

RAOUL WALLENBERG MATERIALS FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECORDS, HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR. DIARIES, AND ELEANOR
ROOSEVELT PAPERS (Folder 3 of 3)

304 total pp.

000350

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

August 3, 1944

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7 P.M.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 6 1944

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

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

ALLEGATION.

STOCKHOLM.
1550

The cable below for Olsen is WRB 65.

Please ask Wallenberg personally to contact Felix Szentirmay, 10 Szemloney Ut., Budapest, telephone 388-598, and orally tell him that through a friend in Los Angeles, Wallenberg has heard from Eugene Bogdanffy whom Wallenberg does not (repeat not) know. As a means of verifying his statement as to the message, Wallenberg should refer to the following property held by Szentirmay: Bogdanffy's ruby cuff links and pocket watch, Mrs. Bogdanffy's fur coat, gold bracelet, and brooch with green stones. Wallenberg should also express Bogdanffy's concern for Miki's well-being. Wallenberg should tell Szentirmay that Bogdanffy expects that Szentirmay will be asked to go to Switzerland soon and suggests that he apply for a visa immediately. Bogdanffy wants Szentirmay to be sure that when he goes to Switzerland he has at his fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises. Szentirmay must, of course, treat this message with the highest confidence. Szentirmay should not (repeat not) be advised by Wallenberg of the reasons why he is being asked to go to Switzerland, referred to below, or of the Board's interest in the matter.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

For

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000351

-2- #1560, August 3, 1944. Stockholm

For your information, Bogdanffy is a Hungarian residing in Los Angeles who has substantial interests in several large enterprises of which Szentirmay is manager. Union Bank of Switzerland acts as Bogdanffy's trustee and will ask Szentirmay to go to Switzerland to discuss business problems. The purposes of project are to secure adequate source of supply of pengos against blocked francs or dollars and to have Szentirmay undertake to secure cooperation of individual named in paragraph three of Department's 1426 of July 17, WRB's 65, and with whom Bogdanffy and Szentirmay are well acquainted.

If for any reason you do not (repeat not) believe that securing his or Szentirmay's cooperation is appropriate, advise the Board thereof and do not (repeat not) ask Wallenberg to contact Szentirmay until the ^{Board has} ~~Board has~~ had an opportunity to consider such reason.

SEPTIMIUS
ACTING
(L)

WRB:MMV:KG
8/2/44

NOE

SE S/CR WE

000352

not distrib.

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OSKNE

Please ask Wallenberg personally to contact Felix Szentirmai, 10 Szecshogy Ut., Budapest, telephone 358-598, and orally tell him that through a friend in Los Angeles, Wallenberg has heard from Eugene Bogdanffy whom Wallenberg does not (repeat not) know. As a means of verifying his statement as to the message, Wallenberg should refer to the following property held by Szentirmai: Bogdanffy's ruby cuff links and pocket watch, Mrs. Bogdanffy's fur coat, gold bracelet, and brooch with green stones. Wallenberg should also express Bogdanffy's concern for Miki's well-being. Wallenberg should tell Szentirmai that Bogdanffy expects that Szentirmai will be asked to go to Switzerland soon and suggests that he apply for a visa immediately. Bogdanffy wants Szentirmai to be sure that when he goes to Switzerland he has at his fingertips the cash position of all the enterprises. Szentirmai must, of course, treat this message with the highest confidence. Szentirmai should not (repeat not) be advised by Wallenberg of the reasons why he is being asked to go to Switzerland, referred to below, or of the Board's interest in the matter.

For your information, Bogdanffy is a Hungarian residing in Los Angeles who has substantial interests in several large enterprises of which Szentirmai is manager. Union Bank of Switzerland acts as Bogdanffy's trustee and will ask Szentirmai to go to Switzerland to discuss business problems. The purposes of project are to secure adequate source of supply of pengos against blocked francs or dollars and to have Szentirmai undertake to secure cooperation of individual named in paragraph three of Department's _____ of _____, WRB's 55, and with whom Bogdanffy and Szentirmai are well acquainted.

If for any reason you do not (repeat not) believe that securing his or Szentirmai's cooperation is appropriate, advise the Board thereof and do not (repeat not) ask Wallenberg to contact Szentirmai until the Board has had an opportunity to consider such reason.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 65

August 2, 1944
10:20 a.m.

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

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

LSLesser:tmh 8-1-44 *R.S.K.*
discussed with JAF and cleared in principle 7-28-44

1000353

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

For security reasons the
text of this message
is closely guarded

LC - 180
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
(W)

Stockholm

Dated August 19, 1944

Rec'd 2:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 21 1944

X
3182, August 19, 3 p.m.

FOR WRB No. 74

The message contained in WRB 65 (Department's 1550
of August 3, 7 p.m.) will be delivered personally to
Wallenberg by First Secretary of Swedish Legation
Budapest who is temporarily here and will return to
Budapest in about a week. It was not considered
advisable to request Swedish Foreign Office to transmit
message of this nature.

JOHNSON

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000354



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

718

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]

Stockholm, Sweden
August 10, 1944

Dear John:

Another letter for the purpose of giving you some of the background with respect to the situation here, which it is not possible to supply in my various cables. First of all I want to say how much I appreciate the strong support you are giving me on the various programs. It not only has been a great help in keeping things active here, but has been very important to me personally for reasons which you will understand.

I have continued to be terribly busy, but just now things seem to be much better organized and I'm able to push ahead on my various other duties as well. The next time you write I would like very much to get your views as to what you consider future W.R.B. activities will be. I have been going on the assumption that it will wind up with the close of the war in Europe. It is important to me since it soon will be a year since I've left home and I will be most anxious to be back with my family towards the end of November, even if I have to go back to the field after a while until matters are cleaned up. Consequently, I thought that perhaps you should be thinking about a replacement if you have any long-term plans. I am raising the same matter with Mr. White shortly, as well as our other friends, since I don't want to walk away and leave anything until appropriate arrangements have been made to carry on whatever work is essential. On the other hand, I am sure you will understand that I am disturbed about being away from Mildred and the boys too long without returning at least for a while.

With the longer nights now arriving, my Baltic operations are now beginning to show results, although they are very difficult. As I cabled you, I lost my man Vokietaitis, which upset me very much, and had a most serious effect on our Lithuanian operations, to say nothing of losing our best source of Baltic intelligence. He had shipped into Lithuania to complete all the rescue arrangements personally, and the first hint of bad news came when he or anyone else failed to show up at the appointed place when the boat went after him the following week. The same thing happened when the boat went the next week, and it was on the third trip that the evacuees reported he had been captured and shot by the Germans. He was a hell of a fine, fearless fellow and the most skillful operator I had. There are several things I could do to try and rescue him, but I am afraid to do it in case (a) he is simply caught behind the lines for the time being, in which case anything I did to stir things up would only focus attention on the fact that he is over there, or (b) he is in a German prison, in which case anything I did might blow the story he has told the Germans, and get him shot straightaway. Consequently, all I can do just now is to keep the boat going, with the hope he will show up. There is a

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 111-72
By R. R. [REDACTED]

tremendous number of political, religious and racial refugees hiding in the Lithuanian woods in the greatest possible peril, and these next two weeks are about all we have to work on.

The Estonians are doing very well, and I'm damned pleased with them. They are excellently organized with very good technicians and equipment, including radio, and know their business. Through secret arrangements with the General Staff, which avoided a few score years of imprisonment for espionage, I spent several hours at their operations base in restricted territory on the Baltic coast, and must say I was impressed. They have already gotten about 100 people out of Estonia, and through their excellent organization have made it possible for 2 or 3 hundred others to get out on boats not ours. I have been getting a list of the persons gotten out and without question they are people who are much wanted by the Germans. Those who are not politically compromised with the Germans are intellectuals who are certainly worth saving. As a rule, however, most of them have had very active connections with the recently organized Estonian National Committee which not long ago declared war on both Russia and Germany. This has somewhat complicated the picture, but I have continued operations on the basis that these persons are most seriously compromised with the Germans - over 700 of them have already been arrested and/or shot by the S.S. and Gestapo. The Estonian operation looks like it will last the longest, which hardly can be more than a month.

The Latvian operation is not going very well, although it is just now starting to show a few results. This is due in large part to the fact that there are very few Latvians in Sweden, as a result of which it has been impossible to recruit thoroughly competent crews to carry out the operations. Also, I continue to be very uncertain of Salnais, both as to his point of view and ability, which situation I have made quite clear to him with the hope that he would make every effort to show me that I was 100 percent wrong. We can expect some results, but they will not be remarkable. [I am still satisfied, however, that we put our chips on the best local bet available, even though it wasn't surefire.] The Latvian show will also, in all probability, be washed up in a couple of weeks or so.

I have made it clear to all three groups that their boats must be delivered to me in Stockholm upon demand, and that such time will come at the latest whenever the Russians are in command of the areas in which rescue operations in their respective countries can be carried out, and when it is clear that the danger of German persecution has cleared. I must say, however, that I feel very sorry for these Baltic peoples; they are in a hell of a mess and I see no answer to it. Some day I will tell you about it. I like the Estonians and Lithuanians very much - they are really fine people who can make this a better world to live in, and better because they are in it. I don't care for the Latvians very much; largely because they have a fairly general tendency to be quite unreliable, and are definitely trouble-makers.

With the Finnish situation looking quite optimistic, I am not pushing our program in that area any more, except that I got a promise from the Swedish Foreign Office that whenever they undertake to evacuate the Swedes from Finland (they have

made very complete plans), they would include in their transportation plans the evacuation of the Finnish Jews. Heretofore, however, I have had some hot going on the Finnish program, and temporarily had almost the entire Jewish community in Sweden mad at me. The truth of the matter was that they were dragging their heels in the most unconscionable way, on one pretext or another. The following is for your information only, but it is only too true that the Swedish Jews don't want any more Jews in Sweden. They are very comfortably situated here, have no anti-semitic problems, and are very much afraid that an influx of Jews will not only be a burden to them, but will create a Jewish problem in Sweden. Consequently, you will find them very interested in Jewish rescue and relief operations, so long as they do not involve bringing them into Sweden. For example, the fact that thousands of Jews got out of Denmark was due to a boldly conceived and executed plan of the Swedish Socialstyrelsen - the Swedish Jews were most apathetic. In the case of the Norwegian Jews, they were even frigid, since all these were of the poorer classes. They consider themselves a sort of Jewish aristocracy and they do not want it watered down. No more striking example could be found than the fact that a year or so ago about thirty Jewish children, orphans, arrived from central Europe - finally were taken into Christian homes. The Swedish Jews did not want to be bothered. This was again illustrated in connection with my recent cables regarding the possibility of getting some Jewish children out of Finland - less than fifty. The local community did not want to take any steps until full guarantees of American financial support were supplied. There should have been five hundred comfortable Jewish homes here available without a moment's hesitation for these children on a temporary basis. Their disinterest may be further suggested by the fact that not to this date has a representative of the Jewish community ever been down to the pier to receive any of the evacuees from Finland as they dribbled in. All of this has been done by Filseth of my office, including getting them through immigration, customs, the Socialstyrelsen, and then to camp. Only Filseth has been to the camp to see how they are getting along.

Another headache has been the Wolbe group, genuinely well meaning but the most hopelessly helpless group that I have worked with. All they can talk about is Shanghai and Ecuadorian passports, despite my assurances that the War Refugee Board is exploring all possible bets in that connection, and that their big task is to devise something that will help in Lithuania. Wolbe's comprehension of the urgency of this problem perhaps best may be suggested by the fact that the day after he received \$10,000 for Lithuanian rescue operations he went off on a month's vacation and I haven't seen him since. This vacation item, by the way, is something that the Swedes take very seriously, and is no laughing matter if you are trying to get something done during that period. I was really surprised that the Germans haven't caught on, and didn't take Sweden in July, since there was scarcely a brain left in town at any time. Since a Swedish General has approximately the individual authority and initiative of an American sergeant, I am sure that the whole defense formula would have been atrophied at the very start.

The Hungarian situation looks much better, although I do not believe that rescue or evacuation operations will be of any consequence, at least those requiring German transit visas.

It looks like the old game of the Germans permitting their satellites to make a fine variety of gestures for the record, but clamping down themselves at whatever point they become involved. However, the situation is much better inside Hungary wherever the Hungarian authorities have contact, but the trouble is that in too many places the Germans have control and the Jews are simply disappearing. I talked with a chap from Hungary yesterday who had tried to find some Jewish families. He said that the Jews are moved from camp to camp until trace is lost of them. He said an awful lot of young Jewish children, particularly girls 14 and 15, are being stolen on the streets and completely disappear. As you know, anybody has authority over them. The Jews are so terrified that they now are simply hiding in their homes. He believed that if the Jews weren't so terrified, the best thing they could do would be to take off their yellow stars en masse, which would cause so much confusion, particularly because of the air-raids around Budapest, that many of them could escape out into the country where they could be hidden. He said that about 80 percent of the Hungarian metropolitan population are quite unmoved by the Jewish persecutions, and simply shrug their shoulders. The others are too frightened to help. In the country, however, things are much better.

I get the impression indirectly that the Swedish Foreign Office is somewhat uneasy about Wallenberg's activities in Budapest, and perhaps feel that he has jumped in with too big a splash. They would prefer, of course, to approach the Jewish problem in the finest traditions of European diplomacy, which wouldn't help too much. On the other hand, there is much to be said for moving around quietly on this type of work. In any case, I feel that Wallenberg is working like hell and doing some good which is the measure. In a week or so the Swedish Red Cross is sending three men delegates to Budapest to construct camps for the Jews, which I think is the most tangible thing that can be done for the moment. I have a stake in this program. I have also arranged with Count Bernadotte that the Swedish Red Cross handle all negotiations with Kleist and Boening with regard to the evacuation to Sweden of approximately 4,500 Jews in Germany with South American visas. It is understood that Berlin has agreed in principle to the idea, but the nature of the proposition involved will not be available for a few days. I certainly hope that it is something that can be considered, since it would be a substantial accomplishment, but am rather dubious.

