

Projects AND Documents, Volume II  
(Folder 1 of 4)

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VI.  
PROGRAMS

Containers 113

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VI A.  
RELIEF PROJECTS

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VI A

RELIEF PROJECTS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 11-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000745

Red Cross Aid

000746

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS  
 RED CROSS AID IN RUMANIA, HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, CROATIA, AND THERESIENSTADT

The Board, shortly after its formation, sent an urgent message to the International Red Cross at Geneva (Cable No. 279 dated January 27) stating that it was prepared to see that funds were made available to the IRC at once to provide food and medicines for persecuted groups in German-occupied areas who are denied the facilities available to the rest of the population.

After this message had been sent, it came to the attention of the Board that the IRC had proposed to the Intergovernmental Committee in December 1943 that 300,000 Swiss francs be placed at its disposal to carry out relief programs in Rumania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, and Theresienstadt and such other relief action as may be feasible. The Joint Distribution Committee indicated its willingness to make \$100,000 available to the IRC for this project, which was approved by the Board and the funds remitted pursuant to Treasury license. The license authorized the use of the funds for the purchase of food and other supplies in neutral countries and in Rumania and Hungary to carry out these relief activities. The Board then advised the IRC of this action (Cable No. 437 dated February 9; see attachment #1), asking them to keep the Board advised of action taken in this matter and to indicate what other assistance is needed to carry out this and similar operations.

A cable was also sent to Winant by the Board (Cable No. 1020 dated February 9), asking that he advise the Director of the IGC of what had been done in this matter. The IGC had previously indicated that it wished to act as intermediary for transmitting both public and private funds to the IRC to supervise the spending of the money and the observance of the conditions imposed by the license. Winant was requested to advise the IGC in this connection that the licensing of private funds from the United States for refugee projects will continue to be handled by the Treasury Department upon approval of the project by the Board.

In a communication from Minister Harrison in Bern (Cable No. 995 dated February 17) the Board was advised that the IRC felt that since publicity would undoubtedly prompt German measures to thwart relief, the surrounding of the relief program with complete secrecy would be absolutely necessary.

(cont.)

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 State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
 By R. H. Paris, Date SEP 28 1972

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In later communications from Harrison details were transmitted as to how IRC proposed to spend the funds provided; food parcels, pharmaceutical products, and clothes were to be bought in Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Switzerland and distributed to Jewish refugees in Transdustria, Thereisenstadt, Cracow, Holland, and Upper Silesia. Also included were certain general proposals for the relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups, proposals for the relief of prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps, and plans for the relief of the children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia (Cable No. 1334 dated March 4, and Cable No. 1366 dated March 6; see attachments #2 and #3).

Harrison was subsequently advised that the JDC has delegated full discretion to the IRC with respect to the use of the relief funds provided, though consultation with the JDC's representative was urged, as well as coordination with certain other relief programs. Harrison was also advised that JDC has indicated that it will not exploit this relief action for propoganda purposes (Cable No. 916 to Bern dated March 20; see attachment #4).

Harrison more recently advised the Board that in view of recent developments in the Balkans, the IRC is doubtful whether it will be possible to obtain any more foodstuffs from Hungary; as a result, substantial changes may have to be made in the relief program. If funds are made available, the IRC is willing to purchase food in Portugal for the relief of Jewish refugees, particularly those in three refugee camps in Croatia. The IRC inquired as to whether the Board could obtain the approval of the blockade authorities to shipment of the food from Lisbon to Marseilles via IRC ships (Cable No. 1828 dated March 24, and Cable No. 1850 dated March 25).

Subsequently Harrison advised of the receipt of a letter from the IRC in which they urged the immediate shipment of food and clothing to Switzerland to be stored there, and to be distributed only after concurrence of a Board representative. The necessity of aid to children in certain areas of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps was also emphasized by the IRC. Minister Harrison strongly recommended that the proposals of the IRC be accepted (Cable No. 2031 dated April 1; see attachment #5).

The Board has asked Harrison to ascertain from the IRC (1) the number and nationality of the persons in the three refugee camps who are to be helped under the proposed plan, (2) an estimate of the cost involved, (3) the kind of food to be bought for packaging in Portugal, and (4) assurances that such food supplies will be received by the intended beneficiaries (Cable No. 1198 dated April 8).

(cont.)

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State Dept. Letter 111172  
By L. H. Parks Date SEP 23 1972

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In reply, the IRC indicated that it is preparing answers to questions one, two, and four. As to question three the IRC believes that if the JDC purchases foodstuffs in Portugal for delivery to the IRC delegate in Lisbon, the plan will be simplified (Cable No. 2581 dated April 22).

The JDC representative in Portugal has also proposed that stock piles be built up in Switzerland for the IRC from supplies obtained in the United States and South America, the transportation to be furnished by the IRC (Cable No. 932 dated March 28). The Board in reply asked the JDC representative to send estimates of the amount of foodstuffs available in Spain and Portugal for the IRC feeding programs, as well as his personal views on the desirability of building food stocks in Portugal and in Switzerland (Cable No. 986 dated April 7). The Board was advised in answer to this inquiry that no substantial quantities of foodstuffs are available in Spain and that the only food available in Portugal for the IRC program would be sardines, dried fish, dried fruits, and almonds, for which a British navicent would be required. Switzerland, he said, offers better warehouse and distribution facilities than does Portugal (Cable No. 1095 dated April 13; see attachment #6). The IRC is said to have indicated subsequently that it is possible to send food packages in large quantities from the Azores provided the approval of the blockade authorities can be obtained (Cable No. 1123 dated April 15).

A report received from the IRC states that thus far there has been forwarded to Poland 100,000 Swiss francs' worth of food and medicine from the monies furnished it by the JDC (Cable No. 1155 from Lisbon dated April 18).

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 11-73  
SEP 28 1972  
By R. H. Parks Date \_\_\_\_\_

000749

VIA AIR  
ATTACH. #1

CABLE NO. 437 TO BERN FROM THE BOARD

February 9, 1944

The following cable for the Minister from the War Refugee Board.

You are requested to transmit the following urgent message to International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland:

You are herewith referred to our recent cable requesting information concerning possible relief operations for Jews and other persecuted groups. We have examined your proposal made to Intergovernmental Committee in December through your London Delegation in which you requested that 300,000 Swiss francs be placed at your disposal to enable you to carry out the indicated relief program in Rumania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Theresienstadt, and such other relief actions as may become feasible. The necessary funds for this project are being made available to you immediately by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Treasury Department has issued a license authorizing the Joint Distribution Committee to transmit to you the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 for this purpose. You are authorized by the license to use the funds for the purchase of food and other supplies in neutral countries and in Rumania and Hungary and otherwise to carry out the above mentioned relief activities. You are requested to keep the War Refugee Board fully informed of the action which you take, as well as to indicate to the Board what other assistance is needed to carry out this and similar operations.

It is requested that you fully cooperate with the International Red Cross and with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee in this matter. You should transmit a copy of the above message promptly to Saly Mayer, in St. Gall, Switzerland, who is the Joint Distribution Committee representative.

HULL

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State Dept. Letter 11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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CABLE NO. 1334 FROM BERN TO THE BOARD

March 4, 1944

A letter dated February 29 has been since submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross furnishing information requested in the Department's telegram no. 279, and detailing its proposed expenditures of the Swiss franc equivalent of \$100,000 (429,000 Swiss francs) received from joint (See Department's telegram of January 27, no. 279 and of February 9, no. 437 and Legation's telegram of February 18, no. 1028). Intercross proposes to expend this sum as follows: (A) Transnistria and Bessarabia: 100,000 francs to put at disposition of Intercross delegate in Rumania, in cooperation with Rumanian Red Cross, to purchase and distribute to Jewish refugees clothing available in Rumania. (B) The Reisenstadt: two alternative proposals for expenditures for food parcels of 119,000 francs. (A) 9500 food parcels to be prepared in free port Geneva from materials purchased in Hungary; 84400 francs to be spent for materials in Hungary and 34600 for labor, packing, freight, et cetera, in Switzerland; or (B) 900,000 food parcels containing materials of Swiss, Slovakian, or Hungarian origin; 89000 francs to be spent in Switzerland, 30,000 in Hungary and Slovakia. Intercross states that the execution of the first plan is dependent upon receiving authorization from National Bank for expenditures in Hungary and the second dependent upon bank and (Swiss?) export licenses. (C) Cracow: shipment of pharmaceutical products to Jews there has recently been authorized by German authorities. Intercross would dispatch 12000 kilos of vitamin fortified milk lactissa costing 93000 francs; overhead 7000 francs. (D) Jews in camps in Holland and Upper Silesia: 40000 francs to be spent for 2700 food parcels of Hungarian origin, 1350 parcels for each destination; 29500 francs to be spent in Hungary and the balance in Switzerland. This is again subject to the National Bank's authorizations. (E) 70000 francs to be spent for Swiss and foreign pharmaceutical products and Swiss surgical dressings to be distributed: 26000 to Judi Scheunter Stutzung, Stell P. Cracow, 12000 to Transnistria, 7700 to Thresisnstadt, 6700 as emergency reserve, and 12000 for Holland and Upper Silesia. A total of 5300 francs of these drugs are of foreign origin (insulin, merchurochrome, perhepar and aextrosom), the balance Swiss.

2. Before discussing the details of the above plan with Saly Mayer, Intercross inquiries were made of War Refugee Board as to whether it has discretionary authority subject to advice from Mayer or whether

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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he has the final word on the use of funds which the joint supplies.

3. Intercross Lexter warns strongly against exploitation of relief action for propaganda purposes by interested groups stating that publicity would likely result in the withdrawing of channels for relief which are now open.

4. A separate telegram will follow containing a summary of Intercross reply to questions raised in Department's telegram no. 279.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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CABLE NO. 1366 FROM BERN TO THE BOARD

March 6, 1944

Reference is made herein to the Department's 279, January 27, and 437, February 9, and the Legation's cable of March 4, no. 1334.

