

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

001002

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PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF EFFECTING RESCUE

RECOGNITION OF PORTUGUESE JEWS IN GREECE

The Board was advised that a small group of Jews in Greece, claiming Portuguese nationality is in danger of deportation unless the Portuguese Government intervenes. Minister Harrison and Board Representative Dexter were therefore requested to approach appropriate Portuguese officials with a view to enlisting the aid of the Portuguese Government in extending protection to the refugees in question.

The Board suggested that the Portuguese Government be asked to advise German and other authorities in Greece that upon the assurance of a claim to Portuguese nationality, all the rights, privileges, and immunities of a Portuguese national should be extended to the claimant pending investigation by the Portuguese Government.

The Board further suggested that the Portuguese Government postpone making adverse determinations in such cases until after the war, in view of the dire consequences that would befall refugees whose claims were rejected.

In the event actual evacuation to Portugal should prove necessary for the protection of the persons concerned, the Portuguese Government was to be assured that funds for the support of such refugees would be made available, and that prompt action would be taken to effect their departure from Portugal to other places of refuge (Cable No. 1285 to Lisbon dated May 6). (For an account of similar assurances given by this Government to the Government of Spain in another connection, see VI F - 3, Recognition of Spanish Jews in Athens.)

The Board also cabled Harold Tittman, Foreign Service Officer at Vatican City, directing that he take steps to enlist the support of appropriate Vatican officials in this humanitarian task by means of representations in Portugal similar to those to be made through the U. S. Legation there.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-79
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001004

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF EFFECTING RESCUES

BROADENING AMERICAN EXCHANGE STANDARDS

Certain necessary steps have now been taken as a preliminary to placing before the German Government concrete proposals involving the exchange of persons bearing American Republics' documentation but now detained by the Germans in concentration camps.

Recent German-American Republics' exchanges, such as that accomplished by means of the "Gripsholm" early in June, have been limited to small numbers of bona fide American nationals nominated by their governments in accordance with a restrictive joint resolution of the American Republics adopted last year by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. One reason for the strict limitations embodied in this resolution was the general desire to prevent the return to Germany of individuals capable of aiding her war effort. (See Cable No. 297 to Montevideo dated May 26.)

Since the security requirements reflected in this resolution have substantially declined in importance since its adoption, and in view of the fact that recent actions on the part of the Germans indicate that the lives of many holders of Latin American passports are in increasing danger, a new resolution was drafted and, with the joint approval of the State Department and the Board, forwarded to Montevideo. In this draft resolution the way was paved for the progressive exchange of all non-Germans, including Jews and persons of doubtful nationality interned or otherwise confined in German territory, against German nationals currently residing in the Western Hemisphere. First consideration in any exchange effected, however, would be given to persons bearing passports, visas, or other documentation of non-European origin. (See Cable No. 304 to Montevideo dated May 27.)

This resolution was subsequently unanimously approved by the Committee on May 31, except for a few minor changes. "In the opinion of this Committee," the resolution states, "the need to rescue . . . persons

(cont.)

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 By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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[identical with European racial or political minority groups] constitutes a sufficient basis for their admission to this hemisphere in exchange for German nationals resident in the American Republics selected with due regard for security requirements . . ." This resolution calls upon all American Republics to inform the German Government through appropriate channels that individuals possessing documents "issued by or on behalf of an American Republic, are entitled to full protection in accordance with the terms or customary incidence of such documents." Finally, the American Republics are called upon to authorize negotiations with the German Government on their behalf "in order to effectuate the exchange of such individuals for German nationals from the Western Hemisphere who desire to be repatriated and who are selected in accordance with such security safeguards as the Republics may mutually determine appropriate . . ." (See Cable No. 509 from Montevideo dated June 3.)

Since most of the required assurances concerning the protection of holders of Latin American papers and the support of exchange negotiations have already been obtained by the Board, the State Department is now in a position to start proposals for exchange. The Board has indicated that, in cooperation with other official and humanitarian agencies, it is prepared to underwrite all expenses of such exchanges. In the event that any of the individuals rescued are not admissible to the countries whose documentation they bear, the Board is prepared to arrange and finance safe havens elsewhere.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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VI G.
Temp. Havens

001007

TEMPORARY HAVENS

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 197

001008

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: TEMPORARY HAVENS

IN NORTH AFRICA: TRIPOLITANIA AND CYRENAICA

While the use of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica as havens for refugees had been under consideration ever since the Bermuda Conference, no action on the proposal had been obtained until after steps were taken by the President to set up an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country (see VI G - 2; Temporary Havens in the United States).