It seems to me that I must have run down a thousand or so straw possibilities in trying to obtain concrete results, and wish that more of them could have panned out. You might be interested in one of them, which I did not report for certain reasons. As you know, Goering's first wife (her second marriage) was the Swedish Countess von Rosen, through which marriage Goering acquired a step-son, now a strapping, nice chap of about 25, who is the apple of his eye. This step-son, who lives in Sweden (Swedish citizen, of course) visits Goering periodically and, in fact, has his own flat in Goering's home. It is also a well-known fact, even told to me by Jews who knew Goering personally, that Goering has been greatly opposed to the Jewish persecutions but has not been strong enough to stop them. Consequently, just before this step-son went to visit Goering in the latter part of June, I had him over to my flat and had a

very strong talk with him. I pointed out that Goering would soon be on trial for his life and, after Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Warsaw, etc., he would not exactly have many people on the other side of the fence who will testify as to his beautiful soul. I suggested that both from the point of view of his own Swedish humanitarian instincts, as well as his affection for his step-father, he should urge him in the strongest possible manner to do what he could to ease Jewish persecutions in the Balkans, Poland, Thereiedstadt, and elsewhere, and to urge him to take steps that would permit young children and old people to get out of Europe. This chap seemed very impressed and said that he would press the matter with Goering to the best of his ability. I haven't seen him since, but without anything to base it on, I believe that some good has been done.

I am keeping very careful records of the funds you have sent me to be used in my discretion, and am now thankful that I have them. I will be able to account for all of them, and I have receipts for virtually the full amount. This is also true with respect to my Baltic operations, where I have been able to get excellent accounting and receipts against a large proportion of the expenditures. Out of the funds which you have placed at my personal disposal the following are the more important outlays, actual and proposed:

- (A) Wallenberg left in a hell of a hurry with no instructions and no funds for preliminary expenditures, such as purchase of easily carried barter articles for Hungarian relief. I placed 10,000 kronor at his disposal. In order to channel it through an organization so I could get a good receipt, I gave it to his Aunt, Countess Bondé who is head of the "Committee for Aid to Belgian Children", earmarked for "Special Hungarian Relief Activities."
- (B) On the basis of several urgent requests that Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis received from Bucharest for relief funds, I gave the Executive Committee for Relief of European Jews 25,000 kronor. They were able to get about 12,000,000 lei for this, which will do a lot of good. The need of Rumanian Jews for food and clothing is really desperate and it would be impossible to do enough. Excellent channels are available from Sweden.
- (C) I am trying to get 25,000 to Wallenberg through intermediaries who are in a position to obtain favorable pengo rates on a satisfactory basis.
- (D) I turned over 2,000 kronor to Mrs. Andersen for "special translating work and other services" with which she hired a Latvian fishing boat to go over and pick up 20 anti-Nazis in hiding. This seemed a very cheap gamble and I will know the outcome in a few days.
- (E) I informed Count Bernadotte that the War Refugee Board was very interested in the proposal of constructing camps for Hungarian Jews, and that we would donate 50,000 kronor to further the program when all details were worked out. They were most appreciative and it will help push early action.

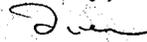
(F) I have told Mr. Cedergren's Committee, "Hjälp Krigeis Offer", that I would place at their disposal a special fund of 5,000 kronor which can be used to send food packages to families in concentration camps of refugees here in Sweden who are penniless and have no means of sending packages. This will be a strong morale boost both to these people and their families.

(G) The only unreceipted expenditures are my own personal outlays of about 300 kronor or so monthly in furtherance of our program, which heretofore I had been charging to our friends on Constitution Avenue.

I surely hope you will continue to feel that everything is going well here and will be satisfied in every respect. I can assure you that I'm doing the best I can but it is damned complicated going. One thing I would like your reaction to is my idea of using the "Baltic fleet" for Norwegian evacuations when Baltic operations cease, which looks like it will be about the first of September. Rescue operations through the Norwegian forests get very dangerous as soon as snow gets on the ground, but on the other hand sea evacuations should be quite easy, with proper skill, during September and October. Perhaps you will be able to indicate your reactions.

My very best regards to all of you.

Sincerely,



P.S. Just got very good news that my Lithuanian program is now in good swing, almost 100 have gotten out, and Vokietaitis apparently is safe. It looks like he got everything organized and then got out through Latvia.

I.C.O.



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]

Stockholm, Sweden
August 14, 1944

Dear John:

Since writing the foregoing letter, I had lunch with the First Secretary of the Swedish Legation in Budapest, who is here for a short while. He is a fine chap and had many interesting comments to make. He said Wallenberg is working very hard and doing everything possible, which items he has also emphasized to the Foreign Office. He considers the situation in Hungary far from settled but he is confident that the Hungarian Government will continue to ease the Jewish situation so long as control is in their hands and not in German hands. This is, however, the big question. He is very skeptical as to the possibility of bringing to Sweden the 2,000 odd Jews who, up to now, have been issued Swedish papers. He stated that both the Hungarians and the Germans had agreed to provide transit visas (actually the German Legation in Budapest gave him personally the official assurances), but later the Germans said these must be a quid pro quo, which was that the rest of the Hungarian Jews of working age must be delivered to German labor camps. This chap is positive that the only real constructive move to be made just now is to get as many Jews as possible into Swedish camps, and then extend the Swedish protection to as many others as possible. I thoroughly agree and that is why I am so anxious to press the Swedish Red Cross in this matter. He also indicated, and please keep this as personal, that we should not take without a grain of salt the hopeful enthusiasm of the I.R.C. man there, who apparently drinks a lot and has delusions of grandeur, but very little in the way of practical judgment in approaching the problem.

He said that even he did not believe some of the atrocities until he himself was an eye-witness. He went over to a brick factory where they had over 10,000 Jews herded in an area so small that they were forced to stand up closely packed together for five days, old people and young children alike, without any sanitary facilities. He saw them himself standing there, and also being loaded into box cars, eighty (he said 80 were counted out very carefully) into each car, after which the doors were nailed shut. He said many died just standing in the brick factory. He also said that young girls of 14 and 15 were being stolen on the streets, taken into other areas where they had "war whore" tattooed on their arms. Some of them, young Hungarian Jewesses of good family, had been observed as far away as Hamburg. He lamented very much the total lack of courage among the Hungarian Jews, since they could do so much to help themselves even when they knew it was only a matter of a short time before they would be killed. He said it was very difficult to escape into Rumania or Yugoslavia because the country was too open and the Jews are too terrified. He mentioned

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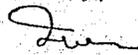
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72

By R. H. [REDACTED] 3/2/72

000361

that all Hungarian Jews escaping into Rumania are greeted with open arms by the Rumanian authorities, sign long statements as to how badly the Hungarians treated them, and how well the Rumanians greeted them. The Rumanians will produce these after the war.

Sincerely,



Copy for the War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C.



B48/ICO/MET

Stockholm
September 26, 1944

Stockholms Enskilda Bank A.B.
Stockholm

Dear Sirs:

I enclose check for 200,000 Swedish kronor which I request that you deposit to the credit of Mr. Raoul Wallenberg. Please acknowledge receipt and crediting of this check.

Sincerely yours,


Iver C. Olsen
Financial Attaché

Enclosure - 1

000363



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MEF

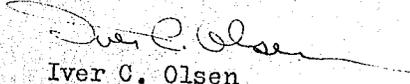
AMERICAN LEGATION
Stockholm, Sweden
November 22, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Attached herewith is the final report covering War Refugee Board operations from Sweden. It was not possible to undertake the duplication of the rather extensive enclosures, but it is assumed that the Board will arrange appropriate distribution.

Sincerely yours,


Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosure - 1

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By [redacted] Parks Date SEP 27 1972

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. [redacted] 52
By R. H. [redacted]

OPERATIONS
of the
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
from
SWEDEN

Stockholm, November 20, 1944.

RECEIVED
NOV 29 1944

000365

C O N T E N T S

- I. Local Situation.
 - A. Cooperation of Local Organizations.
 - B. Other Operating Factors.
- II. Baltic Operations.
 - Summary of Results.
 - A. Estonian Rescue Operations.
 - B. Latvian Rescue Operations.
 - C. Lithuanian Rescue Operations.
 - D. Criticisms Encountered.
 - E. Finnish Rescue Operations.
- III. Norwegian Relief and Rescue Operations.
 - Summary of Results.
 - A. Rescue Operations.
 - B. Relief Operations.
 - C. Criticisms Encountered.
- IV. Danish Rescue and Relief Operations.
- V. Balkan Rescue and Relief Operations.
 - Summary of Results.
 - A. Hungarian Rescue and Relief Operations.
 - B. Relief and Rescue Operations in Rumania.
 - C. Relief Operations in Bulgaria.
- VI. Activities With Respect to the Rest of Europe.
- VII. Assistance to Refugees in Sweden.
- VIII. Financial Accounting of Funds Made Available for War Refugee Board Operations.

000366

ENCLOSURES

- I. Estonia.
 - A. Memoranda Regarding Rescue Operations.
 - B. List of Refugees Evacuated.
 - C. Financial Statement, With Receipts.
- II. Latvia.
 - A. Memoranda Regarding Rescue Operations.
 - B. List of Refugees Evacuated.
 - C. Financial Statement, With Receipts.
- III. Lithuania.
 - A. Memorandum Regarding Rescue Operations.
 - B. List of Refugees Evacuated.
 - C. Financial Statement, With Receipts.
- IV. Denmark.
 - A. Memorandum Regarding Types of Operations.
- V. Bulgaria.
 - A. Copies of Informal Memoranda Exchanged
With Bulgarian Minister to Sweden.
- VI. Financial Accounts.

Ledger Photostats of Various Special
Accounts Authorized by War Refugee
Board, and Photostatic Copies of
Receipts.

000367

I. Local Situation.

A. Cooperation of Local Organizations.

As is generally known, the Swedish public is most sympathetic to humanitarian efforts and has made an extremely distinguished record in this field during the war period. A similar attitude is prevalent among the Swedish authorities. Consequently, the purposes and aims of the War Refugee Board met with an instant response in Sweden, with offers of assistance and cooperation pouring in from all sides. As a matter of fact, the most difficult task of the early weeks of the program was to sift out the groups who really were in a position to lend effective assistance, and to eliminate the well-wishers who were sincerely interested but actually time-consuming burdens. The task was further complicated by a flood of refugees into the office, mostly stateless, who construed the creation of the War Refugee Board as the long-awaited answer to their incredible variety of personal problems.

It was rather clear from the outset that the program had to be dealt with in two parts - relief and rescue - and that entirely different approaches had to be made with respect to each of these programs. Local organizations had been rather effective in carrying out relief operations - food, clothing, financial assistance, etc., but had accomplished almost nothing during the war period with respect to rescue operations, and were in fact totally unable to grasp the urgent requirements of the situation or to adjust themselves to the irregular and hazardous methods by which something could be accomplished. Accordingly, the work of almost

000368

all the local relief organizations was canvassed quite thoroughly from the point of view of ascertaining whether it could be made more effective and could be expanded into wider operating areas. With regard to rescue operations, however, entirely new groups or facilities were created to carry out this program.

The usual obstacles and disappointments were encountered as regards jealousies between local organizations. This was particularly true with regard to the Jewish organizations in Sweden which, it seems to me, have been strikingly ineffective during the past years and contributed virtually nothing to furthering the operations of the War Refugee Board. They seemed much more concerned with personal considerations, personal prestige and jockeying for position vis-à-vis a rival organization, than the desperate fate of their people in Europe. They were openly critical of any efforts of others but quick to claim a participating credit in the more successful efforts.

B. Other Operating Factors.

Operations in Sweden were tremendously facilitated by the complete and clear cut directives emanating from the War Refugee Board, and the promptness with which it supported and cleared recommended projects. The cooperation and assistance of the Legation staff here was excellent. This was particularly true of the Minister who, although I am sure had personal misgivings about the prudence of some of the operations, particularly in the Baltic, was at all times willing for me to go ahead if there were reasonable prospects that something constructive could be accomplished.

II. Baltic Operations.

Results: Approximately 1,200 persons rescued at a cost

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of \$50,000. At least an additional number brought to safety in Sweden through individual initiative and facilities but benefiting from underground routes and communications established by War Refugee Board.

The Baltic program was extremely difficult to get organized and the entire operation itself encountered a great variety of obstacles and mishaps during the period it was under way. The selection of the appropriate groups presented many problems, all of which were resolved on the simple criterion of getting the most reliable and competent group possible with the highest degree of official stature with the Swedish authorities. In each instance this seemed to be the former Baltic Minister to Sweden, who were functioning as the head of their respective Relief Committees here, and who were "unofficially" recognized by the Swedish authorities as head of their respective communities in Sweden. It was considered that these individuals and their immediate staffs were perhaps in the best position to enlist competent crews to undertake these trips, and the most likely to be able to contact and develop the necessary underground channels on the other side. Also, it was considered that these three individuals would be extremely anxious to ingratiate themselves with the American authorities and, therefore, the most likely to scrupulously carry out the directives of the War Refugee Board both in letter and spirit. Finally, the fact that these individuals had a certain degree of standing with the Swedish authorities was considered a valuable aid in overcoming certain technical difficulties in operations of this nature, and also served to protect the Legation and the War Refugee Board against any criticism which the unpredictable results of a less responsible group might have produced. There were all sorts of groups engaged in this type of operation - the majority of which,

including ex-rum runners and racketeers, simply seized the opportunity of shaking these panic-stricken refugees for everything they owned.

A. Estonian Rescue Operations.

This group turned out to be the most competent and skillful in carrying out their operations and encountered very few technical difficulties except a persistent fuel problem which I finally was able to overcome. Their equipment was excellent and their underground channels in Estonia quite effective. The outstanding failure of the Estonian program was the inability to evacuate the Czech and French Jewesses from Tallinn - about 300 who probably were there as "war whores". Several attempts were made to contact them but the plan envisaged was their evacuation all at once, since it was believed that a partial evacuation would only result in the slaughter of those left behind. This operation would have been quite difficult in any event, and to penetrate the German guard in the Tallinn area was at best a hazardous venture which I could hardly blame the crews for being unwilling to undertake. As it was, I was informed that contact was made with these Jewesses but they were too frightened to risk the journey. I have no way of verifying this statement.

The two boats used in this traffic were extremely fast. One was an open speedboat with a 160 H.P. Chrysler marine engine, which made several trips without mishap except that a few arms were broken trying to hang onto her wheel in the rough Baltic Sea. This boat was withdrawn when the seas became too heavy for her, and after she had suffered considerable knocking about. The second boat was a cabin cruiser with a capacity of thirty odd, powered by a 165 H.P. Kermath marine motor. Also extremely fast and made several trips

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without any fatality although she was fired upon several times by German submarines and surface craft which were, however, unable to overtake her. The crews of these vessels were excellent mechanics and there were no breakdowns on any journey - the most dangerous kind of mishap. I have ridden in both of these boats and was greatly impressed with the efficiency of the crews - their ace mechanic was a deserter from a German airplane plant.