In addition to detailing the proposed expenditures of funds donated by the joint groups, the International Committee Red Cross letter dated February 29, includes following information requested by WRB in the Department's telegrams under reference: (a) - general possibilities and proposals for relief of Jewish refugees and other persecuted groups; (b) - proposals for relief of prisoners from occupied countries in German concentration camps; (c) - plan for relief of children of war victims in Serbia and Slovenia.

1. It is stated by the Intercross that they are almost certain relief consignments would reach their destinations to Rumania, the Resienstadt and Judische Unterstutzung Stelle, Cracow; about consignments to Westerbork, Holland and camps in France and upper Silesia they are uncertain, but the Intercross proposes certain proportion of sums put at its disposal be devoted to test shipments through channels hitherto untried.

2. It is stated by the Intercross that it will endeavor to keep to the lowest possible minimum any purchases made in Hungary or Rumania and will try to procure goods as much as possible in neutral countries. Inquiry is made by the Intercross whether it can count on additional funds on condition that they be expended exclusively in neutral countries within limited available possibilities.

3. In order to avoid expenditures in enemy territory the Intercross proposes (Intercross apprehensive of dangers of enemy abuse entailed by expenditures of foreign exchange in enemy territory) that stocks of relief materials be shipped from overseas for deposit in Geneva which could be drawn upon as opportunities arise for despatch to relief centers. Opportunities for relief are often of short duration and cannot be anticipated with certainty without necessity of fresh appeals on each occasion and a reserve depot would permit immediate action. It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot be under control of War Refugee Board representatives. Warm clothing, underwear, and men's large size

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Finks Date SEP 28 1972

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boots are the articles most urgently required in Transnistria. Suggest several thousand parcels each containing assortment of clothing, underwear, pair of strong boots parcels to be made up separately for men, women and children (not infants). It is suggested by the Intercross that the depot contain several tens of thousands relief food parcels of overseas origin not weighing over 2 1/2 kilos and containing non-perishable articles including canned goods, sugar, condensed milk, ovaltine, etc. The Intercross is prepared to transport against reimbursement via Red Cross ships sailing from the United States and Canada to Lisbon and Marseilles, if the question of tonnage presents difficulties.

4. It is stated by the Intercross that cooperation among the various Jewish relief groups seems impossible and observes not in interest or aim in view that it be revealed to one Jewish relief organization what the other organizations are doing. That relief plans be kept strictly secret is urgently requested.

5. Stressing the importance of the relief program to include oppressed groups "irrespective of race or religion", the Intercross expresses gratification that this principle was willingly agreed to by the War Refugee Board. It is believed by the Intercross that a broad relief program assisting various groups is less likely to arouse enemy opposition than one which is confined exclusively to the assistance of Jewish refugees only. Intercross proposes as beginning relief Allied nationals in German concentration camps and children in Yugoslavia (see B and C below).

B-1. The Intercross proposes, in accordance with A-5 above, that if funds are made available immediately tansbon relief to Belgians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles, Greeks, Czechs and other Allied Nationals enduring privation in concentration camps and prisons in Germany under severe secret police control (Intercross through informal channels has obtained names of nearly all Norwegians, Dutch and large numbers of Poles detained in German concentration camps and prisons and urgently requests this fact be kept strictly secret) Intercross states organized relief has up to present been prevented by the British blockade authorities, who insisted as condition that Germans recognize these prisoners as prisoners of war and subject to convention of Geneva.

According to a statement of Intercross it has made successful test shipments of individual relief parcels to these prisoners which were personally acknowledged by the recipients and in several camps Intercross delegates were able to verify on the spot that shipments reached the person intended to receive them. The Intercross is prepared to submit evidence of success of these operations and proposes as start food

(cont.)

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

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parcels be made available immediately to men and women in camps and prisons in Germany for 1,450 Norwegians, 1000 Dutch men and women and 1000 Polish. Risks of benefiting the enemy are far less than if free exchange expended in enemy territory for relief in Transnistria.

1. Two groups of children in Yugoslavia present a particularly alarming situation, according to statement of Intercross. 80,000 children evacuated from Croatia to Belgrade and other Serbian towns are a particularly critical problem as they are undernourished, in need of clothing and health conditions are pitiful. The same applies to where conditions which were already bad during the Italian occupation have now become increasingly serious since last summer and 100,000 children are suffering from malnutrition as a result of complete lack of fortifying foods such as milk, sugar, ovaltine and chocolate.

2. It has been suggested by the Intercross that in order to alleviate this situation the War Refugee Board assign 220,000 francs, of which 200,000 for food and 20,000 for medical relief to be divided equally between children in Slovenia and Serbia. For the purchase of Slovakian sugar and Hungarian alimentary pastes about 45,000 francs would be used and balance of 200,000 francs less 17,000 for administration, transportation, et cetera for purchase of Swiss food products. To prepare Swiss pharmaceutical products and surgical dressings would use about 20,000 francs. It is proposed by the Intercross that these relief goods be shipped to Intercross delegate at Belgrade for distribution in cooperation with the Serbian Red Cross.

If desired the Legation can telegraph further details regarding the above proposals. Copy of letter is being sent by IRC through its own facilities and we will also endeavor to forward a copy.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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VT-1-1  
attach. 7/2

CABLE NO. 916 TO BERN FROM THE BOARD

March 20, 1944

Given below is the substance of a message which you are requested to please deliver to Intercross, Geneva, from War Refugee Board, referring to your cable of March 7, No. 133A.

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

HULL

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State Dept. Letter 11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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ATTACH #5

CABLE NO. 2031 FROM BERN TO THE BOARD

April 1, 1944

A letter from the Intercross Committee of the Red Cross dated March 27 is summarized as follows (please refer to my number 1850 dated March 25, 1944):

1. The activities of Intercross on behalf of war victims in that part of Europe will be affected by events in Hungary and the possible occupation of Hungary and Slovakia. Certain adjustments are necessary in the joint 100,000 dollar relief program since the last possibilities of obtaining relief foodstuffs within Europe apparently are dwindling.

2. If the plans of the War Refugee Board to rescue certain particularly stricken groups of refugees are not to be too late, rapid action is necessary. The necessity of accepting the suggestion to send it (Intercross) parcels of underwear and food is urged by Intercross - please refer to paragraph three of my number 1366 dated March 8. These parcels would be stored in Geneva and only after concurrence of a representative of the War Refugee Board to whom full information and control vouchers could be supplied, would they be despatched.

3. The necessity of aid to children in certain parts of Europe and to prisoners in concentration camps is emphasized by Intercross - please see paragraphs B1 and C1 in my number 1366.

4. Acceptance of Intercross proposals is strongly recommended by the Legation.

HARRISON

UNCLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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ATTACH #6

CABLE NO. 1095 FROM LISBON TO THE BOARD

April 13, 1944

FOLLOWING FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD FROM LISBON JDC

"Reply cable number 988 dated April 7, 1944. Am informed only foodstuffs available Portugal in bulk for feeding programs International Red Cross sardines, dried fish, dried fruits and almonds for which British navicert required. Quantities of coffee, cocoa and tea also available but Portuguese authorities don't permit export. Other important products such as fats, meat extracts, condensed and powdered milk, unavailable. No substantial quantities any foodstuffs available Spain. Believe in most desirable form stocks of food in Switzerland for distribution labor camps, other concentration points occupied Europe. In this connection, Switzerland offers better facilities than Portugal because of better warehouse facilities and distribution possibilities. Also certain foods which most urgently required cannot be stored Portugal because intense humidity, therefore, would urgently recommend original suggestion foodstocks be established Switzerland for distribution under auspices International Red Cross. If agreement in principle forthcoming, believe can work out with International Red Cross all necessary arrangements utilization space their ships." Signed Joseph Schwartz.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. E. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100758

Vatican to Jews

000759

## PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

## RELIEF THROUGH VATICAN TO JEWS IN ITALY

As long ago as September 27, 1943, the Treasury permitted the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to wire its representatives in Switzerland authority to borrow \$120,000 locally for relief of refugees in Italy for a six months' period. In November 1943 JDC requested a license to send remittances to southern Italy, but that request was denied.

In December 1943 the U. S. Embassy in London transmitted to the State Department a communication from the Intergovernmental Committee (Cable No. 9021 dated December 28, 1943, comprising attachment #1; see also Cable No. 52 dated January 4) stating that the British had suggested that the U. S. allow funds of American Jewish organizations to be paid to the account of the British Minister to the Vatican for the relief of Jews in Italy.

A cable received from London (Cable No. 1154 dated February 10; see attachment #2) reported that, in view of JDC's willingness to provide \$20,000 immediately for the relief of these refugees in Rome, the British Minister at the Vatican had been authorized to spend \$20,000 worth of lire for this purpose. The Foreign Office requested that JDC send the British pound equivalent of \$20,000 to its Finance Officer. The British Foreign Office also requested that there be no public disclosure of the fact that they are financing relief in Rome until after Rome is occupied by the Allies because of the possibility that they might be subjected "to all sorts of demands from Allies and from Jewish organizations to permit remittances to enemy territories of a kind which we have always felt bound to refuse." They added that "it might be very difficult for us to explain the special circumstances of this case."

In a communication from the Board (Cable No. 1695 dated March 6; see attachment #3) London was advised that the JDC was remitting to the Finance Officer of the British Foreign Office the \$20,000 as requested by the Foreign Office. Tittman, U. S. Foreign Service Officer at

(cont.)

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 23 1972

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Vatican City, was advised of this fact and requested to inform the Board as to the names of the recipient organizations in Rome, and as to whether additional funds are needed.

The JDC representative in Portugal subsequently reported that 1,400,000 lire had already been borrowed in Rome against the \$20,000 credit established in London. However, the recipient organization in Rome, Delasem, asked that the funds originally deposited in London be credited in its name in the United States in dollars, along with such additional funds as might be forthcoming from the JDC on the basis of previous requests. (See Cable No. 3224 to London dated April 19).