In a communication to Ambassador Winant in London in March the Board had asked Winant to reopen at once with the British Government the matter of establishing refugee camps in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica (Cable No. 2292 to London dated March 25; see attachment #1). Winant had also advised the British that this Government was prepared to share with it the responsibility for financing, establishing, and maintaining such camps, including the cost of transferring refugees there, as in the case of Camp Lyautey in North Africa (see VI B - 3, Evacuations from Spain to Lyautey).

A number of approaches were subsequently made by Ambassador Winant on the matter, but to no avail.

Following the President's announcement, however, the British responded by agreeing to the establishment of a refugee camp in Tripolitania, former Italian colony in North Africa. The cost of maintaining this camp is to be shared by the U. S. and British Governments. According to Winant, the head of the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office informally stated that such a camp should be able to accommodate between 1,000 and 1,500 people. It was indicated that obtaining adequate medical and administrative personnel is expected to be the greatest difficulty, and suggestions on this matter were invited.

With respect to the possibility of setting up a temporary haven in Cyrenaica, Winant was confidentially advised that the political problems involved are so acute that the British have reluctantly concluded that the establishment of such a center there is absolutely impossible (Cable No. 4556 from London dated June 7).

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date

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VI G. - [lea
attach. #1

CABLE NO. 2292 TO LONDON FROM THE BOARD

March 25, 1944

Department's telegram of January 14, 1944 no. 371 is referred to herewith.

One of the most pressing and immediate problems before the War Refugee Board is the finding of havens where refugees may remain for the duration of the war.

In the opinion of the Department and the Board, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania might be suitable for this purpose.

Ever since the Bermuda Conference, at which it was specifically recommended that admission of refugees to Cyrenaica be considered by the British, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania have been under consideration as havens. Thereafter, when agreement was reached to consider a refugee camp in North Africa, the President in a message to Prime Minister Churchill commented on his interest in the possibility of using Cyrenaica and Tripolitania as havens of refuge. The suggestion was again made to the British informally in the manner described in the aforementioned cable as recently as January of this year. No decision has apparently yet been taken in this important matter although many months have passed. It is requested that you reopen the matter at once and raise with the British Government the question of using Cyrenaica and Tripolitania as havens of refuge, subject of course, to the later approval of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The consent of the British should be secured before any approach is made to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. You should inform the British Government that this Government is prepared to share the responsibility for financing the establishment and maintenance of camps in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, including the cost of transporting the refugees to these camps. We are confident that part of this cost may be borne by private refugee agencies if it later seems desirable. The transportation problem can be worked out cooperatively between the British Government and ourselves.

With respect to Cyrenaica and Tripolitania a division of obligations and responsibilities between the two Governments, similar to the case of the transfer of refugees from Spain to North Africa, can be worked out.

It is extremely important that havens of refuge be established in

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

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VI G - 1aa
attach. # 1

- 2 -

Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The War Refugee Board is convinced that there is a real opportunity for bringing many refugees out of occupied areas, especially from areas contiguous to Turkey and the Black Sea. The Board is determined to do everything it can to rescue refugees in as large numbers as possible, as you have previously been informed. Once these refugees are evacuated to Turkey it is important that areas be found to which they can be removed expeditiously.

For this purpose camps in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania could be used. Also such camps would facilitate the escape of refugees from other areas. For instance, refugees from Southern Italy can be removed from camps there to Cyrenaica and Tripolitania, thus making room for other refugees who are successful in escaping from Italian occupied areas.

It is requested that you give your urgent and personal attention to this matter and inform the Department of the progress of your conversations at the earliest possible moment.