An investment of 110,000 Swedish kronor was made in the Estonian rescue program, exclusive of certain gasoline bills paid to the local Texaco Company through special arrangements. Approximately 275 persons were rescued in the course of these operations. The group brought here was one for whom nobody need apologize. It was a cross-representative group of decent, respectable Estonians of all kinds of life, half of which were women and children, with a generous sprinkling of very young children - some less than a year old. There were quite a few fugitives from German labor and military conscript, this incident arising from the fact that many were hiding in the forests near the Sea and simply jumped on the rescue boats when and as they could. Proportionately, there was an average representation of intellectuals and religious leaders. See attached list and description of persons rescued. Considering the smoothness and efficiency of the Estonian operation, it would seem that more persons should have been brought to safety. Fuel difficulties were, of course, a factor. Another influence may have been in part that probably the Swedish Intelligence Service took advantage of this excellent underground connection to run a few excursions of their own for the purpose of checking as to what was going on in Estonia. This would be quite natural, since the Swedish

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General Staff was most cooperative, even to the point of supplying weapons and forged German identification papers, and it would be quite unlikely that there wasn't some quid pro pro somewhere. As a matter of fact, on one trip the boat was caught in a bad storm and almost foundered, and the refugees were put on board a Swedish naval vessel. It also may be assumed that the Estonian group itself was at least slightly interested in maintaining an underground intelligence system, and that some of the traffic was dedicated to these ends. On balance, however, it would seem that this rescue operation was well worth-while, and that the investment paid reasonable dividends.

B. Latvian Rescue Operations.

This operation was considerably more difficult than the Estonia, and the results much more obscure. In the first place, the Latvian group lacked the competency and the stability of the Estonian group. It also had a much narrower choice of necessary personnel to carry out the operations, which resulted in the choice of poorer controls and equipment. Finally, the Latvians have seemed to me a highly individualistic, nationalistic, quarrelsome and unreliable group, with the result that I never felt too sure just what was going on. There was never any doubt in my mind that I had picked the best group available, but great difficulty was experienced in maintaining the necessary controls over them to make certain that their operations were consistent with the directives of the War Refugee Board. As it was, there were occasional rumors that pro-Nazis or persons participating actively in the slaughter of the Latvian Jews had been brought to Sweden. In each instance I had ex-Minister Salnais come to the office and impressed upon him in the strongest

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possible terms my position in the matter, with the assurance that all funds and equipment would be taken away from him should any of such rumors be substantiated and should investigation indicate that he was unable to maintain the controls necessary to prevent such conditions. I also discussed the matter several times with appropriate officials of the Foreign Office and, on a personal basis, requested the assistance of the Swedish police and Intelligence Service in checking these rumors.

In not a single instance was it possible to find a concrete basis for these rumors, and it may be assumed that they sprang from jealousies and ill will between the various Latvian elements in Sweden. Some of them probably were initiated by two or three private Latvian groups who had pressed me for financial backing in operating rescue routes. However, a close check on them revealed that these individuals had a rather questionable background and would probably get me into trouble. Denied the requested financial support, they then undertook to discredit the operation in which I was participating. On the other hand, it is not entirely unlikely that a few undesirables did come to Sweden on these facilities, particularly in September when conditions were chaotic in Latvia. On some nights as many as a dozen boats arrived in Gotland from Latvia and controls and interrogation was so poor that it is not clear just who arrived on our facilities and who came independently. Furthermore, these rescue operations are timed to a matter of minutes and it is obviously possible for an undesirable person to slip on a boat during the few minutes at dusk when it is loading refugees.

Latvian rescue operations got off to a very shaky start and encountered a series of episodes ranging from the hilari-

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ous to sheer misfortune. Faulty equipment, bad storms in the Baltic Sea, and narrow escapes from German naval and military action, delayed any real results until the latter part of July, when the nights became at least a little longer. For a short period in August German confusion and demoralization was particularly high and rescue operations were greatly facilitated. In the early part of September, however, German controls were quite tight, patrol vessels considerably increased, and several misfortunes were encountered. One of the rescue vessels was captured by a German vessel on September 10 and with its crew taken to Tallinn, where both crew and passengers were imprisoned. However, some of them managed to escape during the Russian drive on Tallinn and actually got the boat and 35 refugees to Sweden. Another boat ran out of fuel in dodging German naval action on September 14 and luckily, after drifting in the Baltic for six days, was driven onto the Swedish coast. On September 15, a rescue vessel was captured by the Germans and the crew and 50 refugees taken to Gdynia, subsequently sent to a concentration camp in Germany. In the latter part of September, however, operations were stopped because the Germans considered their position so hopeless that they were assisting their Latvian collaborators in escaping, with the result that there were strong possibilities that future arrivals in Sweden might be tainted. The Latvian operation, while it was underway, was very hazardous and most interesting and it is recommended that the attached statements covering the history of the operations be read from the point of view of getting an insight into the great variety of difficulties entailed in operations of this nature. Of a total crew of 24 used in these operations, one third are dead or missing.

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According to the attached list of Latvian refugees, approximately 700 were brought to Sweden through the facilities of the War Refugee Board. Approximately 55 percent were women and children. Of adults of both sexes, it will be observed that over half were fishermen, farmers, laborers, domestic help, etc. Approximately 250 were professors, students, lawyers, agriculturalists, teachers, architects, physicians, etc. The War Refugee Board investment in this project was 55,000 Swedish kronor (less than \$15,000) and it would seem that the results were very much worth-while.

Actually, the Latvian group claims that almost the entire Latvian refugee group in Sweden of approximately 3,500 owes its safety to the War Refugee Board, since evacuations started in large numbers only after W.R.B. facilities had done the necessary pioneering for escape routes and lines of communication. However, I would be reluctant to accept blanket credit without knowing considerably more about the composition of the Latvian refugees here although it should be possible to accept the statement that a small proportion of undesirables should not discredit an overall rescue operation.

The failure to rescue any Latvian Jews was a great disappointment and even now it is not clear what else could have been done to obtain better results. Several attempts had been made by some individuals here to hire less reliable groups to bring Jews out of Latvia at so much per head. In all instances, however, money was paid out in advance but no results were forthcoming. I am rather convinced that our group would have brought some of them out if possible, since I was constantly reminding Salnais of several rumors I had heard that he was anti-semitic, to which he strongly protested. However, there is no question but what an important

segment of Latvian officials are anti-semitic and responsible for some of the unspeakable crimes committed against the Jews in Latvia, and perhaps some of the failure was due to the attitude of the underground group in Latvia. Otherwise, and considering the fact that hardly a single Jew has come out of Latvia during the German occupation, there seems to be a reasonable basis for accepting the explanation that the Jews were either out of reach of rescue operations or were in hiding and too terrified to make a break for safety.

C. Lithuanian Rescue Operations.

These operations received a death-blow almost at the outset and from which they were never able to recover. That was in the loss of the group's key man, Vokietaitis, an extremely clever and fearless operator who was otherwise useful to the Legation. He made the first trip himself to get the proper underground connections with Lithuanians and, while reports are in conflict as to what happened, he has never come back. Due to the very small Lithuanian community in Sweden, it was impossible to find a suitable replacement and the entire venture became a series of great misfortunes, including the capture of not less than five of the rescue vessels by German submarines and surface vessels, with total crews and refugee passengers of 250 being either dead or missing. In addition to this there were a series of mishaps resulting from faulty equipment, storms, lack of coordination and poor navigation. It may be considered astonishing that any considerable number of persons were rescued at all. The attached log of Lithuanian rescue operations is recommended for study.

Approximately 135 Lithuanians were brought to safety in Sweden with a War Refugee Board investment of 35,000 Swedish

kronor (about \$8,500). Here again approximately half were women and children (see attached list), with the balance a most representative cross section of an average community. The failure in this instance to rescue any Jews can most certainly be attributed to technical obstacles alone since it is known definitely that several efforts were made to establish the necessary channels. However, the rescue of a selected few from concentration camps would not only have been extremely difficult, but would have seriously endangered those left behind. The certainty that they all were to be murdered in any event perhaps might have justified the gamble, but it is a serious responsibility to assume. There were large numbers of Jews being hidden by farmers and others, but these people considered themselves fairly safe and were not at all disposed to risk the hazards of a long trip to the Lithuanian coast and then a perilous sea journey.

The Lithuanian operation was stopped at the same time as other Baltic operations due largely to the fact that all the boats had been lost and losses were getting increasingly disproportionate to the number of persons rescued.

D. Criticisms Encountered.

The most active criticism of the Baltic rescue program was initiated in October by the Communist press in Sweden, much of which was directed at the American Legation's financial participation. It was charged that many of these refugees were pro-Nazis and anti-Soviet, and were war criminals fleeing from Russian retribution. The facts were greatly exaggerated and distorted, particularly as to the true facts of American activity. The Legation took the attitude that these charges were absurd and provocative and undertook to make no reply. The entire matter is being re-

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ported separately as a Legation despatch which will go forward in the very near future, and if possible will be attached to this report as an exhibit.

Some of the local Jewish organizations were disposed to criticize these operations as having failed to rescue any Jews despite the fact that funds of American Jewish organizations were employed (which was not true). The failure to rescue any Jews was greatly regretted and has been explained, a circumstance that these Swedish organizations should have understood when it is considered that in the past several years the position of the Jews in the Baltic has been most critical and they themselves did not bring a single one to safety nor did they initiate a single step in that direction. Most of the criticism probably originated from the fact that they wanted all funds originating from Jewish organizations in the United States to go through their hands.

E. Finnish Rescue Operations.

These operations were limited exclusively to bringing to safety the stateless Jews in Finland, whose fate could be considered precarious at any moment the Germans staged a full military coup in Finland. This operation involved considerable discussion with the Swedish Foreign Office as to entry visas, with the local Mosaic Community as to maintenance provisions, and with the Finnish Mosaic Community as to evacuation details. All arrangements were finally completed and perhaps 150 eventually arrived in Sweden on a piecemeal basis. The Swedish Mosaic Community was distinctly luke warm towards the whole program, and on occasions needed rather strong prodding.

Arrangements were also concluded with the Swedish Foreign Office, on a preliminary basis, whereby they would

undertake to evacuate the Finnish Jews at the same time that conditions in Finland seemed sufficiently dangerous to necessitate the evacuation of Swedes in Finland.

The only other Finnish problem arising was with respect to an Estonian group which approached me after the Russian-Finnish armistice for financial assistance in carrying out an underground evacuation of about 700 Estonians from Finland. I informed them that there were reasons which should be obvious to them as to why Finland was not an area of War Refugee Board operations and that it would be quite impossible to participate in any such program.

III. Norwegian Rescue and Relief Operations.

Results: About 6,000 brought to safety in Sweden. Several thousand others in a position to be rescued if necessary. Many thousands brought relief through shipments of food, clothing, medicines, etc.

Activities in Norway have, of course, been greatly favored by border proximities as well as adjoining sea areas. They have further benefited from extremely effective underground channels in many alternative forms, and with an abundance of highly skilled technicians available to carry out almost any type of operation desired. While there is some jealousy and difference of political opinion, there was at all times close coordination of effort in carrying out any program that would benefit Norway. Consequently, the program moved forward smoothly and efficiently, and the results were extremely good. Not a small part of it is due to the unofficial but most effective cooperation of the Swedish authorities.

A. Rescue Operations.

The bulk of the rescue operations were financed through the funds sent to the Norwegian Labor Party by

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American Relief for Norway acting on behalf of the C.I.O.-A.F.of L. group. The funds were in the hands of a highly competent and conscientious Norwegian group here which worked with me very closely. No difficulties were experienced at any time and it was a pleasure to work with them. Underground channels established for rescue operations were, except for normal hazards, rather safe and casualties were light in carrying out the program. A large proportion of those rescued were complete families, since reprisals by the Nazis were extremely severe. Most of the movement was across the borders, but as winter approaches this escape method will become more hazardous due to the tell-tale tracks in the snow. More recently wider experiments have been made with escape by sea routes and the results justify an expansion of such facilities. Appropriate arrangements have been made with the Swedish authorities - particularly as to necessary fuel supplies. It is possible, however, that increased German patrol activity in these sea areas will eventually render these rescue operations as dangerous as those previously attempted in the Baltic.

B. Relief Operations.

These activities were of a great variety and, similar to the rescue operations, have been entirely successful. A large part of the food parcels, clothing, shoes, medicines and other supplies have gone into Norway under the Swedish licensing system, and the only important consideration was to make sure (a) that relief was brought to the most needy cases, and (b) that these supplies reached the ultimate beneficiaries and did not fall into the hands of the Germans. Adequate safeguards were taken with respect to both points.

Illegal relief operations in Norway were carried out

through several channels. The Norwegian Labor group sent in a substantial volume of supplies and Norwegian currency which were distributed by their underground organization. They also sent in necessary supplies to maintain the underground engaged in transporting refugees across the border into Sweden. Part of the funds placed at my discretion by American Relief for Norway was turned over to certain officials of the Norwegian Legation here connected with the Norwegian Home Front, and these funds were used to purchase equipment, clothing, food and medicines. This project was related to the safeguarding of approximately 10,000 Norwegian youths hiding in the forests and the maintenance of rescue facilities for them at such time as their lives were endangered.

With the cooperation of the Swedish Foreign Office, a very helpful working arrangement was made with the Swedish Consul General in Oslo, who for some time had quietly and without any credit been doing an enormous amount of good for oppressed and needy Norwegians. To date 90,000 Swedish kronor have been deposited to his credit with the Swedish Foreign Office, against which credit he drew upon consular receipts in Oslo to carry out his relief operations. These funds, in turn, he turned over to the Central Relief Committee of the Lutheran Church, which organization then used them to bring relief to a carefully selected list of urgent hardship cases. Most of these were families of Norwegians who had been imprisoned, deported or shot by the Germans, including perhaps a dozen completely helpless Jewish families. The entire operation was dangerously illegal since the Germans imposed very severe penalties upon anyone assisting these groups. The Swedish Consul General has been in Stockholm twice since this program started and he has reported that not enough could be

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said to indicate how worthwhile this program is.