The British Foreign Office was therefore asked to return to the JDC the \$20,000 previously remitted. These funds are to be placed in a blocked account in the United States in the name of Delasem. London and Bern have been requested to notify Delasem that the JDC is establishing an additional credit up to \$100,000 for the balance of 1977, against which this organization is authorized to borrow in Italy.

Board representatives are now discussing with the Apostolic Delegate in Washington the possibility of making further remittances for this project directly from the United States through Vatican channels. (See Cable No. 3169 to London dated April 20).

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Order 11772  
By: SP-11/PA/DA/ SER 28 1972

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Mauritius

700762

VIA-2  
attach. #1

CABLE NO. 9021 FROM LONDON TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT

December 28, 1943

Not paraphrased.

Embassy has received from Director, Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, letter dated December twentysecond containing suggestion that Department may wish approach refugee organizations in United States as follows:

"The Foreign Office has just informed us that the British Minister to the Vatican has reported that the funds of charitable Italians in Rome, who have been working on behalf of the Jews, especially the children of those whom the Germans have seized and probably deported to Germany, are very low and in consequence they may not be able to continue with their relief work. The Foreign Office is asking the Treasury whether they will allow funds for this purpose to be paid into the account of the British Minister to the Vatican, and has asked us whether we would consider approaching some of the Jewish charitable organizations in this country in case they may be disposed to make a contribution.

We are therefore addressing a conditional enquiry to each of the following organizations in London: World Jewish Congress, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Central Council for Jewish Refugees.

In addition it has occurred to us that you might wish to inform the State Department for whatever approach it might deem advisable to make to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in the United States, on condition that the United States Treasury are willing to allow transmission of funds for this purpose."

WINANT

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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attach. #2

CABLE NO. 1154 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FROM LONDON

February 10, 1944

In note dated February 8, Foreign Office requests remittance for charitable relief at Vatican as follows (telegrams 52, January fourth and 744, January twentieth):

"I am sorry there has been some delay in replying but the technical details of transfer present serious difficulties. These have, I hope, been overcome and we have authorized His Majesty's Minister at the Vatican to spend 20,000 dollars worth of lire for this charitable relief work. Would you please therefore send to the Finance Officer, Foreign Office the sum of 4968 pounds eighteen shillings tenpence, the equivalent of 20,000 dollars?

We should be grateful if you would ask the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, who have, I believe, provided the funds, to refrain from making any public disclosure of the fact that they are financing relief in Rome until after Rome is occupied by the Allies. If publicity were given to this scheme we should be subjected to all sorts of demands from Allies and from Jewish organizations to permit remittances to enemy territories of a kind which we have always felt bound to refuse. It might be very difficult for us to explain the special circumstances of this case and that it cannot be taken as a precedent and we trust therefore that the Joint Distribution Committee will be discreet.

We have asked Osborne to let us know the names of recipient organizations in Rome so that future remittances might be made direct from the United States of America if desirable. Would it be possible to transfer future remittances through the machinery used by your government to finance the United States representative at the Vatican or to borrow lire or obtain them from the Holy See so that the latter and not the enemy would obtain the equivalent in Swiss francs?

I should be grateful for your comment on this suggestion."

WINANT

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter # 73-111  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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VI-2  
attach. #3

CABLE NO. 1695 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FROM LONDON

March 6, 1944

With respect to relief in Rome, we refer to your cable dated February 10, 1944, no. 115A.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is remitting to the Financial Officer of the British Foreign Office the sum of 4968 pounds 18 shillings and 10 pence, as requested by the Foreign Office. Methods by which remittances can be made direct from the United States in the future are being considered by Treasury and the War Refugee Board.

This reply and your cable no. 115A are being repeated to Tittman and Bern.

STETINIUS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1987  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100765

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF TO GREEK AND JEWISH REFUGEES ON ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

In a communication to the American Consul in Durban (Natal, Union of South Africa) the Board asked for a report on the total number and condition of refugees on the Island of Mauritius (Cable No. 8 dated March 6; see attachment #1). A request for suggestions as to possible relief measures was also made.

The Board was subsequently advised that there are some 1500 Jewish refugees in detention on Mauritius, 600 being from Czechoslovakia, the rest from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, and Russia. Widespread malnutrition was reported, and the sending of dried milk, dehydrated vegetables and fruits, medicines, and clothes was urged (Cable No. 9 from Durban dated March 20).

A memorandum dated March 4 has been directed to this Government by the Intergovernmental Committee, asking that the United States relax in certain respects the procedure now being followed in the issuance of visas to refugees, a question having arisen out of the case of the refugees on Mauritius (see VII A, Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee).

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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VINA 2/3  
attach 7/1

CABLE NO. 8 TO DURBAN FROM THE BOARD

March 6, 1944

The War Refugee Board has received several reports of the existence of suffering and disease among refugees on the Island of Mauritius. There appear to be two groups of such refugees on the Island. There are about 1500, probably Czech refugees, who attempted to enter Palestine and were deported to Mauritius. There are also approximately 1000 Greek refugees. It is with respect to the first group that we have received the most unfavorable reports as to living and health conditions.

It would be appreciated if you would institute a check of this matter indicating the total number of refugees on the Island of Mauritius, what percentage of them are Jewish, and the general living conditions of these refugees with particular emphasis upon the prevalence of disease and malnutrition. You might also indicate what is needed by way of relief.

STETTINIUS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

100767

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF IN FRANCE (USC)

The Unitarian Service Committee has begun a program for the medical care of refugees in concentration camps and elsewhere in France. A remittance of \$30,000 to their representative in Switzerland was originally licensed for this purpose (Cable No. 838 dated March 14; see attachment #1). This license was subsequently amended to permit the USC to operate through either its Swiss representative or through its representative in Lisbon (Cable No. 991 to Lisbon dated April 3).

The Unitarians have also been authorized to remit \$9,000 to Portugal for the purchase of food packages to be distributed to persons in France known to their representative to be in danger of death.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks, Date: SEP 20 1972

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France (USC)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

attach #1

CABLE NO. 838 TO BERN FROM THE BOARD

March 14, 1944

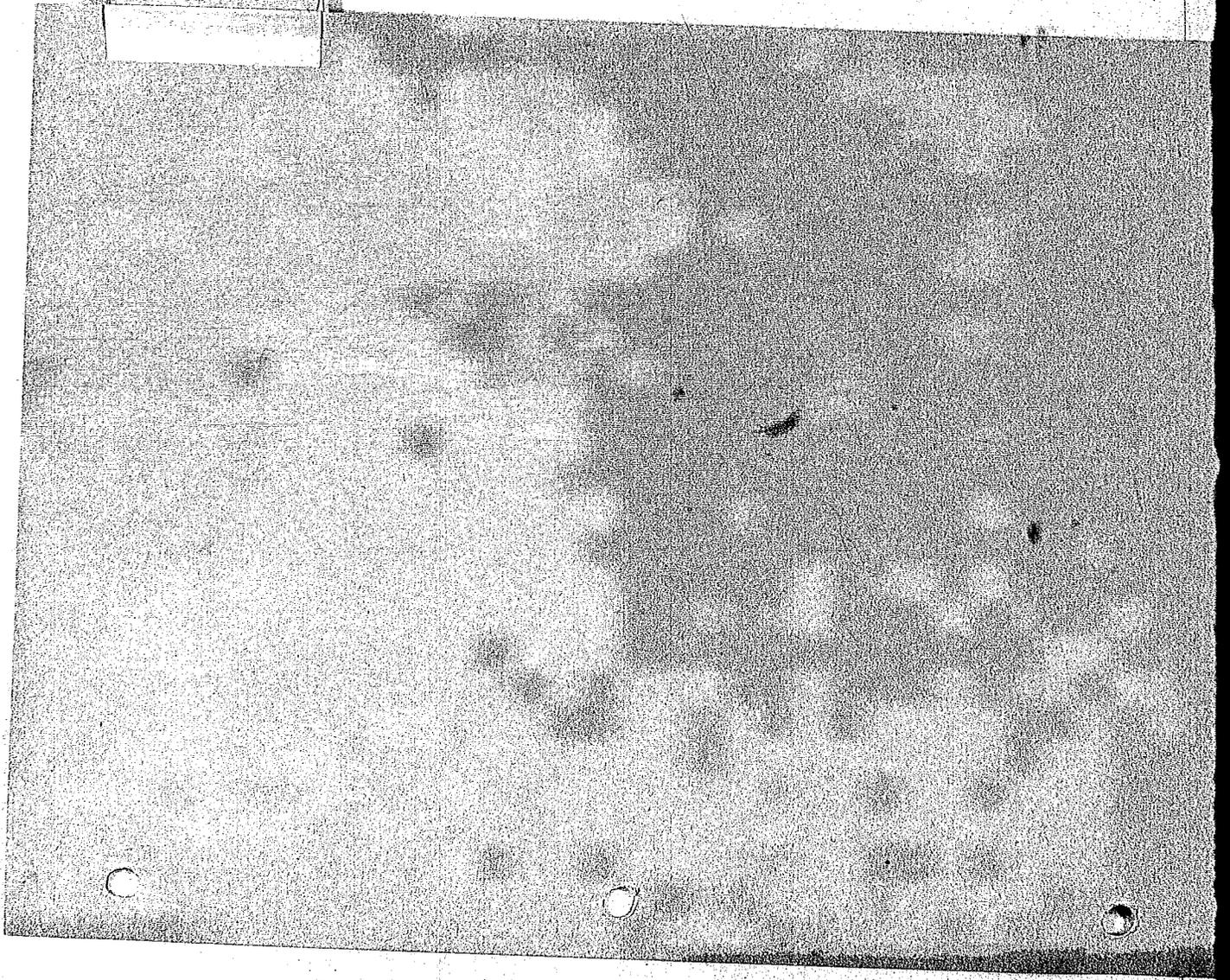
Please inform Noel Field, 12 Rue du Vieux College, Geneva that for the purpose of supporting medical work in refugee camps in France the Treasury Department has issued license number W-2149 to the Unitarian Service Committee, Boston, Massachusetts. With the exception that paragraph (A) of license W-2149 provides for medical work among refugees in refugee camps in France, and paragraph (B) provides that the total sums covered thereby shall not exceed 130,000 Swiss francs or the dollar equivalent thereof for the nine months beginning January 1, 1944, in all respects the terms of the license are identical to those issued to the World Jewish Congress, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and the American Joint Distribution Committee. The Treasury, the War Refugee Board and the Department have approved these operations.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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Shanghai (JDC-UOR)