HULL

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

001011

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: TEMPORARY HAVENS

IN THE UNITED STATES

A memorandum dated March 30 was submitted to the Board by the World Jewish Congress, urging the temporary admission of European refugees to the Virgin Islands. This memorandum suggested that, following the appeal of the President to neutral countries to facilitate the admission of refugees from Nazi oppression into their territories, the time is opportune for a reconsideration of the contribution which the United States could make to a solution of the problem. It was pointed out that the appeal of the President would gain immensely in effectiveness if it were followed by such practical action, and that this example would undoubtedly encourage other countries in the Western Hemisphere to relax their immigration restrictions.

The Board has under consideration plans for the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees. The matter has been discussed with Secretary Morgenthau, Mr. Stettinius, and Secretary Stimson. A memorandum dated April 13 has been received by the Board from the American Jewish Conference in support of this proposal.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001012

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: TEMPORARY HAVENS

IN PALESTINE

According to a cable from Ambassador Winant, the head of the Refugee Department of the British Foreign Office, in response to the Board's proposal that Jewish refugees be removed from southern Italy and cared for temporarily in Palestine, has now indicated that the British have no fundamental objection to such evacuations. It was pointed out by the Foreign Office, however, that facilities in Palestine for the reception of such refugees are not unlimited and that it has thus far been the policy of the British Government to facilitate the entry primarily of those refugees whose lives were in immediate danger; such as those now in Hungary (Cable No. 4557 from London dated June 7).

This action on the part of the British, as in the case of the British agreement to joint establishment of a temporary camp in Tripolitania (see VI G - 1 a, Temporary Havens in North Africa: Tripolitania and Cyrenaica), came in response to the President's announcement that 1,000 refugees from southern Italy would be evacuated to an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country (see VI G - 2, Temporary Havens in the United States).

According to a cable from the U. S. Consulate in Jerusalem, a group of 769 Jewish immigrants arrived in Palestine via Egypt on June 2. Of these, 571 are reported to have come on the Polish steamer "Batori" from Italy, where they had been confined in camps at Ferramonte, Santa Maria, and Bari (Cable No. 77 from Jerusalem dated June 5).

*See cable 2014
Algeria*

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date

SEP 20 1972

001013

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: TEMPORARY HAVENS

IN OTHER COUNTRIES

See II D, Board Position on Palestine Issue; IV C - 1.a, Cooperation with Great Britain; IV C - 1.b, British Policy with Respect to the Issuance of Palestine Certificates to Refugees in Neutral Countries; and VI D - 1, Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France.

See also IV, Cooperation with Other Governments.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001014

VI H.
PERM. RESETTLEMENT

001015

PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001016

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: PERMANENT
RESETTLEMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES

See VI-D - 1, Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France.

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By R. H. Parka Date SEP 28 1972

001017

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: PERMANENT
RESETTLEMENT

IN PALESTINE

See IV.C - 1 a, Cooperation with Great Britain, IV.C - 1 b, British
Policy with Respect to the Issuance of Palestine Certificates to Refugees
in Neutral Countries; and VI.D - 1, Evacuation of Abandoned Children from
France. See also I.I.D. Board Position on Palestine Issue.

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By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 28 1972**

001018

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: PERMANENT
RESETTLEMENT

IN OTHER COUNTRIES

MEXICO

In a communication from Ambassador Winant in London (Cable No. 1274 dated February 15) the Board was asked to help expedite arrangements for the transfer of certain Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico. This request was inspired by a letter to Winant from the Inter-governmental Committee pointing out that the employment in North Africa of Spanish refugees who were released from camps last year is likely to decrease and that some 2,000 to 3,000 Spanish refugees who have been in the French Foreign Legion are likely soon to be demobilized.

In a communication from Ambassador Messersmith in Mexico City (Airgram No. A-710 dated March 7; see attachment #1) in response to the Board's inquiry concerning the status of the proposal to move Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico (Cable No. 404 dated February 26), the Board was advised that the Mexican-Spanish Commission had agreed to accept the refugees in question; the matter is now in the hands of Gobernacion, the Mexican cabinet office concerned with immigration and related matters, for final approval.

See also IV, Cooperation with Other Governments.

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

VI H - 3
attach. #1

AIRGRAM NO. A-710 FROM MEXICO CITY TO THE BOARD

March 7, 1944

Reference is made to Department's telegram 404 dated February 26 with regard to proposal to move Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico.