A more recent program of expanding relief activities in Norway has been worked out with the Norwegian Church in Sweden. The first part involves supplying this church group with funds which will be used to enable penniless Norwegians here to send food parcels to their families in Norway, particularly for Christmas. This is a strong morale factor on both ends. The second operation has involved supplying this church group with 50,000 Norwegian kroner which will be sent into Norway through the underground to isolated parishes for the relief of needy cases. Even the Norwegian pastors are operating a lively underground with great skill - shading, if necessary, certain aspects of the Ten Commandments.

C. Criticisms Encountered.

The only recurring criticism I have heard against American relief actions in Norway, and this was not directed at the War Refugee Board, has been that too much discretion has been given the Norwegian Labor Party, which is employing this to political advantage - sometimes discriminatively. There may be something to this, and it is one of the reasons why the funds placed at my discretion have gone into other channels. On the other hand, the need for heavy and well organized relief and rescue operations in Norway is tremendous and it certainly can not be disputed that the Labor group has carried out its program very efficiently.

IV. Danish Rescue and Relief Operations.

These were engaged in only on a very limited scale. There is a young group, quite skillful and venturesome, which is operating an underground for a variety of purposes distinctly in the interest of the Allies, including counter-intelligence, sabotage, propaganda, transport of refugees and several other

activities quite distasteful to the German occupying authorities in Denmark. They also have an organization functioning in Denmark to rescue Allied airmen who are shot down, and my interest appeared about the time they had smuggled two American airmen with broken legs out of a hospital and had gotten them as far as the Danish coast. As yet they have been unable to get them to Sweden. The organization is doing very good work, however, but is constantly hampered by lack of funds. Accordingly, this project is receiving War Refugee Board financing to the extent of 5,000 Swedish kronor monthly. Attached as an exhibit is a statement covering the activities of this group, which it is believed speaks for itself.

Perhaps only a hundred refugees have been brought out of Denmark through these facilities, but they have been an extremely "hot" group. About the same number have been carried back into Denmark to devise various types of entertainment and/or distraction for the occupying authorities. This has been a very interesting group to work with, worth much more than the 10,000 Swedish kronor invested to date.

V. Balkan Rescue and Relief Operations.

Results: Approximately 6,000 Hungarian Jews brought under Swedish protection and segregated in areas of greater safety. Many thousand Hungarian and Rumanian Jews given urgently needed food, medicines and money.

Rescue and relief operations in the Balkans could, of course, be organized and directed from countries in closer proximity to the area than Sweden, which also had representatives of the War Refugee Board. Accordingly, the principal effort from here was to exploit fully whatever Swedish channels appeared particularly strategic. In this connection, Swedish diplomatic representation in these countries seemed the outstanding factor to work on and was in fact explored very

actively. As previously stated, the Swedish Foreign Office has at all times been extremely cooperative in these matters and of tremendous assistance. Also, a few of the local Jewish organizations had certain quite effective channels with the Balkan countries, due in part to working channels through the Swedish Foreign Office, and these also were studied from the point of view of possible expansion. With respect to the latter, not much was accomplished due mostly to the distances involved.

A. Hungarian Rescue and Relief Operations.

This program went extremely well and, based on information available here, probably was the most constructive action initiated from anywhere for the relief of the Hungarian Jews. The keystone of the entire operation was the willingness of the Swedish Foreign Office to assign an Attaché to its Legation in Budapest exclusively for the purpose of initiating relief actions for the Hungarian Jews. The Attaché sent, Roaul Wallenberg, was personally known to us and was in fact our choice. Very energetic, great initiative and resourcefulness, and sincerely concerned with the urgency of the problem. Despite the fact that he was constantly ridiculed by the Hungarian Nazis, he left no stone unturned in pressing for conditions of greater safety and comfort for as many Hungarian Jews as possible.

The first major action initiated was to get as many Hungarian Jews as possible under Swedish protection. Such protective papers were issued to all Hungarian Jews who had relatives or close friends in Sweden, or had long established business connections with Sweden. Approximately 6,000 persons were found eligible - out of thousands of applications filed. The next step was to get this group released from the series

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of stringent regulations and controls imposed upon the Jews, and to move them to areas of greater comparative safety. Consequently, this program not only brought considerably more safety and comfort to this group, but in turn made available a fairly large group more or less free to lend a hand in bringing relief to their less fortunate associates. After as many as possible had been brought under Swedish protection, activities then shifted to a series of local relief projects. These included the distribution of funds to needy persons, the purchase and distribution of certain food or clothing, the establishment of community housing facilities, and organizing a hospital facility. Several thousand Jews benefited from these activities, not only physically but definitely as a strong morale factor.

Throughout the entire period the Swedish Legation maintained an increasing pressure upon Hungarian authorities, not only with respect to the group it was protecting, but in connection with the overall official policy of the Hungarian authorities towards the Jews. Unquestionably these efforts have done much to prevent the introduction of an even more savage treatment of the Jews.

B. Relief and Rescue Operations in Rumania.

These were very limited in scope and the results somewhat obscure. Indirect and unofficial pressure was brought to bear on the Rumanian Legation here with respect to the policy of the Rumanian Government towards the Jews, and these approaches were received very sympathetically and perhaps were helpful. Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis had good working channels through the Swedish Foreign Office and certain officials and religious leaders in Rumania, with the result that several urgently needed relief actions were carried out

with the assistance of 25,000 Swedish kronor turned over to him from available W.R.B. funds. Also established working contacts with the Svenska Israels Missionen, an organization of Christian Jews which seemed to be able to move around Rumania with comparative freedom in the more troublesome days. It was engaged primarily in relief operations since they were unsuccessful in obtaining Palestine permits for a group which could have been evacuated. The activities of this group were not extensive, but financial assistance was arranged for them from the United States and there is every reason to believe that their efforts were well worth-while.

Some negotiations were held with the Rumanian Legation in Stockholm with respect to transport facilities for the evacuation of Jews from Rumania to Turkey, but these were dropped upon advice that the War Refugee Board was pushing a similar program from Turkey.

C. Relief Operations in Bulgaria.

These activities were also quite limited, the most important of which was to exert the greatest possible informal pressure on the local Bulgarian Minister for a relaxation of Jewish persecutions. Two informal notes were given him on the subject. The first reply was not satisfactory but definite assurances were relayed from the Bulgarian Foreign Office with respect to the second, stronger note. See attachment.

Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, as former Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria, had rather good connections with Bulgaria and a part of the 25,000 Swedish kronor turned over to him was used for the relief of Bulgarian Jews. However, the program was not extensive, or even as broad as it could have been.

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VI. Activities With Respect to the Rest of Europe.

These efforts were not on any organized pattern but were undertaken from time to time when special circumstances suggested a hope that certain approaches might be helpful. For example, channels were found for directing a strong appeal to Goering, on an excellent personal basis, on behalf of the Jews in Theresiendstadt, Bergen-Belsen and other well known Jewish concentration camps in Europe. For some unknown reason, Goering replied that he was able to give the highest personal assurances that conditions in Theresiendstadt were entirely satisfactory, but that he was powerless to intervene elsewhere. He stated that he had endangered his Party position because of his intervention in behalf of Jews and that he no longer was strong enough in such matters to exercise a controlling influence. On other occasions, certain well connected German authorities were approached informally and unofficially with respect to the evacuation of Baltic Jews, as well as the transport to Sweden of South American Jews. These negotiations were unusual, to say the least, but despite assurances of a reciprocal interest in humanitarian matters nothing concrete developed except perhaps a gain of time.

The food parcel traffic to concentration camps in Europe was explored very carefully and every possible encouragement and stimulant was given to an expansion of this traffic. This became increasingly urgent as the flow of parcels from other neutral countries was interrupted, coupled with the increasing clarity of the fact that the Germans were finding it interesting to experiment with the simple process of just starving the Jews to death. It was possible to increase the shipments of food parcels from Sweden substantially to such

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areas as Theresienstadt, Bergen-Belsen, Polish concentration camps and several other areas where conditions were acute. Thousands of packages have now been going forward monthly. Funds supplied by the War Refugee Board have been made available to finance the shipment of parcels for certain penniless refugees in Sweden who were unable to send packages to their relatives in Europe.

Through these and other measures, the flow of food parcels, medicines and clothing into Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria have been increased to a considerable degree, although still far short of requirements. Shipments to Poland from Sweden were interrupted this week, due to technical difficulties and perhaps will not be resumed.

VII. Assistance to Refugees in Sweden.

As previously indicated, the activities of the War Refugee Board were extensively publicized in Sweden, with the result that almost every Swedish organization struggling with refugee problems, as well as hundreds of refugees (particularly stateless) streamed into the American Legation with all sorts of problems and proposals. With respect to the refugees themselves, it was, of course, necessary in self-defense to refer them to organized relief and charitable groups although it was possible to gather considerable first-hand knowledge of the severe difficulties facing these groups in the interim period when they are unable to adjust themselves. So far as the relief and welfare organizations were concerned, however, we at all times worked with them very closely in an effort to make it clear that in its rescue operations the War Refugee Board was fully mindful of the collateral responsibility arising from the evacuation of these refugees to areas of safety.

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The problem was particularly active with respect to the stateless refugees - somewhat over 3,000 (German, Austrian, Poles, Czechs, etc.) of which seventy-five percent were Jews. Many of these were youths whose parents had lost their lives in Europe and a most urgent requirement seemed that of providing for their educational advancement. Many had in fact completed some of the requisites for a college degree but the most of them were at a complete stalemate working as dishwashers, domestics, laborers, etc. Accordingly, the interest and collaboration of the City of Stockholm was obtained, and a special office established for stateless refugees. Through the financial support of the International Rescue and Relief Committee in New York, a good program is now underway to assist this group of refugees in their educational requirements. A somewhat related and coordinated program was worked out with another Swedish group (S.D.U.), financed in part by War Refugee Board funds, and which specialized in handicraft training.

Most of the liaison with the Swedish organizations, as well as with the relief bureaus of the various foreign legations here, has been carried out by my assistant, Mrs. Tove Filseth Tau, who has heretofore had a most distinguished record in humanitarian fields, and worked most tirelessly and effectively in this new assignment. Her efforts have received the highest praise in Sweden and she was indeed a very valuable assistant.

VIII. Financial Accounts.

Attached is an accounting of the various funds placed at my discretion by the War Refugee Board. Separate accounts have been kept for each type of fund authorized. It will be noted that of the approximately 1,200,000 Swedish kronor

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placed at my disposal through the efforts of the War Refugee Board, good receipts have been obtained against the disbursement of all except about 3,000 kronor. Every effort was made to control these expenditures as closely as possible and it is believed that the funds were expended honestly and with good value received.

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SWEDEN
IVER OLSEN'S REPORTS

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MET

AMERICAN LEGATION
Stockholm, Sweden
June 15, 1945

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

Subject: Final Report of Activities of War Refugee
Board from Sweden.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

In accordance with your instructions, the following is the concluding report covering operations from Sweden of the War Refugee Board. It is intended to supplement and bring up to date my basic report submitted as of November 22, 1944, as well as to provide a final accounting of the funds placed at my disposal.

Since this report covers the period of operations from the date of my return from Washington in January, it is in effect simply a summary of 1945 activities. The scope of operations during the period had, of course, considerably contracted. The Baltic countries had ceased as an area of operations in September, 1944. Hungarian operations came to a close in January, 1945. Consequently, the greatest possible attention was focused on the fate of Jews and other civilian prisoners in Germany, as well as in pressing active rescue and relief operations in Norway. Certain limited activities were continued in Denmark.

A. Operations in Hungary.

Sufficient facts now appear at hand to support the conclusion that Hungarian rescue and relief actions initiated by the War Refugee Board from Sweden were the keystones of the most productive steps taken in that area, and paved the way for saving the lives of perhaps 100,000 Jews. The work of Raoul Wallenberg, actively supported by Minister Daniellson and his staff of the Swedish Legation in Budapest, was nothing short of brilliant - to say nothing of being highly courageous.

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

*no Embassy record
in file*

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This group pioneered the program of constant and relentlessly increasing pressure on the Hungarian Government in behalf of the Jews, at the cost of seriously jeopardizing their own personal safety. Minister Daniellson informed Minister Johnson and myself that during their last weeks as officials in Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg had to hide in a different house every night; he was so hotly hunted by the Hungarian Fascists and the Germans. The program of issuing Swedish protective passports, of sheltering Jews in Swedish protected dwellings, and similar other activities in itself brought approximately 20,000 Jews under the safety of Swedish protection. At the height of this program, over 350 persons had been recruited to carry out this enormous task. This program set a pattern which soon was followed by the Swiss, Portuguese and the International Red Cross, and in the end produced a combined program which probably afforded the greatest relief and protection to Jews in any European country.

Not until Wallenberg's records become available will the complete story of this program become known. We are informed that he kept extremely complete and documented records of a highly interesting nature, and that these records were still in the Swedish Legation when the staff was forced to leave Budapest.

B. Prisoners in Germany.

Several indirect and informal approaches were made in the hope of securing better treatment of Jews and other civilian prisoners in Germany, and to gain time so that they would not be slaughtered. The first of these approaches was made in July, 1944, in a discussion with a German in Stockholm named Boening. This same contact, which was reported to you in Legation's cable No. 2419 of July 3, 1944, was maintained up to September and was further reported on from time to time. Emphasis was largely on the anger of the United States Government towards these atrocities, and Boening appeared quite impressed. These discussions did not seem to be accomplishing a great deal but it is interesting to note that in May another contact, Kleist, informed me that quite by freak these discussions actually saved the lives of the Jews in Germany. His remarks are advanced for what they may be worth, considering that by this time German collapse was only days away and Kleist might have placed a special value on flattery. He said that Boening's discussions with me had come into Berlin just about the time when it had become more or less officially decided to murder all the Jews in Germany. This conclusion was based on (1) that the Jews were a nuisance, (2) that the

Germans had gone so far that there was no point in stopping now, and (3) that if these Jews were left alive, they would only shout to the world for a thousand years about German barbarism. Kleist said that Boening had blown up his discussions with me to fantastic proportions. He had reported that President (Roosevelt) had personally sent out two emissaries on this problem (one to Stockholm and one to Ankara), that these two men were constantly in direct contact with the President and responsible only to him. He then reported our rather strong discussion. Kleist said that Kaltenbrunn called him (Kleist) over to Himmler's headquarters and asked him what this report was all about. Kleist more or less confirmed the story, adding that if these personal representatives of President Roosevelt would bother to visit "our insignificant Boening", there must be tremendous importance attached to this subject. Kleist added that shortly thereafter the decision to murder the Jews was abandoned, perhaps on the basis that the Jews were valuable either for bargaining or for good will.