100771

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF IN SHANGHAI (JDC-UOR)

Relief is presently being afforded to 10,000 stranded refugees in Shanghai pursuant to licenses granted by the Treasury Department at the Board's request to two private organizations, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis (Vaad Hahatzala). These licenses authorize the borrowing of funds in Shanghai against a promise on the part of the American organizations to repay after the conclusion of hostilities.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100772

Greeks in Italy

200773

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF OF GREEKS IN ITALY

A license has been issued in accordance with the Board's recommendation permitting the Greek Government to remit the equivalent of 20,000 Swiss francs to its Legation in Bern for the relief of Greek nationals who are being held as hostages in northern Italy. The Swiss francs were acquired through the Stabilization Fund.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

France (ACCR)

000775

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ VI 1 7  
PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF IN FRANCE (ACCR)

On March 6, the American Committee for Christian Refugees, upon the recommendation of the Board, was granted a license for relief and evacuation operations in France in an amount up to \$5,000 a month (see Cable No. 851 to Bern dated March 15).

The Swiss representative of the ACCR subsequently reported that through the efforts of an associate group in France, a total of at least 420 men, women, and children have escaped to Switzerland since the summer of 1940. Several hundred other persons, especially younger men, are said to have been assisted in escaping to Spain. Several thousand additional refugees are reportedly in hiding and being cared for in France (Cable No. 2462 from Bern dated April 25).

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State Dept. Letter: 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 2 1972

000776

Sp. Republ. in France (IRRC)

000777

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VIA-8

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES; RELIEF PROJECTS

SPANISH REPUBLICAN REFUGEES IN FRANCE (IRRC)

The International Rescue and Relief Committee has been licensed to send the Swiss franc equivalent of \$7,500 per month over a period of six months to the International Red Cross in Geneva for transmittal to the Service Sociale d'Aide aux Emigrants in France for the relief of Spanish republican refugees in camps in southern France.

In a communication from Minister Harrison in Bern (Cable No. 1489 dated March 11), however, it was indicated that inasmuch as Service Sociale d'Aide aux Emigrants is the European section of the International Migration Service of New York and is completely independent of the IRC, IRC would rather not act as an intermediary for transmitting funds to an organization over whose activities it has no control. IRC suggested instead, and IRRC has agreed, that monthly payments should be sent directly to the Geneva office of the Service by the donor. The Treasury license was amended accordingly on March 30.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100778

Jews in Holland (JDC)

700779

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF TO JEWS IN THE NETHERLANDS (JDC)

Some 18,000 Jews whose lives are in danger because of insufficient food are reported as remaining in concentration camps in the Netherlands. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee asked Board approval of its application for a license to send \$12,000 a month to Portugal for the purchase of food there for distribution to the Jewish internees in these camps in the Netherlands. After certain delays encountered at FEA were brought to the Board's attention, the Board was instrumental in having the matter cleared with FEA and the Dutch Embassy; arrangements were then made for immediate issuance by the Treasury of the appropriate license.

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State Dept. Letter: SEP 28 1972  
By R. H. Parks Date

Thereseinstadt (JDC)

700781

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF IN THEREISENSTADT (JDC)

With the approval of the Board a license has been issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee authorizing it to remit \$12,000 monthly for a period of three months beginning February 26, 1944, for the purchase of food in Switzerland for distribution by the International Red Cross to internees in Thereisenstadt.

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

200782

Italians in Switz. (WJC)

700783

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF TO ITALIANS IN SWITZERLAND (WJC)

Upon the recommendation of the Board, the World Jewish Congress was licensed early in April to send the Swiss franc equivalent of \$8,010 to its representative in Geneva for the relief of Italian refugees in Switzerland. These funds were made available to the WJC by the Italian community of Rio de Janeiro. On May 1 the remittance was authorized of an additional \$4,000 made available by the Italian community of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100784

Jews in Czech. (UOR)

000785

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

RELIEF TO JEWS IN CZECH INTERNMENT (UOR)

On March 30, upon the recommendation of the Board, a license was issued by the Treasury permitting the remittance of \$3,000 to the representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in Tangier. This remittance was for the purpose of sending food parcels to Jewish internees in concentration camps in Czechoslovakia. (See Cable No. 43 to Tangier dated April 6.)

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 28 1972

100786

Food Parcels (JDC)

100787

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS

FOOD PARCELS TO CAMP BERGEN-BELSEN (JDC)

On April 26 the Treasury Department, upon the Board's recommendation, issued a license to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee permitting it to send up to \$5,000 to its representative in Lisbon for the purchase in Portugal of food for individual parcels to be distributed to internees in enemy territory. This license will enable the JDC to send food parcels "on an experimental basis" to internees at Camp Bergen-Belsen in Celle province near Hannover, Germany, and is in addition to the food package licenses previously issued to the JDC permitting it to supply food parcels to internees in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Netherlands.

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100788

VI. B.  
SPAIN (AND PORT.)

100789

EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parke Date SEP 28 1972

700790

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

The Board has been advised that certain diplomatic dispatches from Ambassador Hayes in Madrid to the State Department summarize available information on refugees in Spain (notably Airgram No. A-39 dated January 27 and Dispatch No. 1967 dated January 31). In addition to these reports, a memorandum prepared February 1 summarizes information growing out of a conversation between Board representatives and Moses Leavitt of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee with respect to refugees in Spain (see attachment #1). In a cable to the Board from Minister Norwey in Lisbon (Cable No. 919 dated March 27; see attachment #2), further information concerning the number and types of refugees in Spain was relayed by Joseph Schwartz, JDC representative.

In the Board's original communication to Madrid Ambassador Hayes was asked to approach the Spanish Government, explain the recently adopted U. S. refugee policy, and ascertain the extent to which Spain is prepared to cooperate (Cable No. 207 dated January 25; see attachment #1 to IV.B, General Instructions to U. S. Missions). Hayes replied (Airgram No. A-59 dated February 15; see attachment #3) that he did not consider this "an opportune moment" in this country's relations with Spain to approach the Spanish Government in the sense suggested.

In a second communication (Cable No. 463 dated February 18; see attachment #4) the Board suggested that Hayes explore the possibility of Spain's relaxing her border controls so as to admit more refugees, and of Spain's making a public announcement of her willingness to allow refugees to enter the country. Hayes in turn indicated (Cable No. 683 dated February 28; see attachment #5) that he felt these steps were not desirable. Hayes further stated his belief that the fact that few refugees are now entering Spain is not due to Spanish border controls, but rather to the difficulties in the way of refugees escaping to the Spanish frontier from occupied Europe. Hayes indicated that one reason he is opposed to asking the Spanish Government to relax its border controls is the danger that the entry of German agents into Spain might thereby be facilitated. He also expressed his disapproval of the Board's proposal that the Spanish be asked to publicize the fact that they are prepared to grant asylum to refugees. In Hayes' opinion such an announcement is not only unnecessary; it would also have political implications above its primary humanitarian purpose and might make the escape of refugees from German-occupied territory more difficult. Hayes suggested that the

(cont.)

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Spanish Government could best expedite the release of refugees from Axis-controlled areas by directly approaching the German Government with an offer to grant transit or temporary residence visas to refugees. He emphasized that some assurances must be given to Spain as to the ultimate destination of such refugees before Spain could be asked to make such an approach.

The Board had also asked Ambassador Hayes to request the Spanish Government to establish reception centers for new refugees and to explain that the Board is willing to make financial arrangements for such centers and to assume responsibility for transporting refugees from Spain. The Board has taken the position that immediate arrangements should be made for the removal of refugees in Spain to a camp set up near Fedhala in North Africa, even though such removal might have to be on a compulsory basis, since the removal to other areas of refugees already in Spain would facilitate the desired flow into neutral Spanish territory of refugees in more imminent danger of death.

Hayes in turn inquired as to what was meant by a statement to the effect that refugees now in Spain should be evacuated by "involuntary" measures, if necessary. Hayes pointed out that the proposed plan to evacuate stateless and unprotected refugees from Spain to North Africa will not accomplish the removal of all these refugees from Spain since many will not wish to go and others will not be considered acceptable by the French and Allied authorities. Under instructions from the State Department, Hayes has attempted no means of persuasion beyond acquainting these refugees with the nature and conditions of the proposed project.

Establishment of the North African camp to which reference was made, Camp Marechal Lyautey, was originally strongly opposed by the French North African government, but was finally consented to on condition that the United States and the United Kingdom assume all financial responsibility, guarantee postwar repatriation or evacuation, and restrict the number of occupants to a maximum of 2,000 at any one time. The French had originally insisted upon the strict internment of all refugees but finally agreed to modify this demand considerably and to issue work permits to those fitting into the national economy. The camp is to be managed by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The British have agreed to transport the refugees from Portugal, and the British and this country have agreed to share expenses.

At the request of the Board, UNRRA telegraphed Moses Beckelman, its North African representative, requesting his cooperation with the Board. UNRRA declined, however, to instruct him to urge emigration, insisting that its international character makes such action impolitic.

(cont.)

