedented, so is the situation.

If possible discuss the foregoing points with Huber personally.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 159.

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COMITE INTERNATIONAL
De La
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneve, 1e May 30, 1945.

AGENCE CENTRALE
DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

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

Sir,

The conclusion of hostilities in Europe involves obviously a substantial change and reduction in the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The relief scheme for what were known as "unassimilated groups", and, in particular, for Jews in Germany and in the occupied territories, which had been undertaken in the face of the greatest obstacles, is drawing to a close. The International Committee therefore consider it an essential duty at the present time to thank the organizations which have been particularly helpful in this welfare work.

The War Refugee Board, which was called into being under the wise and memorable leadership of President Roosevelt, enabled some tens of thousands of the most sorely tried war victims to receive some degree of help, although this was on a modest scale, in comparison to the stupendous needs of the sufferers. According to testimonies received repeatedly from the latter, this help, however, in many cases spelt rescue from death by starvation.

The International Committee would therefore like to thank the War Refugee Board sincerely for the effective and understanding assistance which they have invariably received through Mr. Roswell D. McClelland. The Committee greatly regret that such fruitful co-operation with the War Refugee Board, and in particular with their distinguished representative in Switzerland, should come to an end. Mr. McClelland's resourcefulness and selfless labours have contributed in large measure to the success of the enterprise, and he was latterly very ably seconded by Mr. Katzki.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)
MAX HUBER

Max Huber

Honorary and Acting President of the
International Committee of the Red Cross

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 11, 1945



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Huber:

Through your delegate in Washington, I have just received your letter of May 30, 1945. Your expression of thanks to the Board is greatly appreciated.

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you my personal gratitude for the service your Committee has rendered the Board, particularly in its program to bring relief to the suffering inmates of German concentration camps. I wish also to thank you for the cooperation your Committee has generously given to Mr. McClelland and Mr. Katzki in their arduous duties as representatives of the Board in Switzerland. In spite of many obstacles, the Board was able to save and bring relief to many thousands of victims of Nazi oppression in its unique life-saving mission. We are grateful for the part the International Red Cross played in that great undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Max Huber,
Honorary and Acting President,
International Committee of the
Red Cross,
Geneva, Switzerland.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

August 28, 1944

513



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. STETTINIUS

As you know, a major activity of the War Refugee Board has been psychological warfare designed to induce and persuade the enemy to cease the persecution of the Jews and other minorities. The basis of this program, which has been carried out in cooperation with the State Department, Office of War Information and other agencies, has been the threat to punish every Axis war criminal who has participated, directly or indirectly, in such persecution. Threats of this nature had been made by the United Nations, including various branches of this Government, even before the War Refugee Board was established, and they have since been repeated with increasing tempo. For your information we have collected and are attaching hereto those declarations which specifically set forth the determination of the United States and of other United Nations to punish the perpetrators of atrocities and other crimes against Jews and other minorities even where the victims are or were nationals of Germany or of a satellite power.

We had assumed that one of the primary functions of the United Nations Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes which was created in 1943, would be to devise procedures for the gathering of evidence and the ascertainment, trial and punishment of those enemy nationals who had participated in such war crimes. Much to our surprise we were informed by our General Counsel, Mr. Josiah E. DuBois, upon his return from London recently that he understood from a conversation with Mr. Pell, the United States representative on the Commission, that the Commission takes the view that war crimes under international law do not include crimes committed by an Axis nation or its nationals against its own subjects or the subjects of another Axis nation. Accordingly, it appears that the Commission is not making any provision for the just punishment of such war criminals.

Needless to say, it would be a fearful miscarriage of justice if such war criminals were permitted to escape punishment for their inhuman crimes. Moreover, the failure to implement the numerous threats of punishment would not only subject to ridicule the authors thereof, but would render it far more difficult to deter similar criminal conduct in the future. The failure to punish the criminals of World War I may well have removed a deterrent to the commission of brutalities against civilian populations in this war, including the mass murder of the Jews.

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According to Mr. DuBois' report, Mr. Pell is not satisfied with this position of the United Nations Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes, but seems not to have received instructions from this Government in the matter. Mr. Pell believes that the most effective way of inducing the Commission to broaden the scope of its work to include the punishment of all Axis war criminals, including those guilty of crimes against persons in the above categories, would be to have the United States Government instruct him to urge the Commission to include such crimes in its program and, if possible, to have the other governments represented on the Commission instruct their representatives along similar lines. Another suggested step would be to publicize such an instruction by releasing it to the press.

Accordingly, we suggest that the Department advise Mr. Pell along the lines of the proposed cable attached hereto indicating clearly that the declared policy of the United States Government is to ensure the just punishment of all Axis war criminals, including those guilty of crimes against the Jews and other minorities whether or not the victims of such crimes are of the same nationality as the evildoers; and that Mr. Pell should insist upon the formulation of a program by the Commission effectuating this policy.

(Signed)

J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

[Attachments omitted. - Ed.]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1944

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My dear Mr. Pehle:

This is to let you know that the matter discussed in your memorandum of August 28 and my memorandum of September 4 has not been forgotten. That subject, together with the whole war crimes situation is under active consideration by this and other interested departments. We will inform you more fully regarding the matter just as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

Mr. J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board.

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FORM TFEL-1 (Special)
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Foreign Funds Control

License No. W-2106 as amended
DATE: February 4, 1944

LICENSE

(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8389
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
(Name of Licensee)

270 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Switzerland (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11 to communicate with persons in enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

(a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Switzerland who your representative, after consulting with the United States Legation in Bern when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Switzerland.