The second major contact was with Dr. Fritz Hesse, reported in Legation's (Top Secret) 932 of March 9, 1945. It was the basis for the "German peace feelers" stories circulating around Stockholm at the time. This discussion was very lengthy, very strong, and most specific. It nearly came to a bad end because Ribbentrop was furious over the press rumors of peace feelers, and the fact that Hesse's presence in Stockholm became public knowledge. However, Hesse was able to convince Ribbentrop that I had not disclosed the discussion, but that it was the fault of certain Swedes. The results of this discussion are obscure but I believe that it accomplished perhaps the most with respect to treatment of prisoners of war, which appeared to be a subject of particular interest to Hesse. It is known that shortly thereafter Ribbentrop sent him to Switzerland. It might also be strongly suspected that there were preliminary "peace" or "surrender" motives behind Hesse making this contact. He was quite nervous, particularly when in the middle of our discussion, for some unexplained reason, my kitchen buzzer jammed and supplied rather startling wireless sound effects.

The third major contact was with Dr. Kleist, obviously connected with the Germans at the highest level. This also was an extremely lengthy discussion reported as Legation's (Top Secret) No. 1356 of April 11, 1945. Like Hesse, Kleist supplied positive assurance that no further steps would be taken to destroy the Jews and other civilian prisoners, and that all possible steps would be taken to protect prisoners of

000395

war. This discussion had clearer marks of "surrender feelers" and was so reported. It was the strongest of the three discussions.

Partly in connection with the foregoing approaches, but also related to certain other indirect contacts of a similar nature, on April 19, a member of the local Mosaic Community flew to Berlin for a meeting with Himmler on the Jewish question. Himmler arrived at the meeting at 2:30 a.m. on April 21, having just driven 80 km. from Hitler's birthday party. Probably no more bizarre scene could be staged to record Himmler's unconditional surrender to world opinion - a two hour drive through wrecked German roads and a conference until dawn with a Jew from Stockholm. The discussion and Himmler's remarks and promises have already been reported to the Board. A direct result of this contact was the release of a few thousand from Ravensbrück. Contrary to reports, Count Bernadotte was in no way involved in the negotiations for the release of these people, but they would never have gotten out if Swedish Red Cross transportation had not been supplied promptly and efficiently. So far as is known, Bernadotte was concentrating exclusively on Danish and Norwegian prisoners.

C. Rescue and Relief Operations in Norway.

These operations were pressed strongly during 1945, although they were temporarily handicapped from time to time because of shortage of funds. The program continued to work smoothly, and the results were extremely good. Perhaps 15,000 Norwegians, in serious jeopardy, were brought to Sweden, with aid of the facilities and financial support that this program supplied. It is no exaggeration to say that these people were in "serious jeopardy", since Norwegians rarely fled from Norway unless they were in serious difficulty with the Gestapo. The same program, financed by American Labor Relief for Norway, also involved an increasingly active shipment of relief supplies to Norway - food, clothing, footwear, medicines, etc. Part of these shipments went into Norway through regular licensing controls of the Swedes, while the other was smuggled in through well established underground channels.

A secondary relief channel, the Norwegian Church in Sweden, also accelerated its program of sending food and clothing into Norway. This also was a combination of regular licensing and underground channels, and was financed through funds supplied by American Relief for Norway, Inc. Although limited in scope, it was a well working program and reached notoriously distressed families.

A third program, for direct relief within Norway, was continued during 1945 with the active cooperation of the Swedish Consul General in Oslo. Also financed through funds supplied by American Relief for Norway, Inc., it was directed to particularly distressed groups who were hard to reach because members of their families had become compromised, imprisoned or shot by the Gestapo.

Numerous reports have already been supplied covering the aforementioned rescue and relief operations in Norway.

D. Food Parcels from Sweden to Germany.

While it became rather certain late in 1944 that the Germans would not make any last minute move to exterminate the Jews, it was also increasingly clear that virtually the same thing was being accomplished through starvation and neglect. Accordingly, efforts were intensified to ship food parcels from Sweden to the various concentration camps in Germany. Rather extensive lists of persons in concentration camps were compiled, and distribution channels arranged. In most cases shipment was made under the auspices of the Swedish Red Cross. The program was greatly strengthened by the availability of approximately 225,000 food packages supplied by the War Refugee Board, which not only afforded a prompt solution of any financing problems but also disposed of the more time consuming problem of food rationing and blockade controls. Fairly good checks were maintained as to the ultimate delivery of these parcels and good results were obtained in that connection. This was one program in which the World Jewish Congress here was rather effective, once they had become properly organized.

By early Spring transportation difficulties had narrowed the area of operations to very few concentration camps - primarily Ravensbrück and Bergen Belsen.

E. Financial Accounting.

Attached are statements covering various confidential funds placed at my disposal by the War Refugee Board. It will be recalled that during my stay in Washington in December, statements were prepared and receipts were supplied covering expenditures up to the end of November, 1944. Accordingly, the attached statements simply bring the various accounts up to date. In accordance with your instructions, outstanding balances will be transferred back to Mr. David White. My account with the American Joint Distribution Committee has

- 6 -

been closed with the transfer of a balance of 218,000 Sw.kr. to the local branch of J.D.C. The balance of funds supplied by American Relief for Norway, Inc. is being transferred to a local organization which has been carrying out other Norwegian relief activities for American Relief for Norway.

With the submission of this final report, and in view of my new assignment at The Hague, I should like to express to you the real satisfaction and pleasure I have experienced in my association with the War Refugee Board. It has been most interesting and a real challenge. The entire program was very much worthwhile and the only regrettable thing is that the War Refugee Board was not established a year or two earlier. I know that I could do much better had I this activity to undertake now, on the basis of experience gained, but the time element in this program afforded no opportunity to profit from experience or to learn from mistakes already made. To anyone here in Europe, however, it is extremely clear that the War Refugee Board accomplished an enormous amount of good.

Sincerely yours,



Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosures - 3

000398

DEC 6 1944

My dear Mr. Minister:

In connection with the outstanding service performed by Mr. Raoul Wallenberg of the Swedish Foreign Office in the program to save and protect the persecuted peoples in Hungary, the Board wishes to send him the enclosed letter of appreciation which is transmitted to you herewith for delivery to Mr. Wallenberg.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for the cooperation and deep interest which have been given to the operations of the War Refugee Board in Sweden by you and the Legation staff.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Herschel V. Johnson,
American Minister,
Stockholm, Sweden.

Enclosure.

JA

FH:hd 12/4/44

000399

DEC 6 1944

My dear Mr. Wallenberg:

Through the American Minister in Stockholm and Mr. Iver Olsen, the War Refugee Board has kept closely informed of the difficult and important work you have been doing to alleviate the situation of the Jewish people in Hungary. We have followed with keen interest the reports of the steps which you have taken to accomplish your mission and the personal devotion which you have given to saving and protecting the innocent victims of Nazi persecution.

I think that no one who has participated in this great task can escape some feeling of frustration in that, because of circumstances beyond our control, our efforts have not met with complete success. On the other hand, there have been measurable achievements in the face of the obstacles which had to be encountered, and it is our conviction that you have made a very great personal contribution to the success which has been realized in these endeavors.

On behalf of the War Refugee Board I wish to express to you our very deep appreciation for your splendid cooperation and for the vigor and ingenuity which you brought to our common humanitarian undertaking.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Raoul Wallenberg,
Swedish Foreign Office,
Stockholm, Sweden.

DJA EBT:FH:hd 12/1/44

000400



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MET

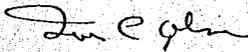
Stockholm, Sweden
November 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I received recently from Mr. Wallenberg regarding the assistance which we have given to the Hungarian Jews. I believe this letter will be of much interest to the Board.

Sincerely yours,


Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosure - 1

000402

C O P Y

Königlich
Schwedische Gesandtschaft

Budapest, 12th Okt. 1944.

W./F.

Mr. O l s s e n,
Strandvägen 7
Stockholm.

Dear Mr. Olssen,

When I now look back on the 3 months I have spent here I can only say, that it has been a most interesting experience and I believe, not quite without results.

When I arrived, the situation of the Jews was very bad indeed. The development of military events and a natural psychological reaction among the Hungarian people have changed many things. We at the Swedish Legation have perhaps only been an instrument to convert this outside influence into action in the various Government offices. I have taken quite a strong line in this respect although, of course I have had to keep within the limits assigned to me as a neutral.

It has been my object all the time, to try to help all Jews. This, however, could only be achieved by helping a whole group of Jews to get rid of their stars. I have worked on the hypothesis that those, who were no longer under the obligation to carry the star, would help their fellow sufferers. Also I have carried out a great deal of general enlightenment work among the keymen in charge of Jewish questions here.

I am quite sure, that our activity - and that means in the last instance yours - is responsible for the freeing at this time of the interned Jews. These numbered many hundreds. At first only those were freed who possessed Swedish protective passports, but later all who had not committed a criminal offence, were freed.

I have also received a promise that all "Swedish" Jews in civilian service (Arbeitsdienst) will be ordered back. The number of these Jews is about 500 but I doubt that more than half of them may be brought back from their present assignments, which are situated partly in front-districts.

Mr. Olssen, believe me, your donation in behalf of the Hungarian Jews has made an enormous amount of good. I think that they will have every reason to thank you for having initiated and supported the Swedish Jewish action the way you have in such a splendid manner.

Yours faithfully

(signed) R. Wallenberg

000403

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, General Correspondence, 1945-48, Gromyko

Gromyko

ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬ
СОЮЗА СОВЕТСКИХ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ
РЕСПУБЛИК
ПРИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
100 WEST 88th STREET
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

Handwritten notes:
Hirshfield
von Dardel

March 19th, 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Apartment Six A
29 Washington Square West
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In reply to your note of February 10th enclosing Mrs. Hirshfield's letter I wish to inform you that on my part I have already raised the question of granting visa to Mrs. Savina before the appropriate Soviet authorities.

The copy of Major von Dardel's letter, which you sent me with your note of February 28th, has been already forwarded to our Consulate General for taking appropriate measures.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature: A. Gromyko

ANDREI A. GROMYKO

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000404

I did not write
anything for publication
about Mr. Hallenberg.
I wrote to ^{my} ~~the~~
Governor of the State
& to Mr. Gromyko.

Mr. Gromyko replied
that he had forwarded
my letter to the
Consulate General for
appropriate action.
That is all I have
heard from Mr. Gromyko.

Copy her letter, leaving out
any reference to Keresia &
send Gromyko desk for
information

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

000406

Handwritten signature

DOROTHY THOMPSON

237 EAST FORTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

May 28, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Thank you for your kind note. I missed seeing what you wrote about Wallenberg and would love to have. Is it possible to get it?

I only meant in regard to your position, that you are known to be a sincere friend of cooperation and one who has never done anything to exacerbate relations with the Soviet Union, but rather seek always to improve them.

I still have the feeling that if someone whom no one would even suspect of being animated by malice would take up Mr. Wallenberg's case with someone high in the Soviet Union it could conceivably be solved, - because I cannot but think that the whole thing was initially an error. I know you have a very warm heart and a strong sense of justice as well as much tact.

Cordially yours,

Dorothy Thompson

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

000407

-2-

It does not appear that any official action can be taken until some clue as to his whereabouts is received.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State;

George L. Warren

George L. Warren
Adviser on Refugees and
Displaced Persons

Enclosure:

Letter from Maj von Dardel,
November 30, 1946 with
enclosures.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

100409

Maj von Dardel
Sveavägen 88

Stockholm on the 30th of November 1946.

*hand
read*

CS Sec

*701.5864/4-445
701.5464/4-245
864.00/10-345*

Dear Mrs Roosevelt,

Knowing your warmheartedness and kindness to all those who suffer I have gathered courage to write to you. I am the Mother of the Swedish Secretary of Legation Raoul Wallenberg of whom you may have heard. In the summer of 1944 when the Jews of Hungary, the last rest of this unhappy people in Europe, were threatened with total annihilation by the Nazis. I know that your late husband the President of the U.S.A, whom we all respect and admire, followed their fate with the greatest sympathy and that he over the radio tried to influence the Hungarians to help the Jews in their danger. However this was not enough for the President who in the middle of the terrible burden of his work had time to initiate a more effective action than a radio speech for the rescue of what could still be saved of the Hungarian Jews. However in enemy country the United States had no power to intervene and the whole action had to be disguised under the colors of a neutral nation. It was at this occasion that the Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, through its European representative Mr Iver Olsen, now at the Treasury Department, Washington and the American Minister in Stockholm, Mr Herschel Johnson, now a representative of the United States in the Security Council of the United Nations, took contact with Swedish authorities and private persons and through their mediation with my son who had independently and on his own initiative, planned to go to Hungary in an attempt to rescue friends and relatives of his friends, as many people as he could, then threatened by deportation and certain death in the gas chambers. My son was entrusted with the difficult and dangerous task of leading and organizing the planned action, and I think that they could never have made a better choice. For six months he fought for the lives of his proteges, officially as a secretary of the Swedish legation at Budapest. I know that as a mother I am no unchallengeable witness but I know that his coworkers and the people he saved could all tell you about his remarkable courage and ability, which enabled him to risk his life after day in this game with armed criminals with the lives of thousands of innocent people at stake and to win the game day after day. The fact that a great part of the Hungarian Jews have survived can be attributed essentially to one man, working as the representative of the Swedish king and the American president, - my son. The Hungarian Government and people acknowledge this fact and as a token of their gratitude for Raoul Wallenberg a street in Budapest has been denominated after him and a monument is being erected.

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However, and that is the tragedy of my last two years - my son did not come back with the rest of the Swedish legation in Budapest after the Russians had conquered the town. On January the 17th 1945 the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs had announced that the advancing armies had taken Raoul Wallenberg in their protection. Since then nothing has been heard officially of his fate. The Swedish legation of Moscow has on numerous occasions asked the Russians authorities to investigate his fate but no result has ever been announced of these investigations. Privately we have been able to establish that Raoul Wallenberg is still alive. We have passed this private information to the Swedish Cabinet, and the Swedish Prime Minister has answering a question in The Swedish

000410

Congress declared that the Cabinet will not look upon the matter as closed but will continue to try to find out the fate of Raoul Wallenberg believing that he is still alive. The Prime Minister brought on behalf of the Swedish Government honor to Raoul Wallenberg and thanked him for his outstanding work under exceptionally difficult circumstances, for the sake of Common Humanity. I am enclosing a translation of the essential parts of the reply of the questioner to the speech of the Prime Minister as it may clarify the present situation, and as it shows that in Sweden the liberation of Raoul Wallenberg is not the wish of a certain political party, but of Government and Opposition in common.