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Applicants for entry to the camp are to be subjected to preliminary screening by British, United States, and French authorities. Exit visas are to be supplied by the Spanish and traveling papers by the French. Ultimate disposition of the camp will be left to the Intergovernmental Committee, which will necessitate their designating a local representative. In this connection a communication from London (Dispatch No. 1835 dated March 6; see VII A, Cooperation with Intergovernmental Committee) relayed the suggestion of the British Foreign Office that Hayes in Madrid be requested to solicit the approval of the Spanish Government with respect to the establishment of an IGC office in Madrid and the designation of David Blickenstaff as IGC representative.

In view of Hayes' opposition to approaching the Spanish Government with the measures suggested to him, the Board has transmitted to him for his consideration and, with his approval, for submission to the Spanish Government certain concrete plans designed to facilitate the evacuation of refugees to and through Spain. In addition to setting up a staff at Madrid to assist the Board's Special Representative, the plan (Cable No. 799 dated March 23; see attachment #1 to IV D - 1, Cooperation with Spain) contemplates the establishment of reception centers close to the Franco-Spanish border to which all refugees crossing the frontier would be brought. These centers would be operated either by the Board or by private relief organizations under Board supervision. The refugees would be given a physical examination upon arrival at the center and, if able to travel, would be moved promptly on to reception centers in North Africa after preliminary screening and after being provided with requisite travel documents.

The substance of a license issued to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee covering certain evacuation operations (see VI B - 2, Evacuation of Children from France to Spain and Portugal) was sent to Hayes by the Board (Cable No. 752 dated March 18; see attachment #6) for transmission to Samuel Sequerra, JDC's representative in Spain. In reply Hayes informed the Board (Cable No. 997 dated March 22; see attachment #7) that he had not advised Sequerra of the terms of this license, taking the position that Sequerra's loyalty to the Allied cause is doubtful and that all JDC business with the Embassy had previously been transacted through Blickenstaff. Moreover, Hayes objected to any American charitable organization engaging in the clandestine operations contemplated by the license; in his opinion such actions could jeopardize the position of these organizations in Spain or might be turned by the Germans to their own advantage and used as a device for getting their agents into Spain and Allied territory. Hayes felt that the contemplated evacuation program of the JDC would seriously interfere with the existing facilities for the rescue of Allied airmen who have been shot down over occupied Europe. He urged that prior approval by the Joint Chiefs of Staff be

(cont.)

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obtained on contemplated operations, and in connection with their consideration of the matter requested that they be furnished with his views on the subject.

In still another communication from Hayes (Cable No. 974 dated March 20) Hayes stated his opposition to the Board's sending a representative to Spain. Hayes insisted that if the Board wishes to work in Spain, it should work through Blickenstaff, thereby obtaining the benefit of his experience in the field. Hayes felt that Blickenstaff would be acceptable to the Spanish, while a representative from the outside would not be, since the Spanish might interpret such a designation as contrary to the agreement centralizing refugee work in Spain in the hands of Blickenstaff.

In an effort to induce the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to grant asylum to additional refugee children, instructions have been sent by the State Department to Madrid and Lisbon, similar to the instructions recently transmitted to Bern, providing for the issuance of 1,000 immigration visas to refugee children from France arriving in Spain and Portugal during the first six months of 1944 (see Cable No. 1008 to Madrid dated April 12 comprising attachment #8; see also VI D - 1, Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France).

Board Representative Dexter in Lisbon has brought to the Board's attention certain proposals on the part of Isaac Weissman, representative of the World Jewish Congress, concerning the eventual destinations of refugee children arriving in Portugal from France (Cable No. 1168 from Lisbon dated April 19; see attachment #9). The Board has indicated to Dexter its conviction that the problem of where to send the children who are being rescued -- i.e., whether they shall receive Palestine certificates or U. S. visas -- should be determined after they have reached safety, on the basis of facilities existing at that time.

See also III A, Special Representatives; IV D - 1, Cooperation with Spain; IV D - 4, Cooperation with Portugal; and the following specific projects involving evacuations to and through Spain and Portugal; VI B - 1, Evacuation of Republican Refugees; VI B - 2, Evacuation of Children from France (JDC); and VI B - 3, Evacuations from Spain to Lyautey.

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100794

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. LEAVITT OF THE JDC

February 1, 1944.

According to a report received two to three months ago, there are about 8,000 to 9,000 refugees in Spain. Of this number an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 are Jews, of whom about 1,800 are stateless.

Several concentration camps for refugees are operated by the Spanish Government. The largest is Camp Meranda, where about 3,000 people are reported to be living under inhuman and extremely crowded conditions. The camps are said to be virtual prisons where refugees are kept under strict detention. They are located in old prisons, in barracks, and in vacant hotels.

Some, however, are permitted to live in restricted residences, where they have somewhat more personal liberty than do those in the prison camps. Many of the people in these restricted residences are aided by such organizations as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, particularly with respect to supplemental food.

A small number of the refugees are permitted to live in little pensions located mainly in the cities. These refugees have a little more freedom than the group in the restricted residence areas, since they are permitted to move around freely in the cities in which they are located. JDC supports many of these refugees, all of whom report regularly to the Spanish police authorities.

It was reported that the Spanish Government does not maintain a strict border control with respect to refugees desiring entry into that country, nor does it send any refugees back into France. Many of the refugees are said to violate the Spanish Government's customs declaration requirements and, for this reason, technically become subject to arrest and imprisonment in concentration camps. The Spanish Government had indicated an attitude of somewhat greater strictness with respect to Sephardic Jews; before the latter are permitted to enter Spain, the Spanish Government requires assurances that they will be reevacuated to another country.

The two private organizations working among the refugees in Spain are the Quakers and the JDC. The Quaker group is headed by Mr. and Mrs. David Blickenstaff, with offices in Madrid. The JDC office is in

(cont.)

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Barcelona. While the Quakers pay for their own administrative costs, the JDC subvents practically all of the relief given to the refugees. The Quakers and the JDC have concentrated on the 1,800 stateless Jews in Spain. Those Jews who are not stateless are receiving care and help from the consulates of their own governments. It was indicated that the Czech, Dutch, and Polish Consulates, in particular, have been doing considerable work among their nationals.

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State Dept. Order 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100796

LIB  
attach #2

CABLE NO. 919 FROM LISBON TO THE BOARD

March 27, 1944

Following message is for War Refugee Board for transmission to  
Moses Leavitt, Joint Distribution Committee, New York City.

Your March 23rd 9 p.m.

Number Jewish refugees on our rolls after departure Canadian group  
approximately 500 Madrid and 1,050 Barcelona including about 560 Sep-  
hardic group leaving balance 990 most of whom stateless. Difficult es-  
timate number refugees Spain not on our relief rolls but total does not  
exceed 450 excluding of course French who being constantly evacuated.  
Of total 1550 refugees our rolls 865 have applied for North African  
camp but French authorities have rejected approximately 10 percent  
making total likely to be moved about 775 which will include at least  
365, Sephardic group. Believe some others might be willing depart  
after first group leaves provided French authorities accept additional  
groups but must point out very little enthusiasm among refugees for any  
type camp and difficult for Beckelman or us utilize suasion especially  
view uncertainties regarding right to work and other conditions which  
will prevail. Also many refugees especially Barcelona have close rela-  
tives in France whom they feel they can help from Spain therefore refuse  
to leave for any point from which contact impossible. Have nevertheless  
cooperated fully and you may be certain we shall try get out maximum  
number without using undue pressure." Signed Joseph Schwartz.

NORWEB

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100797

VI B  
attach. #3

AIRGRAM NO. A-59 FROM MADRID TO THE BOARD

February 15, 1944.

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

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

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

HAYES

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State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

200798

V.I.E.  
attach. #

CABLE NO. 163 TO MADRID FROM THE BOARD

February 18, 1944

The foregoing is for the Ambassador's attention.

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

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

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

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

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By R. H. Parks, DA **SEP 28 1972**

100799

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

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

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

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

Furthermore it is important to remember that it is this Government's policy to move to Camp Lyautey promptly as many stateless and unprotected refugees as facilities allow. Consequently you should make every attempt to encourage the voluntary migration to the camp of the greatest possible number of eligible persons in Spain at the present time. Of course this evacuation operation should be executed as rapidly as possible.

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

STETTINIUS

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Da. SEP 28 1972

VI B  
attach.#5

CABLE NO. 683 (Section One) FROM MADRID TO THE BOARD

February 28, 1944

Not Paraphrased.

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

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

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

(Cont.)

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- 2 -

this offer of evacuation or who are not considered acceptable by French and Allied authorities. (In this connection I should appreciate clarification of meaning of "involuntary" removal of refugees from Spain). It may be mentioned with reference Department's 512 February 24 that present delay in completing arrangements for departure of refugees for Fedhala is due principally to above mentioned requirement that applications be submitted to North Africa for prior approval.

HAYES

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100202

CABLE NO. 683 (Section Two) FROM MADRID TO THE BOARD

February 28, 1944

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

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

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

It is considered by me to be unnecessary to suggest to the Spanish Government that it facilitate spread of information to German occupied areas that Spain is prepared to grant asylum to refugees in view of the fact that any changes in Spanish policy toward refugees are known throughout occupied Europe by means of underground grapevine almost as soon as they are known in Spain. Moreover, it can hardly be denied that a broadcast offer by the Spanish Government of asylum to persons fleeing from German authorities would have political implications over and above its primary humanitarian purpose and it is not illogical to suppose that one of primary results of such a step would be immediate tightening of German

(cont.)

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100203

border control along the Pyrenees and increased surveillance over routes leading toward that frontier, a development which could seriously jeopardize the chances of escape of American and Allied air forces personnel forced to land in German held territory and make escape more difficult than before for all refugees.

HAYES

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

700204

CABLE NO. 683 (Section Three) FROM MADRID TO THE BOARD

February 28, 1944.

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

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

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

Repeated to London and Lisbon and by pouch to Algiers.