(b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books

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in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Switzerland. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account with such approval.

(c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

2. The total amount of dollars or Swiss francs paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed 2,500,000 Swiss francs, or the dollar equivalent thereof, during the six months' period beginning January 1, 1944.

3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Switzerland fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Bern.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed)
J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

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FORM TFEEL-1 (Special)
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Foreign Funds Control

License No. W-2177
DATE: April 12, 1944

LICENSE
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8389
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To: Jewish Labor Committee.
(Name of Licensee)

175 East Broadway, New York, N.Y.
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

1. In order to arrange for the evacuation to places of safety or relative safety as shall be selected by your representative of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory whose lives are in imminent danger and, pending possible evacuation, to sustain and safeguard the lives of such persons, your representative in Portugal (including such agents as he may appoint) is hereby licensed notwithstanding the provisions of General Ruling No. 11 to communicate with persons in enemy-occupied territory in any manner he deems necessary or expedient and to take all other appropriate action, including the acquisition of necessary funds, goods, or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in accordance with the terms of this license. The necessary funds to finance such operations may be obtained by any of the following methods:

(a) The first method is the purchase of currency or exchange of the country in which the operations are to be effected from persons in Portugal who your representative, after consulting with the United States Legation in Lisbon when feasible, is reasonably certain have held such currency or exchange since prior to the freezing of such country by the United States or have since acquired such currency or exchange in such manner as has not benefited the enemy. The sellers of such currency or exchange may be reimbursed therefor in escudos at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Portugal.

(b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books

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in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Portugal. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.

(c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.

2. The total amount of funds paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed the amounts of dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) authorized by specific Treasury licenses to be used under this license.

3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Portugal fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. Insofar as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currency or exchange is purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.

4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Lisbon, Portugal.

5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

6. This license shall expire six months from date hereof, is not transferable, is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and may be revoked, modified, or declared void at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury acting directly or through the agency through which the license was issued, or any other agency designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed)
ORVIS A. SCHMIDT

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

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THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

Washington

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June 3, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I think that the meeting that you, Mr. Abramson, Captain Creech, Commander Freeman, and myself held in my office on June 2, clarified the situation relative to communications concerning refugees.

In accordance with the conclusions reached, this office will proceed on the basis that the War Refugee Board is interested only in the broader aspects of refugee problems, and is not concerned with individual refugees or with transactions between individuals in connection with refugee situations, and is therefore not interested as to the disposition of communications in such cases.

Your understanding of the problems that refugee traffic present to Censorship, and your offer to aid in every way that you can, is appreciated, and I welcome your suggestion to make available a member of the staff of the War Refugee Board for close liaison with the Office of Censorship. As Captain Creech and I stated in the meeting, it is the desire of this office to be as liberal as possible with refugee traffic. Our actions, however, must be consistent with security, the obligations of which at this time require from Censorship the most rigorous and positive action. I hope that the time will be soon when we can relax some of the rigorous measures presently required.

Upon the establishment of the liaison above referred to this office will make available for examination, to the person designated, traffic with which we consider the War Refugee Board might be concerned, so that the Board will be able to render to us an indication of its interest.

It is understood that your liaison representative will be in a position to furnish to this office any information in the possession of the Board which might pertain to individuals or situations referred to in the communications involved.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
BYRON PRICE

Byron Price,
Director.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
Overseas Operations Branch
Washington

CENTRAL DIRECTIVE

Week of February 24 - March 2, 1944

Copy No. 52

War Refugee Board

1. Background

On January 22 President Roosevelt set up a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, and issued an Executive Order stating: "It is the 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, and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war." A White House statement issued the same day said that "it was urgent that action be taken at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe."

2. Propaganda Treatment

- (a) We should use all available news pegs to emphasize, especially to the satellites, that the rescue of the Jews and other "persecuted minorities" now under Nazi rule is a part of the policy of the United States Government.
- (b) In news commentary we must remind the satellites such as Hungary, whose large Jewish population includes many refugees, that we shall judge them in part by the manner in which they treat the Jews and other helpless minorities in their midst.
- (c) We should make clear that all those who participate in any way in crimes against helpless minorities share in the guilt of the executioners, and will be judged and punished in accord with our solemn pledges. We should point out that this was enunciated as agreed United Nations policy in the declaration of December 17, 1942.

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- (d) In our output to Sweden, Switzerland, and Portugal, as well as to the satellites, we should pay tribute to the humanitarian work these three neutral countries have already done in helping refugees to escape from Nazi control and in giving them refuge, food and shelter. In this way we can use the power of example to influence our listeners in enemy-occupied countries to show humanity toward helpless minorities.

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THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD
WASHINGTON BUILDING
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

A part of the procedure set up last year in connection with the National War Fund is the review of budgets and programs of member agencies by this Board with the advice of an informal committee composed of representatives of various Government agencies interested in war relief matters.

The budgets of the member agencies of the National War Fund for 1944 have now been presented to the National War Fund and the Board has invited this Advisory Committee to meet with it at the offices of the Board in the Washington Building, Room 1044, on Friday, February 25, at 10:00 a.m. As a number of the budgets include projects for refugee relief the Board has thought that these would undoubtedly be of interest to your Board and has therefore directed me to invite you to be present at the meeting on February 25 or to designate someone to represent you at that meeting. It is expected that copies of the budgets will be available some days before the meeting for preliminary review by those who will attend.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
HOMER S. FOX

Homer S. Fox
Acting Executive Secretary

The Honorable
John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Care of Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

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