Dr Rudolph Philipp referred to in the answer is the author of a book "Raoul Wallenberg", an outstanding work, the result of a unique search for the real truth of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. This search has led to a remarkable success and we are now in the possession of a rich documentary evidence that he is still alive, where he is etc. This evidence has been handed over to the Swedish Government for study.

Unfortunately the book is written in Swedish and has not yet been translated to English, but as you will certainly know someone who could make a summary of the book I am still sending you a copy.

I have written to you in lieu to secure your assistance in creating a public opinion in favor of Raoul Wallenberg and of his liberation, an opinion which in due time may support an action by our Government and it is my firm belief that the facts stated in this letter may be of great help if they are brought to public notice in the United States i.e. by publishing them in your press and broadcasting.

Another suitable procedure to this effect would be to gather interested and responsible people in a committee whose aim it should be to work for the liberation of Raoul Wallenberg, I believe that if this committee could associate with itself wellknown and distinguished Americans this would make a very deep impression both here in Sweden in other countries and in the Soviet Union. This would also very strongly support the Swedish Government in its task to liberate my son. If you would accept to head the Committee I would feel very grateful and honored.

A third means would be to publish an American edition of the book "Raoul Wallenberg". Its first part concerning the conditions in Hungary and the marvellous work of Raoul Wallenberg is more thrilling than any fiction, and should prove of considerable interest to the American public. The latter part describing the search for Raoul Wallenberg contains chapters of specifically Swedish interest which of course would have to be altered in an English edition.

Knowing your interest in every righteous cause and your great influence in the United States I hope that I may count upon your assistance in this good subject and I would be very happy to receive your suggestions to any procedure which might help to bring about the release of my son.

Thanking you in advance for your kindest help I am

very truly yours

Maj. M. Dardely

000411

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Thanking you in advance for your kindest help I am

very truly yours

Maj. Gen. Dardely

100412

Comments to the case of Raoul Wallenberg.

Last Wednesday in the absence of the Swedish Foreign Minister the Prime Minister Erlander answered the question put forward by Mr Håstad regarding the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. The answer was a detailed account which has already been published in the daily papers. The comments of Mr Håstad after the answer of the Prime Minister was in its manly, positive and warmhearted form of a strong effect,

In his answer Håstad wanted to hold to the statement of the Prime Minister that the Government shall not look upon the case of Raoul Wallenberg as a completed chapter but on the contrary promises all efforts in the future to finally solve the problem of the fate of the Swedish diplomat.

.....
Adding up what has been expressed in the answer of the Interpellation, what I have heard during these days from the relatives - the most legitimate part in this case - and the essential of what may be read in the book of Rudolph Philipp by attentive person, one cannot avoid to establish the surprising degree of accordance of a lot of statements, which may be looked upon as the most verified, indicating or authoritative.

The idealistic contributions of Dr Philipp.

By the way I would like to state if this should really be necessary that I have in this question had no collaboration with doctor Rudolph Philipp. But I do not consider myself hindered from declaring from this lecturing platform that doctor Philipp, whom I have known and learned to estimate in other connections since many years has by his book deserved all recognition. He has from purely idealistic reasons used his unusual, though sometimes too abundant intelligence, his unique knowledge of Central-Europe, and his unflexible passion for humanity to clear up this mystery. Likely it is not by chance that a fugitive, who himself has been unrooted and suffered loss of freedom has taken up this case of Raoul Wallenberg. Doctor Philipp's intentions are more than meriting. Even though his estimations of the work of the Swedish Foreign office's different departments must be for his own account, the value of the practical suggestions which the book contains can hardly be diminished by the report now given by the Cabinet.

.....
Why no news from Moscow?

Regarding the negotiations with other countries I would like to point out the astonishing fact that the authorities of the Soviet Union cannot be persuaded to give any information, either in one way or the other, all during the time which has elapsed since Dekanosof and Mme Kollontay nearly two years ago gave their assurances. This delay contrasts against the zeal for the swiftest possible settlement, which the highest authorities of Moscow demanded - and won - the intervention of the Swedish Cabinet regarding a Russian subject held in custody here during the war. Should Raoul Wallenberg be suspected by the Russians for something which could have caused his internment it should not to-day cause the Government any insurmountable obstacles to release him from these suspicions or straighten out the question,

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000413

after all that has been testified regarding his humanitarian work in Budapest.

.....

The subject should be clarified

I herewith express my sincerest expectation that the atmosphere of animated and friendly intercourse between Sweden and the Soviet Union, which is the object of the newly signed Swedish-Russian Trade-treaty, especially regarding the great favors that this treaty gives to Soviet Russia, should make it possible for the Swedish Government to settle definitely this subject, which has been the cause of my interpellation, and the liquidation of which is looked upon by many eyes in other countries,

The urgent cause of repatriating Raoul Wallenberg to Sweden, should not be subjects to individual party interests, only the human interests, that unites all, the worried relatives and those, whose lives are subject to gratitude for his outstanding courage.

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000414

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Förslag till Raoul Wallenberg-monument
av den berömde-underske bildhuggaren
Paul Pätzay.

000415

kert om han sade: 'Nu reser jag bort, om det nu är som hedersgäst eller fånge, men jag reser!'

I slutet av januari 1945 träffade svenskar, som befunno sig på genomresa genom Bukarest, ungerska judar, som förklarade, att Wallenberg och hans chaufför, civilingenjör Langfelder, hade setts bakom den ryska fronten.

I början av februari 1945 förklarade ambassadör Köllontay för Raouls mor, att hennes son befann sig i säkerhet under ryskt skydd.

Den 3 februari bekräftade Sveriges minister i Moskva det förut lämnade meddelandet, att Wallenberg var i säkerhet.

Fakta och dementier.

Den 8 mars förklarade den ryskkontrollerade Kossuth-radion i Budapest, att Wallenberg hade mördats av Gestapo-agenter och troligen kastats i Donau.

Den som skriver detta har tillbringat en stor del av sitt liv vid Donau. Redan som barn hörde jag och läste ofta i tidningen, att Donau efter 30—40 dagar kastar upp varje lik på stranden, så snart kroppen genom förruttelsegaser svällt nog för att

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*Den försvunne och ännu ej återfunne
svenske Budapestdiplomaten
Raoul Wallenberg.*

000417

STENOGRAFI, lektioner måndagar, onsd.
 MASKINSKRIVNING, yttre lektionstider
 maskintyper (Continental, Halda, Roming)
BAR-LOCK-IN
 Handelsekola under
 Mästersamuelsgatan 22

A/B Stockholms Ti



Drottninggatan 71 A 81
 SVENSKES STATSUNDER
 HERR- OCH DAMSKRÄDI
 YRKES- LÄRLINGS- och
 nad och provning, uppsättin
 deri som konfektion börjar
 den 16 September.
 Begär prospekt. WIENE

platsökande i huvudsak på tre sätt. Han
 kan välja den offentliga arbetsförmedlin-
 gen. Han kan direkt välja ut ett antal
 firmor i sitt tilltänkta fack och besöka
 dem. Den tredje och viktigaste vägen är
 de stora tidningarnas annonspalter.

Det är en konst både att läsa och skriva
 annonser. När man studerar vad en ar-
 betsgivare begär kan man träna sig till

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Sthlm

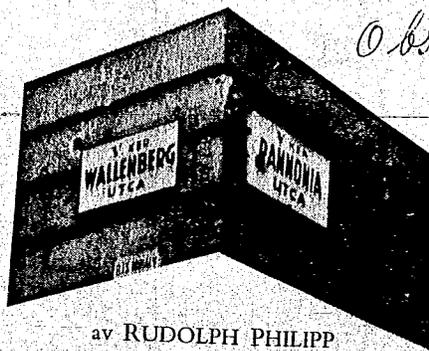
A.-B. SVENSKA TELEGRAMBYRÅN
 AVD. FÖR PRESSURKLIPP SV. ARGUS
 INT. BYRÅ FÖR TIDNINGURKLIPP

STOCKHOLM 1
 Telefon »Svenska Telegrambyrå»

Obs
N:o 113 1946

RAOULS ÖDE

Obs N:o 13

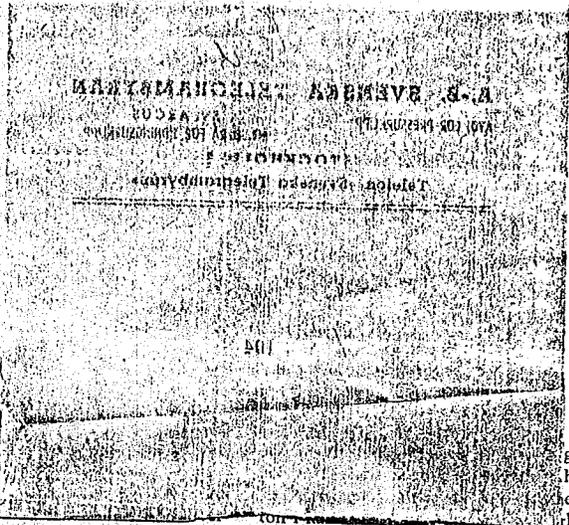


av RUDOLPH PHILIPP

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

000419

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION



dess, har par
 telse på, om
 En sörja id
 folk samt de
 levit det bruna barbariet ha rätt att få veta,
 om verkligen allt som står i mänsklig
 makt gjorts för att rädda honom, som
 själv räddat mer än hundratusen männi-
 skoliv eller — om han måst låta sitt liv
 — få klart och entydigt fastställt när, var
 och under vilka omständigheter han föll.
 Någonstans måste det finnas någon, som
 strör sand i undersökningsmaskineriet. På
 annat sätt kan man inte förklara, att det
 kommit så många, motsägande versioner
 från offentliga, halvoffentliga och privata
 instanser och att vittnen nu ändra sina
 första förklaringar efter Raouls försvin-
 nande . . . och att många spår över huvud
 taget icke följts systematiskt.

goda
 hadg
 hende
 kan-
 ton
 nande för sina mötesaffischer med deras
 flammande färger och arkitektoniska upp-
 byggnad.
 Raoul behövde knappast känna, vad det
 vill säga att vara faderlös. När han var
 sex år, fick han i sin styvfar, överdirektör
 von-Dardel en god vän- och vägledare.
 Farfadern, envoyén Wallenberg, intresse-
 rade sig hela sitt liv för Raouls utveckling
 och lade den största vikt vid, att sonson-
 nen skulle få en allsidig och modern all-
 mänbildning. Från sitt tionde år fick
 han använda skolloven till resor. 11-årig
 for Raoul till England, där svenske mi-
 nistern Palmstierna tog sig an den lille.
 Nästa år tog han sig ensam till Berlin

000420

C
O
P
Y

Stockholm on the 30th of Nov, 1946

Maj von Dardel
Svaavagen 88

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Knowing your warmheartedness and kindness to all those who suffer, I have gathered courage to write to you. I am the Mother of the Swedish Secretary of Legation Raoul Wallenberg of whom you may have heard. In the summer of 1944 when the Jews of Hungary, the last rest of this unhappy people in Europe, were threatened with total annihilation by the Nazis. I know that your late husband the President of the U.S.A. whom we all respect and admire, followed their fate with the greatest sympathy and that he over the radio tried to influence the Hungarians to help the Jews in their danger. However this was not enough for the President who in the middle of the terrible burden of his work had time to initiate a more effective action than a radio speech for the rescue of what could still be saved of the Hungarian Jews. However, in enemy country the United States had no power to intervene and the whole action had to be disguised under the colors of a neutral nation. It was at this occasion that the Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, through its European representative, Mr. Iver Olsen, now at the Treasury Department, Washington and the American Minister in Stockholm, Mr. Herschel Johnson, now a representative of the U.S. in the Security Council of the United Nations, took contact with Swedish Authorities and private persons and through their mediation with my son who had independently and on his own initiative, planned to go to Hungary in an attempt to rescue friends and relatives of his friends, as many people as he could, then threatened by deportation and certain death in the gaschambers. My son was entrusted with the difficult and dangerous task of leading and organizing the planned action, and I think that they could never have made a better choice. For six months he fought for the lives of his protegees, officially as a secretary of the Swedish legation at Budapest. I know that as a mother I am no unchallengeable witness but I know that his coworkers and the people he saved could all tell you about his remarkable courage and ability, which enabled him to risk his life day after day in this gamble with armed criminals with the lives of thousands of innocent people at stake and to win the game day after day. The fact that a great part of the Hungarian Jews have survived can be attributed essentially to one man, working as the representative of the Swedish king and the American president, - my son. The Hungarian Government and people acknowledge this fact and as a token of their gratitude for Raoul Wallenberg, a street in Budapest has been de-nominated after him and a monument is being erected.

However, and that is the tragedy of my last two years,

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

000421

Maj von Dardel

C O P Y

Page 2

- my son did not come back with the rest of the Swedish legation in Budapest after the Russians had conquered the town. On January the 17th, 1945, the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs had announced that the advancing armies had taken Raoul Wallenberg in their protection. Since then nothing has been heard officially of his fate.

I have written to you to secure your assistance in creating a public opinion in favor of Raoul Wallenberg and of his liberation, an opinion which in due time may support an action by our government and it is my firm belief that the facts stated in this letter may be of great help if they are brought to public notice in the United States i.e. by publishing them in your press and broadcasting.

Knowing your interest in every righteous cause and your great influence in the United States, I hope that I may count upon your assistance in this good subject and I would be very happy to receive your suggestions to any procedure which might help to bring about the release of my son.

Thanking you in advance for your kindest help, I am,

Very truly yours,

Maj von Dardel

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

000422

Von Dardel
to you

Guy von Dardel
Physics Department
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

May 8, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Human Rights Committee
United Nations
New York, New York

*Received of Thompson
about him
(enclosed)*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My mother, Mrs. Maj von Dardel, has now received a letter from the Consulate General of the Soviet Union to whom you had so kindly referred her letter of November 30, 1946. The Consulate General advised us to address ourselves to the Russian Red Cross, Moscow, for further information, which we had, however, already done through the mediation of the Swedish Red Cross without obtaining any answer until now.