HAYES

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dep. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks, Dat. SEP 28 1972

700205

CABLE NO. 752 TO MADRID FROM THE BOARD

March 18, 1944

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delays are to be avoided as time is frequently of the essence in matters of this kind. To this end you are requested to make liberal interpretations concerning the authority granted under license, report-

(cont.)

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

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

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

HULL

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100208

CABLE NO. 997 FROM MADRID TO THE BOARD

March 22, 1944

Not paraphrased.

In light of following considerations I am not (repeat not) transmitting substance Department's 752, March 18, to Sequerra, JDC representative, Barcelona:

One. It is my understanding that principal JDC representative in Spain is not (repeat not) Sequerra but is David Blickenstaff and it is Embassy's practice to transact all business with that organization through letter.

Two. Although it has apparently not been brought to Department attention, Sequerra's loyalty to Allied cause is not considered beyond question. He is a Portuguese and therefore a neutral subject and, although he has apparently done effective refugee relief work, there is little if anything to indicate that he would be above dealing with our enemies, particularly if subjected to pressure. Sequerra's personal representative in Madrid, until recently, was disreputable individual who was refused Palestine visa by British because of suspicion that he had been giving information to the Germans. To entrust such a person with carrying out of operations described in Department's telegram would therefore appear to be inviting obvious and unnecessary risks which could have gravest consequences.

Three. Participation of any private American charitable organization or its representatives in such clandestine operations as those envisaged under authorization contained in Department's telegram might well prejudice entire position of such organizations in Spain. With Embassy's support these organizations centralized in Blickenstaff's office, have won respect and confidence of Spanish Government and have been enabled thereby to do valuable work on behalf of stateless and unprotected refugees often to acute discomfort of Germans who would welcome pretext to force Spanish Government to suppress their activities. Their participation in operations authorized by license W-2155, which we must assume would not long remain unknown to Germans, would provide such a pretext.

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Four. If on the other hand, Germans should consider it more profitable to turn these operations to their own ends they might by allowing them to continue provide themselves with an additional channel through which to send agents into Spain and Allied controlled territory.

Five. Of even greater importance is danger that such operations might compromise existing underground facilities within German occupied territory by means of which hundreds of American and Allied airmen have been enabled to reach the Spanish frontier without detection. It is my firm and determined conviction that, regardless of humanitarian considerations involved with which I am, of course, entirely in sympathy, no (repeat no) steps should be taken which might in even the slightest measure jeopardize the chances of escape of these airmen whose safety must have a prior claim on the efforts of our Government to that of any other class of refugees.

Six. In view of above consideration and of the inevitable military significance which we must attach at this crucial time to any activities involving passage of communications and persons into or out of occupied France, it is my feeling that any operation such as that envisaged in Department's telegram under reference should be submitted for prior approval to Joint Chiefs of Staff who shall be made acquainted with my views in the matter.

It is my intention to take no (repeat no) action on Department's 752 pending consideration by Department of points raised herein.

Repeated to London and Lisbon.

HAYES

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

700210

CABLE NO. 1008 TO MADRID FROM THE BOARD  
(REPEATED AS CABLE NO. 1017 TO LISBON)

April 12, 1944

Not paraphrased.

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

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

(cont.)

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100811

in the interim desiring to obtain new or replace visas should be reported to the Department for further instructions. Children under 14 years of age need not be registered and fingerprinted.

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

_____	to	_____	German
_____	to	_____	Polish
_____	to	_____	Belgian
_____	to	_____	Netherland

541

_____	to	_____	Czechoslovak and
_____	to	_____	French quotas

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

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

HULL

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State Dept. Letter 11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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VIB  
attach. #9

CABLE NO. 1168 (SECTION ONE) FROM LISBON TO THE BOARD

April 19, 1944

Not paraphrased.

Special instructions regarding granting of visas to refugee children noted. Instructions have been sent to consular offices under this Legation. In view of difficulties in getting children out it is doubtful if any large number will be available before July 1, 1944. Department's 1017 April 12.

Legation has advised Portuguese Government of arrangements made and has requested it to grant necessary transit visas and hospitality; also that arrangements for financing children in Portugal will be undertaken by War Refugee Board. Will advise later reactions.

We are in contact with Isaac Weissman regarding plans for reception centers. See Department's telegram 1048, April 15. Extensive plans not necessary now but may be later. Will keep you advised of developments. Think reception will not present great difficulties.

Isaac Weissman, representative of World Jewish Congress, is attempting to bring 6000 hidden children clandestinely out of France through Spain to Portugal, and 3000 others who are registered in France; the latter, if possible, through legal channels. He must have War Refugee Board's cooperation, both financial and practical; otherwise promising plans may fail. Advise giving him all cooperation possible.

NORWEB

(cont.)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 28 1972

000213

CABLE NO. 1168 (SECTION TWO) FROM LISBON TO THE BOARD

April 19, 1944

Not paraphrased.

Weissman has an organization but lacks sufficient funds to finance project. He estimates cost per child to be \$335 each, delivered in Portugal. On basis of 300 children per month this would involve a monthly appropriation of \$100,000. Is War Refugee Board prepared to guarantee this? If all were gotten out this would involve \$3,000,000; however we doubt any such number. Considerable funds must be available immediately as first small group are expected through within few days. Request immediate authorization to expend up to 100,000 on this project. Cable reply soonest.

It is intention of World Jewish Congress to send majority to Palestine. For that country visas are immediately available here with preference to children. This presents a problem as there will be a conflict between Zionist and non-Zionist Jewish organizations regarding ultimate destination of children. From here it seems easier and less expensive to send children to Palestine than to United States. Would suggest original plans be carried through unless strong objection your part. We need clear directive from Department and WRB on this point. Cable advice.

Any publicity regarding clandestine evacuation from France would endanger success. Publicity any project must be carefully scrutinized and Legation should be consulted in advance. Although reasons for publicity a minimum thereof will ensure most effective work.

END MESSAGE.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

000214

Republ. from Spain (USC)

000015

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES:  
EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

EVACUATION OF REPUBLICAN REFUGEES FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (USC)

On March 20 the Board proposed to the State Department that the Unitarian Service Committee be permitted to operate in Spain with offices at Barcelona and that a cable be sent to Hayes, asking him to obtain the consent of the Spanish Government. The Board believes that this organization can be of considerable assistance in carrying out its policies in Spain. It was indicated that, if the USC is permitted to operate in Spain, Dr. Robert C. Dexter, Acting European Commissioner of that Committee, who is stationed in Portugal, would go to Spain to survey the situation and make necessary arrangements for setting up an office there.

A Board memorandum dated March 2 and addressed to State (see attachment #1) indicates the type of project envisioned by the USC.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

000016

MEMORANDUM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FROM THE BOARD

March 2, 1944

The Unitarian Service Committee has presented the following project to the War Refugee Board for its approval:

- (1) Spanish and non-Spanish Republican refugees in Portugal, who are presently in prisons, can probably be released for transit to Mexico provided it is possible to obtain Mexican visas, United States transit visas and the necessary transportation.
- (2) Spanish refugees hiding in Portugal present a more difficult case but, if the three requisites mentioned under (1) above were assured, they could present themselves to the police as recently arrived, and might well be released at the time of sailing, probably upon the payment of certain fines.
- (3) It is not considered impossible to secure the release of certain Republican refugees who are in prison in Spain. They must, of course, come out through Portugal. If the three requisites mentioned under (1) above are assured, and our Ambassador to Spain is, upon the basis of these assurances, instructed to approach the Spanish Government with respect to their release and the granting of exit visas to enable them to leave Spain for Portugal, it is possible that some, at least, may be freed. Contingent upon obtaining the assurances referred to above, it is quite probable that the Portuguese International Police will grant transit visas.
- (4) The exact numbers of such refugees in Portugal are uncertain but it is estimated that there are from 1,000 to 3,000. It is believed that the number of refugees from Portugal and Spain who can be taken almost immediately to Mexico if all arrangements are made, would total about 500.
- (5) The Mexican Government will, it is believed, receive all Republican refugees who can get to Mexico from Portugal and Spain and will give them the necessary visas. The Mexican Government, it is understood, made a similar commitment in the past and will renew such commitment in connection with this project.

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(6) The Unitarian Service Committee can, it is believed, arrange for the transportation of the refugees in Portuguese ships to the United States and thence by rail to Mexico, and can arrange for the financing of this migration. This Committee will also deal with the Mexican Government with respect to the granting of Mexican visas and will handle the problem of contacting such of the refugees as are hiding in Portugal.

In order that this project may go forward it is necessary for this Government to be in a position to assure the Unitarian Service Committee that United States transit visas will be issued, upon application, to the refugees who are prepared to depart from Lisbon to Mexico. This, I assume, can be done by transmitting appropriate instructions to Lisbon. The question of our approaching the Spanish Government with a view to having it release certain Republican refugees in its prisons is one which should, it seems to me, await our decision with respect to the issuance of United States transit visas.

I believe that the project outlined above is one which should be approved by the War Refugee Board and to which all possible assistance should be given. There is no doubt that many, if not all, of the refugees in question are in imminent danger of death. A haven for such refugees already exists in Mexico. The problem of transportation and finance, etc., can be handled by private agencies, and the action which this Government would have to take to make the operation successful is really trivial. If the operation is successfully carried out it will give a tremendous impetus to the Board's program in general. The removal of these refugees from Portugal will probably enable us to get that Government to receive many other refugees evacuated in the future from occupied territory. Moreover, the psychological effect of the successful transfer of these refugees should be extremely effective in facilitating a solution of the whole problem of finding havens of refuge for other refugees. Once the Mexican Government has made this generous gesture, other countries and particularly those in Latin America may be willing to take many more refugees of all classes.

Accordingly, I should very much appreciate being advised as soon as possible whether the Unitarian Service Committee can be assured that the refugees involved in this project will be granted United States transit visas to enable them to go to Mexico through the United States.

J. W. Pehle

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

Children France to Spain (JDC)

000019

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL).

EVACUATION OF CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL (JDC)

A report was received by the Board from Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, that a number of children could be brought into Spain through the services of professional guides, who would conduct them across the mountains for a fee of from \$250 to \$300 per child. Dr. Schwartz advised that, if private agencies in Spain could be supplied with funds, several hundred children could be saved in this way. He also suggested that Spanish authorities might look upon such activities more favorably if they received assurances that the children would eventually be evacuated from Spain and that the evacuation program had the support of responsible government agencies. The proposal was discussed with JDC, which expressed its willingness to put up the funds needed for such a program.

Upon the recommendation of the Board, appropriate licenses were issued to JDC permitting its representatives in Spain and Portugal to carry on the necessary communications with persons in enemy territory, as well as the requisite financial operations up to \$100,000 for Spain and \$25,000 for Portugal (Cable No. 752 dated March 18; see attachment #6 to VI B, Evacuation to and through Spain). Moreover, the Board asked State to send a cable to the U. S. Mission in Madrid with instructions that the Spanish Government be informed that the United States is willing to take such refugee children as are evacuated to Spain.

A communication subsequently received from Ambassador Hayes informed the Board that Hayes had not advised Sequerra, JDC's representative in Spain, of the terms of this license. Hayes took the position that Sequerra's loyalty to the Allied cause is doubtful and that all JDC business with the Embassy had previously been transacted through Blickenstaff (Cable No. 997 dated March 22; see VI B and attachment #7 thereto).

The Board has recently learned through Minister Norweb of a report from the JDC representative in Portugal to the effect that six children have arrived in Spain as the first in a series of groups being brought through the Pyrenees by professional guides (Cable No. 1214 from Lisbon dated April 22).

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-79

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

100820

Lyautey

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PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)

EVACUATIONS FROM SPAIN TO LYAUTEY

The project for the evacuation of stateless and enemy national refugees from Spain to Camp Marechal Lyautey in French North Africa was worked out by the British and American Governments in order that the way might be cleared for the facile and speedy admission of more of such refugees into Spain from occupied areas.

The French Committee of National Liberation has given its consent to the admission of not more than 2,000 refugees at any one time, to be housed at a communal center near Fedhala. As pointed out in instructions sent by the Board to its representatives in Spain and North Africa, while the French have imposed certain restrictions upon the conduct of these refugees during their stay in French North Africa which did not meet with the entire accord of the British and American Governments, these restrictions were accepted because of the overwhelming necessity for eliminating all obstacles to the entrance of further refugees into Spain from occupied areas (see Cable No. 1330 dated February 22 in response to Cable No. 9066 from London dated December 30, 1943). It was understood that Lyautey was to be a temporary camp and that the responsibility for finding a more permanent place for the refugees accepted at Lyautey would fall to the Intergovernmental Committee. It was further anticipated that either some permanent emigration of the refugees would be arranged or that they would be moved for the duration of the war to a more permanent place, to return thereafter to the countries of their origin in Europe.

Regardless of the conditions that may be imposed upon refugees arriving in North Africa from Spain, the Board has indicated that it considers immediate evacuation to Lyautey to be a matter of high policy based upon humanitarian considerations, the most important of which is to obtain the release of additional refugees from occupied territories and to do everything possible to clear the way so that countries of temporary or permanent asylum will receive them. The fact that some of the refugees now in Spain may prefer to remain there because they feel that they may have somewhat less liberty in French North Africa or that some of them prefer to remain either through purely personal preference or predilections of obtaining entry elsewhere (as indicated in Cable

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No. 683 dated February 28 from Ambassador Hayes; see attachment #5 to VI B, Evacuation to and through Spain), is, the Board feels, of strictly secondary importance when viewed in the light that the continued stay of refugees now in Spain may not only prejudice their own futures, but also prejudices the actual lives and safety of similar persons in occupied areas.

French representatives in Madrid participating in the preliminary security screening of refugees about to be evacuated from Spain to Camp Lyautey were reported to the Board to have set up a cumbersome procedure for checking on refugees. Ambassador Hayes, feeling that this procedure would delay evacuation indefinitely and that it was contrary to a previous understanding between the French and the Allies, advised the Board that he had requested the U. S. Mission in Algiers to ask the American, British, and French authorities to forego all but the most preliminary screening until these refugees should arrive in North Africa (Cable No. 548 from Madrid dated February 16; see attachment #1). The French authorities then modified their requirements to coincide with the original understanding and have given assurance that the names of the refugees forwarded to Algiers will be cleared within four days (Cable No. 643 dated February 28 to State from Algiers).

The Board was advised by Leonard Ackermann, its Special Representative in the Mediterranean Area, that the French would cooperate more wholeheartedly in this program if they could be given definite assurances that the refugees accepted by them would be removed from North Africa at the end of the war. (Cable No. 688 from Algiers dated March 2). More detailed reports on the North African situation, dated March 4 and 7, were subsequently forwarded by Ackermann.

Some 750 refugees have applied for admission to Camp Lyautey, according to a report from Chapin in French North Africa, based on information obtained from Moses Beckelman, representative of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. It was expected that the refugees accepted would leave Spain about the end of March (Cable No. 671 from Algiers dated March 1). Another report on this subject was received by the Board from the JDC representative in Portugal; of the total of 1550 refugees on JDC rolls in Spain, 865 had applied for admission to Lyautey. French authorities are reported to have rejected about 10 percent, leaving a total of approximately 775 who are likely to proceed to North Africa (Cable No. 919 from Lisbon dated March 27; see attachment #2 to VI B, Evacuation to and through Spain).

According to other reports from Ackermann, the French have raised objections to certain stateless persons applying for admission to Lyautey on the ground that they were not refugees, having gone to Spain prior to

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000023

1933 (Cables No. 876 and 1062 from Algiers dated March 17 and April 1). Ackermann has been authorized to use his own judgment in determining whether or not this matter should be pressed further, especially inasmuch as the French have already made some concessions in their policy regarding admissibility to Lyautey as a result of Board representations (Cable No. 1092 to Algiers dated April 12).

In a detailed report dated March 21 Ackermann discussed, among other matters, the question of whether the refugees approved for admission to Lyautey should be brought from Spain to Africa in one or two groups. Ackermann felt that the early movement of approximately 350 people from Spain would be of immediate aid to the Spanish situation, and therefore discussed the matter with the British who are supplying the ships (see attachment #2).

In a subsequent message the Board was advised that the British had indicated that it would be impossible to secure a separate ship for the 358 refugees already cleared for entrance to Lyautey. He reported that a second batch of 375 applications had been received from Spain and delivered to the appropriate security services for processing. Because of the urgent need for shipping elsewhere, it was reported that a ship probably could not leave Spain with refugees for Lyautey until the last week in April, but that the ship available at that time would be of sufficient size to carry both groups (Cable No. 1050 from Algiers dated March 30).

In order to enlist the full cooperation of the French Committee on National Liberation in connection with evacuations to Lyautey, the matter was taken up by Board representatives with Jean Monnet of the French Committee. Various problems involved in this project including that of security, delays attendant upon existing procedures, and the necessity for general cooperation, were all stressed. The Board then advised Ackermann that Monnet had agreed to cable Algiers soliciting fuller cooperation (Cable No. 919 dated March 27).

Through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee representative in Lisbon the Board was advised that the French are refusing to clear for admission to Camp Lyautey Sephardic Jews arriving in Spain after March 1 of this year. On the basis of the reported ruling, 50 such refugees now in Perpignan, France, awaiting admission into Spain, as well as others still en route, would be excluded, since the Spanish Government will do nothing to rescue Sephardics unless it is assured that they will be removed from Spain soon after arrival (Cable No. 1253 to Algiers dated April 25; see attachment #3).

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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In a cable to Ackermann, the Board is asking that the report be investigated. If the report proves to be correct, Ackermann is to take up at once with French representatives the matter of obtaining a reversal of the ruling.

The details are expected to be worked out soon with respect to the agreement between the United States and Great Britain that responsibility for the maintenance and operation of Camp Lyautey should be transferred to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. UNRRA has proposed that this Government and the British should retain responsibility for transporting refugees to North Africa. UNRRA's primary responsibility would thus be for the care and maintenance of such refugees after their arrival at North African seaports (Cable No. 61 to Casablanca from State Department dated April 20; see attachment #4).

The U. S. Department of State and the British Foreign Office have also formally indicated to the Intergovernmental Committee their agreement that choice of a final destination for the refugees accommodated at Camp Lyautey should be a function of the IGC (see Cable No. 3449 from London dated April 26).

See also III A, Appointment of Special Representatives; IV C - 7, Cooperation with French North Africa; IV D - 1, Cooperation with Spain; and VI B, Evacuation to and through Spain.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000825

VI B-3  
attach. #1

CABLE NO. 548 TO THE BOARD FROM MADRID

FEBRUARY 16, 1944

Given below is the substance of a cable sent to Algiers February 16, 1944 as no. 61.

Regardless of the understanding of the British and ourselves that prior to the departure of refugees from Spain security screening of these refugees applying for admission to Fedhala Center would be kept to an absolute minimum, it is stated by the French representative now in Madrid to participate in this screening that his superiors have instructed him on behalf of American, British and French Intelligence Services to submit six copies of all applications with Photographs and thumbprints to Algiers for prior approval and certain supplementary information which was not requested in application forms and which neither we nor the British consider essential for the type of preliminary check envisaged is being demanded by the French representative.

At the best, this procedure would be most cumbersome and especially unfeasible as regards those refugees still detained in Spanish camps and prisons and who would stand to benefit most from the project.

It is implied that detailed scrutiny in North Africa will be given to all cases before refugees are allowed to depart from Spain and this is contrary to our previous understanding and recommendations as well as to information given by G-Z Algiers to Belkelman before his departure for Spain. It would seem to be essential that Allied and French authorities agree to forego all but preliminary screening until after their arrival in North Africa unless the actual evacuation of these person is to be delayed indefinitely.