As I am in the United States now for studies at Cornell University and am, at the same time, trying to initiate some American action in favor of the release of my brother, Raoul Wallenberg, I hope that I may count upon your further interest and help in this matter. I am very confident that something may be done from this country as I have been assured by many United States authorities and influential persons, among others by members of the former War Refugee Board, Mr. Lesser and Mr. Olsen, by officials of the State Department and by Senator Vandenberg and by the assistant to the President, Mr. Niles, that the United States is very much concerned about my brother's fate as his entire work was initiated and financed by the War Refugee Board as my mother wrote you in her letter of November 30.

I am enclosing a copy of the article of Miss Dorothy Thompson in the BOSTON DAILY GLOBE, April 18.

000423

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt -2-

May 8, 1947

Though her personal opinion of Mr. Wallace must stand for her own account, the article may show you the very great interest in my brother, Raoul Wallenberg's, fate which is developing in the United States.

I am addressing this letter to you and appeal to you as a member of the Human Rights committee to help to get my brother the human rights which he has undoubtedly deserved more than perhaps anybody else.

Very sincerely yours,

Guy von Dardel
Guy von Dardel

000424

From THE BOSTON DAILY GLOBE, Friday, April, 18, 1947

The Wallenberg Affair May Seem Small, But You Would Not Call It Insignificant!

An Open Letter to Henry Wallace by Dorothy Thompson

Dear Mr. Wallace:

You are being pretty well panned here, but I am writing with a serious and I think constructive suggestion.

I see you are going to Sweden. While there, you might inquire whether anything has been heard officially about Raoul Wallenberg. Until April 1, I believe, nothing had. Your reputation as the champion of the common man and the four freedoms, together with the confidence you deservedly enjoy from the Soviet Union, may enable you to accomplish on your trip something for the ends you desire.

You might even think it worthwhile to cancel any projected appointment with Johannes Steel in order to attend to this matter. Without referring to his past, spent in the services of German armament traffic after the last war, he is writing articles in the French Communist press attacking American policy and the American press. As an avowed anti-Communist, you ought not to cultivate such acquaintances.

* * *

The Wallenberg affair may seem small, but you would not call it insignificant.

You must recall that in the Spring of 1944 President Roosevelt issued a powerful appeal to the Hungarian people to protect the Hungarian Jews and those who had fled there, and that the War Refugee Board raised funds for a rescue mission. Action, extremely hazardous, had to be disguised under the colors of a neutral country. But an intrepid man was found in the person of Raoul Wallenberg, connected with the Swedish legation in Budapest.

His actions are recorded in a book by Rudolph Philipp, which you can obtain in Sweden. Wallenberg managed -- by pleas, bribes, threats, intrigues, and by his influence on the amorous wife of a Nazi Minister -- to save 100,000 Jews. He issued papers of protective Swedish citizenship to several thousands. He organized rescue missions in all neutral legations. He

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From THE BOSTON DAILY NEWS, Friday, April 18, 1947

Page 2

snatched victims from the Gestapo, even at the railroad stations where they were being deported. Seldom in the course of human history has so much been accomplished by one man. In Budapest a street was named for him and a memorial monument begun.

The Basia knew who was foiling their plans. But he escaped and lived to welcome the "liberating" Russian armies, who took him and his property under "protection." Since then not one word has reached official channels about him, but returning prisoners have reported him a prisoner at forced labor in the U.S.S.R.

* * *

Since official channels have failed, your personal intervention with the Russian government might succeed. Sweden--small, and so near Soviet frontiers--finds it hard to do more for her citizen, especially since the new-type, jet-propelled, radio-directed robot bombs were tried out over her territory from the German station at Peenemunde, now in Russian hands. With your passion for peace, you might--at the same time--obtain permission to visit this station and set international fears at rest.

But if this is too difficult, you can surely obtain news of and justice for a man who responded to a plea from President Roosevelt, in whose name and for whose policies you claim to speak. For you are a citizen of a powerful nation and of "one world." The U.S.S.R. is greatly indebted to you. I am sure that on issues that must command your humanitarian sympathies and sense of honor you will not prove less intrepid in facing the leaders of the Soviets than in facing the President of the United States.

Wishing you well in this endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Thompson

000426

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PAPERS, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1945-1948
WALLENBERG, RAOUL

Wallenberg

May 26, 1947

Dear Miss Thompson:

I have your letter of May 20th
in reference to Raoul Wallenberg. I fear
I have no "position" as regards the Soviet
Union.

In addition, I have already
written about Mr. Wallenberg.

With many regrets that I can
not be helpful, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

000427

DOROTHY THOMPSON

237 EAST FORTY-EIGHTH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt -2- May 20, 1947

Dardel has approached our State Department which has, according to his story to me, offered active intervention if the Swedish Government actively requests it. But the Swedish government is obviously not anxious to exacerbate international relations by asking the intervention of another country in its behalf, even though Wallenberg was, in fact, representing the President of the United States.

Wallenberg was not anti-Soviet; he was exclusively anti-Nazi. All the circumstances lead me to think that the affair may have been pure error, understandable in the chaos of the time. Unfortunately the Soviet Government, even perhaps more than other governments, dislikes to admit error, and it may be this and this alone that is responsible for Wallenberg's continued disappearance. Unofficially, the family has received word from three separate sources, all of them for a time Russian prisoners, that Wallenberg is alive and in a Russian penal camp. The witnesses are not, however, completely trustworthy. But when taken under the "protection" of the Soviet armies, which is officially acknowledged by the Soviets, he was a man of 43 years, in perfect health. It is not likely therefore that he has died, or if he has, that his was a natural death.

If my hazarded guess is correct that his kidnapping was an error, then little can be served by too much publicity. It is conceivable that he might be killed, to remove a corpus delicti and possible witness against Soviet penal camps. It is my purpose to contribute to save the life of Wallenberg and the honor of the United States, not to put the Soviet Union on a spot. His family appealed to me because they know my very strong feelings, often expressed, on the subject of slave labor, and I am compelled by my conscience to take that appeal seriously.

But thinking of a possible way out, I am convinced that only someone like you, whose sympathies with the Soviet Union are a matter of record, could, conceivably, save Raoul Wallenberg's life, and set at rest the terrible anxieties of his family. I am writing therefore to ask you whether you will write a personal letter to Stalin, setting forth this case and asking for his personal intervention. I do not ask you to take my word for it, Mr. Olsen knows the details of Mr. Wallenberg's services.

The State Department must also have the facts. And Mr. Wallenberg's brother, whose address is: Guy von Dardel, Physics Department, Cornell University, is my informant and is available for questioning.

100429

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PAPERS, GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1945-1948
WALLENBERG, RAOUL

DOROTHY THOMPSON
237 EAST FORTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt -3- May 20, 1947

I shall give no more publicity to this matter until I hear of your decision. If the whole affair proves to be an error, and you are able to straighten it out, I shall keep silent thereafter, for my purpose, I repeat, is to help save Raoul Wallenberg. Further, I shall use what influence I have to keep the story suppressed, provided that persons like yourself will take up his case through your own channels.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Thompson.

DT:W

000430

E. R.
D
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P48



RAOUL WALLENBERG

by Rudolph Philipp

000431

To Mrs. Roosevelt
from Raoul's mother
Maj. m. Dardel.

RUDOLPH PHILIPP

RAOUL

WALLENBERG

DIPLOMAT, KÄMPE, SAMARIT

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E.R.
D
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S8
W327
P48

RUDOLPH PHILIPP

RAOUL
WALLENBERG

DIPLOMAT, KÄMPE, SAMARIT

FREDBORGS FÖRLAG - STOCKHOLM

000433

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I

Det var i mitten av juni 1944. Kontorsfolket i Stockholm använde lunchrasten till att lapa sol på konserthusets, teatramas och de offentliga byggnadernas trappor. De som hade tid skyndade med tåg eller bil till Saltsjöbaden, där de kunde njuta av riktiga havsbad och andas frisk, saltmättad och syrerik luft. De som hade tillräckligt med pengar, men för sitt arbetes skull måste bo i närheten av huvudstaden, hyrde sig ett rum därute och reste in till det heta, gengasförgiftade Stockholm bara när de var oundvikligen tvingade. Och under den korta nordiska sommaren blev Saltsjöbaden ett slags filial till Stockholms lyxhotell med alla de internationella gäster, som världskriget drivit in i detta nervcentrum för tidningarnas nyhetstjänst och de krigförandes spionage.

Mitt i denna värld, där man till omväxling med jakten på nyheter från krigsskådeplatserna roade sig med golf, tennis och flirt, levde en mager, flintskallig gubbe, stammande på vilket språk han än förde sina sparsamma samtal. Han såg ut som en sextioåring, fast han enligt gästboken knappt var femtio år gammal. »Herr de Wahl» kallades han av hotellpersonalen, och som förnamn hade han i resandeboken skrivit Henrik. Tyska talade han nästan utan främmande accent,

RAOUL WALLENBERG CASE

Wallenberg, Raoul
CR Pehle, John W.

January 4, 1949

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of December 31.

I am delighted to know that the Joint Distribution Committee has been able to help in the Raoul Wallenberg matter. I do hope that the efforts that are being expended will be fruitful.

You probably have read in the newspapers of my connection with the Modern Industrial Bank. I shall be glad to have you drop in to see me at my new office whenever you are in New York.

With warm personal greetings,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. John W. Pehle
Pehle And Lesser
1616 K Street
Washington 6, D. C.

This letter was received on
Jan 4, 1949 - Filed in M.I.B. 4-10-49

000435

REPUBLIC 7643
CABLE ADDRESS "PELES"

PEHLE AND LESSER

JOHN W. PEHLE
LAWRENCE S. LESSER
JAMES H. MANN

December 31, 1948

1616 K STREET
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
165 West 46th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Secretary:

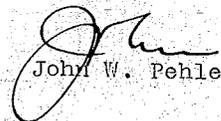
You will recall that I wrote to you on September 18, 1947, suggesting that the JDC make a contribution to the family of Raoul Wallenberg to assist in defraying part of the expenses incurred in the search being conducted for him.

I have now heard, perhaps belatedly, that the Wallenberg family has received a contribution of \$5,000 from the JDC for this purpose, and I hasten to express my appreciation for your attention to this matter.

Francha and I would also like to thank you and Mrs. Morgenthau for your holiday greetings, and wish you both the best in the new year.

With personal regards,

Sincerely,


John W. Pehle

000436

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, Inc. *File*
270 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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ISIDOR COONS, *Director of Fund Raising*
BENJAMIN B. GOLDMAN, *Director of Community Service and Information*

November 21 st, 1947.

MEMBERS. R.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
285 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

Eddie Warburg has turned over to me your letter of November 13th with which you enclosed a letter from John Pehle suggesting that the JDC make some funds available to the Wallenberg family. Guy von Dardel, the half brother of Raoul Wallenberg, talked to me about the possibility of some funds being made available. I had stated to von Dardel that if funds were necessary to ascertain the actual whereabouts of Mr. Wallenberg and to solve the mystery once and for all, we would be glad to consider making a grant; but the idea of repaying a publisher for expenses incurred in publishing a book was something we felt we had no right to use relief funds for. However, the matter is not closed.

I would again like to renew my suggestion made to you in a letter of April 23, 1947, (copy of which is enclosed) at the time of the Four Ministers Conference in London. Again, the Four Ministers are meeting and I wonder whether or not, Mr. Hull, Mr. Stimson and yourself would not send a memorandum to General Marshall detailing briefly the services which Mr. Wallenberg made, so that General Marshall could in an off moment over cocktails (if ever such arise in London) informally request some information about Mr. Wallenberg so that we might receive a definite statement as to whether he is or is not alive.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt
Moses A. Leavitt

MAL:JO
enc.

The Joint Distribution Committee receives its funds in the United States through the United Jewish Appeal. Outside of the United States the Joint Distribution Committee has the active cooperation of the South African Jewish War Appeal; the United Jewish Refugee & War Relief Agencies; Canada; the Central British Fund; the Junta de Ayuda pro Victimias de la Guerra; Argentina; United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund, Australia; Compana Unida Reconstruccion Ayuda, Mexico, and others.

Papers of Henry Morgenthau, Jr.: Container 811

000437

April 23, 1947.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
285 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

You will recall that the War Refugee Board through its representative, Ivar Olsen, in Stockholm, secured the services of Raoul Wallenberg to proceed to Budapest in a Swedish diplomatic capacity to do all he could to help the Hungarian Jews. Wallenberg left for Budapest not long after the Germans occupied Hungary and in the course of the tragic months of that occupation Wallenberg was responsible for saving the lives of thousands of Jews. His courage, his devotion and his resourcefulness in withstanding the pressures of the Gestapo and the Arrow Cross Party were unmatched by any of the people who had given of themselves to aid the stricken Jews of Europe. Immediately after the fall of Budapest, Wallenberg disappeared and he was last seen in the company of Russian officers. Many rumors have been received that Wallenberg is still alive and no definite statement has been secured from the Russian authorities as to whether he is being held as a prisoner or whether he has died. It is the opinion of the family of Wallenberg that he is being kept in custody by the Russian authorities for reasons not known to them. The many representations made by the Swedish Government to Russia have brought no definitive response.

It has occurred to me that if it were possible for General Marshall to speak for a moment to Mr. Molotov about Raoul Wallenberg that perhaps more could be accomplished in that way than through official representations. You suggested to me that it might be possible for you, Mr. Hull and Mr. Stimson to send a telegram to General Marshall requesting his personal intervention in this case. I believe and I am sure you agree that every effort should be made to ascertain the fate of this extraordinary person who really risked his life in defense of humanity. Even if the answer were to be a definitive one that he is not alive, I think even that would be of help to the family which continues to hope against hope that he will be returned to them. I would appreciate it if you were to let me know that such a wire has gone forward to Moscow.

Sincerely yours,

Moses A. Leavitt

MAL:JO

000438

Papers of Henry Morgenthau, Jr.: Container 811

PEHLE, JOHN W.
CR. Wallenberg. Royal

1707 EYE STREET
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
November 17, 1947

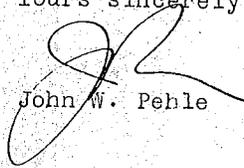
Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of November 13 with regard to the Wallenberg matter. I hope Mr. Warburg is able to make some appropriate arrangements with regard to this deserving case.