HAYES

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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EXCERPTS FROM ACKERMANN REPORT TO THE BOARD

March 21, 1944

First, as to Fedhala. Action was delayed on our clearance of the admission of refugees from Spain until the French security representative returned from Spain. He arrived in Algiers on March 13 and a meeting to discuss the admission of the refugee groups was held on March 17. I have already briefly advised you by cable of the results of that meeting. At that time we discussed a group of 484 applicants for admission to the refugee center. Approximately 30 were objected to on security grounds. This was the joint action of both French and AFHQ security officers and, of course, we could and did make no objection thereto. The second question involved 116 refugees who had arrived in Spain prior to 1933. A small portion of this group came from South American countries and had not had much luck in getting their own diplomatic representatives to aid in their repatriation. However, by far the largest portion of this group of 116 were stateless refugees. Most of them were Jews who had been displaced as a result of the population exchange between Turkey and Greece in 1921. As they were of Spain origin (dating back to 1492 when Jews were expelled from Spain) and still spoke an old fashioned Spanish, they gravitated to Spain where they were apparently well treated first by Alphonso, and later by the Republic. Since Franco's accession to power they have not been too fortunate. In some cases work permits have been refused. In all cases they have been forbidden religious communal activity, and in many cases they have had to be supported by organizations, principally the JDC. We urged at the meeting that this group be admitted upon the ground that they were stateless, and further that their removal from Spain would ease the Spanish refugee problem and thus make Spain more receptive to the admission of more refugee groups. The French representatives promised to take these matters into consideration and advise us of their decision shortly. We have not as yet received their reply. Later, Beckelman, the UNRRA representative who is to be in charge at Fedhala, spoke to Governor Lehman about this pre-1933 group. The Governor expressed some doubt as to whether we should urge the admission of this group too strongly since he felt that we might be setting a precedent which later might involve a much larger group of persons. I have not had an opportunity to discuss this further with the Governor since he had an accident and has been in the hospital for several days.

There is another question concerning the Fedhala center which is still unsettled. After Bayonne, the French security representative, left Spain an additional 415 applications were received, the overwhelming

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part of which came from Sephardic Jews. Only a small percentage of these Sephardic Jews entered Spain prior to 1933. The major portion moved to various other European countries, and then gravitated to Spain after the beginning of the Hitler regime, or stayed in France or Central Europe until Hitler occupied the countries in which they were located. Some of them, even though not born in Spain, had received Spanish passports because of the insistence in the early 20s on the part of the Turkish Government that these people, formerly known as Spanish proteges, either receive Spanish passports or accept Turkish nationality. Many of the present group accepted Spanish passports. The best information that I can obtain about their eventual removal to Spain is that when they were apprehended by the Germans, they exhibited their Spanish passports and that the Germans then made representations to the Spanish and insisted that the Spanish receive them in Spain. The Spanish version of the story is that they initiated the representations and insisted that the Germans release these people from concentration camps and permit their emigration to Spain. Whatever the correct story may be, they are now given few, if any, of the privileges of Spanish citizens, and accordingly, should also probably be classed as stateless. In our discussions with the French, no question has yet been raised as to the admission of these persons and we hope that no objection will be raised. I cannot give you the final answer upon these people since the applications have not as yet arrived from Spain. They should be here within one or two days, and will immediately be submitted to our own security people as well as to the French for screening.

The question which now arises is whether we should bring the refugees from Spain to Africa in one or two groups. At the time of the meeting most of the Allied representatives were of the opinion that it would be more feasible to delay the admission of the cleared group until the second group had been cleared. I was of a different opinion as I felt that the early movement of approximately 350 people from Spain would be of immediate aid to the Spanish situation. After the meeting I discussed the matter with the British who are supplying the ships and learned that it might be possible to get two ships instead of one - at least I have not yet received a definite response in the negative. If two ships can be secured, the cleared group should move from Spain as soon as we get French visas which should not take more than a few days and as soon as the necessary arrangements in Spain can be made. If, on the other hand, the British are only able to supply one ship, the first group will have to wait until the second group is cleared, which will delay the whole project until the middle of April.

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On Sunday morning, March 19th, I received a call from Robert Murphy's office. When I reached there I found one of Murphy's assistants discussing a cable from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, with an aide from Gen. Caffey's office. Caffey is head of G-3, AFHQ. The cable, which no doubt was inspired by the War Refugee Board, related to the methods of financing movement of refugees from the Island of Rab in Yugoslavia to Italy. I discussed the matter quite fully and urged upon Gen. Caffey's representative that only military exigencies should interfere with the operation of this program. I told him about the underlying reasons for the establishment of the WRB and explained that unless this action were taken, these people might be killed. I also expressed the opinion that difficulties of handling the groups once they arrived in Italy should only be a minor consideration since every effort would be made to ease this problem as quickly as possible. This morning I received a phone call advising that this cable had been referred to the Military Government Section for action. I called Frank Southard, but discovered that he was again in the hospital. I spoke to Col. McFadzean, his British opposite number who advised that he would only handle the financial end providing the project were approved in other quarters. I offered my assistance in this connection but have not heard anything of it since.

As I advised you by cable, I believe it is important, if feasible, to have a representative in Italy in order to follow up this program. Up to the present at least the Army's attitude appears to have been one of avoidance due to the difficulty in caring for the refugees already in Southern Italy and that therefore a further influx should be restricted, if possible. An Italian representative might be in a position to keep you advised of the facts in this area, aid in changing the Army's attitude, and assist in making the financial arrangements necessary in order to bring these people into Italy. I also asked that I be given certain directives with respect to Italy so that I can make representations at AFHQ. I believe this to be essential since the Army sometimes looks with disfavor upon a civilian who attempts to step into a field not clearly within his province. I can cite the following example with reference thereto. After the receipt of the cable from Marshall addressed to Eisenhower, Devers, Stillwell and MacArthur, dated March 2, 1944, containing the message sent at the direction of the Secretary of War with reference to the formation of the WRB, I went to see some of the people working on refugee problems in the Military Government Section. I discussed the matter with them fully and received the information on the Yugoslavian situation contained in my letter of March 7th. The officer to whom I talked pointed out that the cable appointing me the

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representative of the Board stated that I was to work in North Africa. Thereafter a cable was sent to various places in Italy in which it was stated that there was no information of the appointment of an attache for Italy but that one had been appointed for North Africa, and that the matter would be discussed further with Malin of the Inter-governmental Committee on his return to Algiers. I had further discussions with the secretary of the Chief of Staff yesterday who also indicated that I would get more cooperation from the Army if my directives specifically referred to Italy. I believe, however, that the best solution would be that a representative be appointed for Italy and that while I should be given certain powers with respect thereto, I should remain in North Africa. It would be very difficult because of questions of transportation and communications for me to handle both places adequately should I be the sole representative.

I have not as yet seen Malin of the Intergovernmental Committee, but expect to have discussions with him when he returns from Cairo on or about March 30th.

I have been making an effort to collect as much information as possible about the movement of refugees from France into Spain. I have approached both G-2 and OSS but have not been too successful in getting a great deal of information. They both state that they have little information on refugees and they both are reluctant to furnish information concerning escape routes since they feel that it may prejudice the movement of their own men across the border and because of their program of using these routes to rescue airmen. I will continue along these lines, however, and get as much information as I can. I am also attempting to interview recently-arrived refugees and enclose a summary of a statement made to me by one of them. As is stated on the bottom thereof, some of the information in this statement may not be too accurate. In any event, it appears that the movement across the Pyrenees is extremely difficult.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks; Date SEP 28 1972

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VI B - 3  
attach. #3

CABLE NO. 1253 TO ALGIERS FROM THE BOARD

April 25, 1944

Not paraphrased.

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR WILSON AND ACKERMANN

We have just received report from Schwartz in Lisbon that French are refusing to accept in Lyautey Sephardic Jews arriving in Spain after March 1, 1944. Report states further that 50 Sephardics now in Perpignan, France, awaiting admission into Spain and others still en route will be excluded under this ruling.

Such a ruling would cause breakdown in plans to rescue Sephardic Jews still in Nazi territory, as Spanish Government will do nothing to rescue Sephardics unless assured that they will be removed from Spain soon after arrival. If after investigation you feel report is accurate, please take up at once with Comite representatives indicating unfortunate effects of such a step.

Schwartz has advised Beckelman concerning matter.

THIS IS WRB ALGIERS CABLE NO. 5

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 26 1972

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VI B - 3  
attach. #4

CABLE NO. 61 TO CASABLANCA FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT

April 20, 1944

FOR BECKELMAN

1. British and American Governments have agreed in principle to transfer to UNRRA of responsibility for maintenance and operation of refugee center at Casablanca.
2. Plans are to develop as soon as possible detailed agreement as to conditions and date of transfer. UNRRA proposes that British and American Governments should retain responsibility for transport of refugees to North Africa, UNRRA's primary responsibility being for care and maintenance of refugees after arrival at North African seaport. Responsibility for finding new places for their eventual settlement will remain unchanged by transfer although UNRRA is prepared to assist in repatriation of such persons as can and are willing to return to countries of origin or of former residence. Expectation is that terms of transfer will also include some understanding as to supply arrangements as for example possible extension of present agreement with military for furnishing of supplies. Proposed date of transfer is some time after U. S. Congress appropriates money for UNRRA probably in four to six weeks.
3. Take up with French authorities in Algiers the proposed transfer in order to obtain their consent pursuant to Article I, paragraph 2(a) of the UNRRA agreement, clearing with them also as to any discussions which you deem necessary with authorities in Morocco. British and American representatives in Algiers are being instructed to join with you in discussions with French whenever necessary although since French Committee is member of UNRRA initial approach should be made by you as UNRRA representative. We are informally notifying French representatives here of the above plans.
4. Would appreciate your cabled recommendations as to terms to be included in understanding referred to in paragraph 2. Also cable results of your talks with French in line with paragraph 3.

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