With personal regards,

Yours sincerely,


John W. Pehle

000439

PEHLE, JOHN

November 13, 1947

Dear Eddie:

I am sending you herewith copy of a letter which I have received from John Pehle. I hope that you can comply with his request.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg
The American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee, Inc.
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

000440

Julius & Ethel

PEHLE AND LESSER

JOHN W. PEHLE
LAWRENCE S. LESSER

September 18, 1947

1707 EYE STREET
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau
285 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Mr. Secretary:

You will recall that at the height of its operation the War Refugee Board was successful in persuading the Swedish Foreign Office to send an Attache to Budapest, which was then occupied by the Germans, for the exclusive purpose of organizing rescue and relief programs for Hungarian refugees. As a matter of fact, the Board's representative in Sweden himself selected this individual, Raoul Wallenberg, and supplied him with detailed instructions and financial support. The courageous and brilliant work of Wallenberg in Budapest is now, of course, well known here and in Europe, as is the fact that he disappeared in January 1945, after the Russians "liberated" Budapest. The Russians officially confirmed in January of that year that they had Wallenberg in "protective custody", but until very recently they have refused to make any further comment on this matter. I am advised that last month the Russians reported to the Swedish Foreign Office that their previous report must have been in error since they had been unable to confirm it and quite unable to locate Wallenberg in any of the Russian prisoner camps.

As you can imagine, Wallenberg's family and close friends have conducted an unceasing effort to find him. There have been literally dozens of leads and clues as to his whereabouts which the Wallenberg family felt had to be traced down. Many of them, in fact, are said to supply a rather strong indication that Wallenberg is being held somewhere in Russia at the present time. The pursuit of these numerous leads, however, has, in the aggregate, amounted to a substantial drain upon the resources of Wallenberg's family and friends, which has now reached serious proportions.

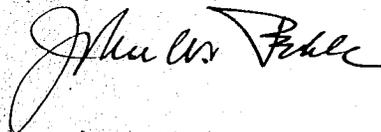
Wallenberg's family has, on several occasions, requested American assistance in the search for Raoul Wallenberg. They have been particularly hopeful that the JDC would come to their assistance in this matter. I get the impression that Wallenberg's family are afraid that the Americans, particularly the American Jewish organizations, were interested in Wallenberg only to the extent that he could bring credit and distinction to their various European organizations, which he undeniably did, but are now disposed to forget the whole matter.

000441

I am very anxious, as I know you are, that the Wallenberg family have every possible assurance of our interest and concern in Wallenberg's whereabouts, as well as a continuing appreciation of his remarkable contribution to a critical humanitarian mission. It is for these reasons that I am prompted to request you to make a very strong appeal to the JDC in this matter. You will recall that of the \$100,000 that JDC supplied to Wallenberg's venture, one-half was returned to them in Stockholm before VE-Day. Of the balance which was deposited to Wallenberg's bank account in Stockholm, but unused, most of it also has been returned to JDC or is still held in Stockholm for them. It seems to me, therefore, that JDC is in an excellent position to supply this much needed financial assistance to Wallenberg's family, say to the extent of 50,000 Swedish Kroner of the funds which still remain in Stockholm. I am sure that this gesture on the part of JDC, even though perhaps small in proportion to the substantial personal funds already expended in the search for Wallenberg, will go far to remove any hard feelings that the Wallenberg family may have at the present time.

With continued personal regards,

Yours,



P. S. I might add that while Raoul Wallenberg bears the name of a prominent and wealthy Swedish family, his problem and those of his immediate relatives are of no concern to the more prominent Wallenbergs.

RAOUL WALLENBERG-AKTIONEN
POSTBOX 42012
STOCKHOLM 42

Stockholm, December 22, 1947.

WALLENBERG, RAOUL.
cc, Nobel Peace Prize

file

Mr. Henry Morgenthau
285 Madison Avenue
New York City, N.Y.

Prior to January 31, 1948, the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Storting must receive the official proposals for the candidates of the 1948 Nobel Peace Prize. Entitled to make such proposals are the members of the Nobel Committee in Oslo, members of parliaments and governments, of the Interparliamentary Union, of the International Court in the Hague, of the Commission of the International Bureau for Peace and of l'Institut de Droit International, further university professors lecturing political science, history, philosophy and law, and former winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Before you make your own proposal to the Nobel Committee we ask you to consider if the Swedish Secretary of Legation Raoul Wallenberg is not by virtue of his heroic humanitarian work in Budapest during the worst period of the war the most worthy candidate for the Nobel peace prize.

In an enclosed booklet, which is published by the Swedish Raoul Wallenberg-Committee and the Swedish Association of Peace and Arbitration, you will find a short account of Raoul Wallenberg's life and activity.

The nomination of Raoul Wallenberg is warmly supported by persons in all parts of the world where his name is known and appreciated. As an example we will cite from a letter of Professor Albert Einstein's: "...I would find it quite justified that Raoul Wallenberg should receive the Nobel peace prize and I am gladly permitting you to mention this expression of mine to any person. According to the rules, however, I have no right to make an official proposal..."

The undersigned have decided to support Raoul Wallenberg's nomination for the Nobel peace prize not only with our own names but also by forming a committee, which will work for this deserving cause. We are enclosing our letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in which we propose Raoul Wallenberg and give an extensive explanation of our reasons for the proposal.

We hope that you too will contribute to awarding the 1948 Nobel Peace Prize to a man, who has until now received no reward for his nonparalleled and courageous work to save thousands of persecuted persons in Budapest from death and to lessen their sufferings, but who, on the contrary is being held prisoner. We ask you to inform us of your decision.

Very sincerely yours

Bertil von Eriksen
BERTIL VON ERIESEN
member of parliament

Anders Örne
ANDERS ÖRNE
former Post Master General

Ture Nerman
TURE NERMAN
member of parliament

Lise Meitner
LISE MEITNER
professor

Ellen Hagen
ELLEN HAGEN
authoress

Vilhelm Lundstedt
VILHELM LUNDSTEDT
member of parliament

Translation.

To the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Storting
Drammensvei 19
Oslo, Norway.

We want to propose for the Nobel Peace Prize of 1948 the Swedish Secretary of Legation, Raoul Wallenberg. His heroism when he saved thousands of people in the besieged city of Pest in Hungary during the Nazi terror was one of these feats of peace which Alfred Nobel had the intention to reward, and which have been rewarded by the Nobel Committee when Henri Dunant in 1901, and the International Red Cross in 1944, received the distinction. Raoul Wallenberg has, as the Nobel Prize winner of 1923 Fridtjof Nansen, contributed to alleviating the horrors of the war, and to suppressing the hate between peoples. The fact that he achieved this feat at continuous risk to his life is of considerable worth in the comparative distinction with these great predecessors.

An investigating committee which in October 1947 had the opportunity to investigate documents and personal testimonies, previously not open for inspection, found it convincingly established that Raoul Wallenberg was alive — at least until a relatively recent date. The fact that he is not at liberty for the present should not be an obstacle for his nomination. On the contrary there is a possibility that his nomination might facilitate his return to Sweden, his home, and his family. A parallel in this regard is Carl von Ossietzky who obtained the 1935 Peace Prize. Severely ill as he was after the privations and illtreatment in the Nazi concentration camps, the Nazis found it necessary, because of the attention which his nomination provoked, to transfer him to a hospital, where he was given better care. The Nobel prize thus became to him the only, or at least the last, glimpse of light in his martyrdom.

A choice of Nobel prize winner has seldom provoked such a satisfaction and admiration for the foresight of the awarding committee as that of Carl von Ossietzky after the war psychosis had ceased. This will also certainly be the case if Raoul Wallenberg is elected. His gallant fight for a persecuted race, and by hardly anyone so successfully defended, is one of the most brilliant examples of our time of what a private person can achieve for the cause of peace and humanity. Raoul Wallenberg already has received his memorial in Hungary, the country where he came as a liberator and where he lost his own liberty after completed tasks. May then, the next time the Nobel prize is awarded, this distinction, which is the expression of appreciation by the impartial authorities of peaceful heroism, testify his feats to all the world.

Although not entitled to make official proposals for the peace prize, former Post Master General Anders Örne and Professor Lise Meitner, both members of the investigating committee mentioned above, and the member of the Committee for Raoul Wallenberg's Return, Mrs. Ellen Hagen, share our opinion that Raoul Wallenberg is the most worthy candidate for the 1948 Nobel Peace Prize.

Stockholm, December 10, 1947.

BERTIL VON FRIESEN	TURE NERMAN	VILHELM LUNDSTEDT
member of Parliament	member of Parliament	member of Parliament

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March 29, 1948

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

In Mr. Morgenthau's absence, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 25th in regard to Raoul Wallenberg.

Upon his return, I shall be pleased to bring your letter to Mr. Morgenthau's attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. T. Chalke

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

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Community Service and Information

March 25, 1948

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
United Jewish Appeal
165 West 46th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

The attached letter from Stockholm speaks for itself. I have held it since December, seeking to figure out some way to cooperate in advancing the candidacy of Raoul Wallenberg for the Nobel Peace Prize -- an honor that his devoted, self-sacrificing service to the cause of rescuing persecuted Jews in Hungary so justly deserves.

Because the JDC as an organization cannot take the initiative in sponsoring his name for this great honor, I am appealing for your help in this matter. It occurred to me that on the arrival of the booklets referred to in the last paragraph of Birgitte Bellander's letter, you might wish to lend your good efforts to place them in the hands of certain senators and congressmen who may be interested in proposing his candidacy.

The effective work that Raoul Wallenberg, a young Swedish non-Jew, performed for the rescue of the Jews of Hungary -- a task that cost him his life -- has earned him the admiration and deep gratitude of Jews everywhere. Impartial observers fix the numbers he saved from deportation and extermination at 20,000. In case you are not familiar with his story, here it is, as told by Mayor O'Dwyer in his final report of the War Refugee Board:

Raoul Wallenberg, a young Swedish businessman, volunteered to proceed to Hungary for the War Refugee Board to aid in the rescue and relief of the persecuted Jews. The Swedish Government granted him diplomatic status and stationed him in Budapest for the purpose of rendering protection to these people. The Board furnished Wallenberg detailed plans of action, but made it clear that he could not act in Hungary as a representative of the Board. Wallenberg, supplied with funds from the Board and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, carried on a relentless campaign in Hungary in behalf of the Jews. He issued Swedish protective passports by the thousands and hired extra buildings as official Swedish quarters to house several hundred rabbis and communal leaders under the pro-

The Joint Distribution Committee receives its funds in the United States through the United Jewish Appeal. Outside of the United States, the Joint Distribution Committee has the active cooperation of the South African Jewish Appeal, United Jewish Relief Agencies, Canada Central British Fund, Organizacion Central de Ayuda, Argentina, Coallat Auxiliar do Jntai, Brazil, United Jewish Overseas Relief Funds, Australia Joint Relief Committee, Mexico, and others.

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March 25, 1948

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

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tection of the extraterritoriality which attached to such build-
ings. He constantly pressed the Hungarian authorities for better
treatment of Jews and succeeded in having thousands brought back
to Budapest from the forced labor marches. In all, approxi-
mately 20,000 Jews received the safety of Swedish protection in
Hungary. As a measure of the devotion of Wallenberg and as proof
of the risks involved in his activities, the Board received word
on April 4, 1945, that he was missing. Despite repeated attempts
to trace his whereabouts he was reported dead early in June 1945.

I hope that the facts mentioned above will induce you to bring this matter to the
attention of certain friendly congressmen and senators, to the end that the great
humanitarian efforts of this young man may persuade them to propose his name for
the Nobel Peace prize.

Cordially,



Moses A. Leavitt
Executive Vice-Chairman

MAL:r1
enc.

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Mr. Moses A. Leavitt
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

Stockholm, Dec. 2nd, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Guy von Dardel has given me your address and has told me about your interest in Raoul Wallenberg and his fate. I am President of a committee for Raoul Wallenberg's release which has been formed by a number of Swedish organizations, representing more than 1 million Swedes, as Mr. von Dardel may have informed you already. The organizations have decided to support the nomination of Raoul Wallenberg for the Nobel Peace Prize 1948 and I would like to secure your cooperation in this work.

There are few active pacifists of real importance which could justly candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. This prize, however, can also be given to persons who may not have actively worked for peace itself but by humanitarian work have contributed to lessen the sufferings of war and to bring relief to the victims. A well known example of this kind of Nobel Prize winner is the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen, who distinguished himself by his splendid humanitarian work during World War I. Raoul Wallenberg is the great humanitarian worker during World War II, even though his work may not yet be as well known as Nansen's. Raoul Wallenberg work is however perhaps even more worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize than Nansen's, because it was performed with a considerable personal risk. The fact that Raoul Wallenberg has not yet returned to his native country, proves that this risk was by no means imaginary. In my opinion it is the duty of the civilized world to bring honor and justice to a man who during the war did not hesitate to risk his life to save the victims of Nazi barbarity.

As you know the Nobel Peace Prize is distributed by the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, the "Storting," and the following groups of persons are entitled to propose candidates for the Nobel Peace Prize:

1. All present and former members of the Nobel Committee itself, and it's advisers.
2. Members of the parliaments and governments of the different nations, and the members of the Interparliament Union.
3. Members of the International Court in the Hague.
4. Members of the committee of the firm international office for peace.
5. Members of Institut de Droit International.
6. University professors who lecture political science, law, history or philosophy.
7. Persons who have obtained the Nobel Peace Prize.

All proposals of these persons have to be considered by the Nobel Committee. It may theoretically suffice that a single proposal is received. But added support is of course given to a certain candidate if he is proposed by as many persons as possible all over the world. There are many persons in Sweden who will support Raoul Wallenberg's nomination and propose him as candidate. Raoul Wallenberg's fate is however well known and his work appreciated in the United States too. The fact that Raoul Wallenberg's rescue action was initiated by U. S. War Refugee Board shows the strong connection between Raoul Wallenberg and your country. I know that we can count upon American support for Raoul Wallenberg's nomination. Let me cite from a letter from Prof. Albert Einstein:

"...I would find it quite justified that Raoul Wallenberg should receive the Nobel Peace Prize and I am gladly permitting you to mention this expression of my opinion to any person. According to the rules, however, I have no right to make an official proposal. I have this right only for candidates in physics and chemistry."

In order to make Raoul Wallenberg's work even better known we have decided to print a small booklet in English and Swedish which we will distribute among persons entitled to make suggestions or otherwise interested. We will send these booklets directly to those members of Congress and Senators which may be interested. As soon as these booklets and other papers are ready I will send you some 50 of them by air mail. I will be very grateful to you if you would distribute them among those of your friends who are entitled to make proposals for the Nobel Prize or are otherwise interested.

Very sincerely yours,

/Mrs/ Birgitte Bellander

Address:
Wallenbergaktionen
Stockholm 5
Sweden.