An officer of the Embassy discussed this matter on two occasions since receipt of the Department's telegram, with Lic. Tello, Oficial Mayor of the Mexican Foreign Office, and with another official there. Lic. Tello stated that the Mexican-Spanish Commission has agreed to accept these 1,600 refugees, and that the matter is now in the hands of Gobernacion for final approval. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs requested Gobernacion last week to expedite its action, and Lic. Tello expects a definite reply within a few days.

The Oficial Mayor mentioned that the Gobernacion member of the Mexican-Spanish Commission suggested that the refugees, upon arrival in the United States, be visaed individually by Mexican consular officials. The Foreign Office, however, has decided that this would be impractical, and will arrange for the issuance of a group visa. Lic. Tello hopes that the ship or ships bringing the refugees disembark them at an American port as near as possible to the Mexican border, and he said that the Mexican Government would be agreeable to disembarkation at Tampico, if this should be feasible.

MESSERSMITH

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

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VII.
COOP. OTHER AGENCIES

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001021

VII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

B. UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

C. OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION
2. FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
3. WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD
4. WAR DEPARTMENT
5. NAVY DEPARTMENT
6. STATE DEPARTMENT
7. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
8. OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
9. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
10. BUREAU OF THE BUDGET

D. PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

1. MEASURES PROPOSED TO BOARD
2. FUNDS FOR BOARD PURPOSES

E. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks: Date SEP 28 1972

001022

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Intergovernmental Committee was established as an outgrowth of the Evian Conference held in France in July 1938. This meeting, held at the initiative of President Roosevelt, was called to consider the problem of refugees coming from Central Europe who were suffering from the persecutions of the Nazi Government. (For a more detailed account, see IV A, Historical Summary of Cooperation with Other Governments.)

In February 1944 the Department of State advised the Board of this Government's commitment to supply one-half of the operational expenses of the IGC for the first quarter of 1944. In order "to avoid any possible misunderstanding and possible consequent weakening of the status of the Intergovernmental Committee" State recommended that payment of £50,000 be made from the War Refugee Board's allotment from the President's Emergency Fund.

The Board subsequently advised State on February 26 that such a payment was being arranged (£50,000 plus £1,998 for administrative expenses for the last quarter of 1943), but that it implied no commitment that Board funds will be available for this purpose "after the present quarter." The Board indicated to State that it was assuming that all projects financed from the operation expenses of IGC and submitted to this Government for approval, will be undertaken only after clearance with the Board. It was also recommended that the IGC be advised that the current payment was being made from Board funds. At the same time the Board advised State that any subsequent requests for funds for the IGC "will be reviewed in the light of the use of the funds . . . transferred and the prospects for effective use in the future."

Excerpts from a memorandum prepared by the Board on March 10 in connection with Mr. Stettinius's trip to London are significant in connection with delineation of the respective fields of action of the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board: "The War Refugee Board is prepared to lend every assistance to any and all projects which the Intergovernmental Committee has undertaken or undertakes in the future, designed to bring about the speedy rescue of victims of enemy oppression. In so far as financing such projects is concerned, the Board has already paid out \$200,000 towards operating expenses of the Committee.

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"The War Refugee Board is determined to carry out the policy of this Government as announced by the President. In doing this the Board is not anxious to take on any job which can be done just as quickly and effectively by any other organization, whether such organization be domestic, foreign or international. If the Intergovernmental Committee is in a better position than the Board to carry out with speed any particular project designed to save the lives of refugees, the Board will gladly look to and support the Committee in the execution of such project.

"On the other hand, the Board has no intention of referring to or clearing with the Intergovernmental Committee any project which is necessary to carry out this Government's policy, unless such action would facilitate the speedy effectuation of such project. In the less than two months it has been in existence, the Board has already taken many steps designed to save people from death. A mere examination of these steps, in the light of the record of the Intergovernmental Committee to date, will reveal that most of these steps would not have been taken in this short time had they been referred to that Committee."

Later in March Myron Taylor suggested that Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick Malin of the IGC come to Washington for clarifying discussions on this matter with Secretary Morgenthau, Mr. Pehle, and others. A cable to this effect was dispatched by the Board to London (Cable No. 2043 dated March 17). In reply Ambassador Winant advised that Emerson would arrive here shortly for this purpose (Cable No. 2324 dated March 22). Emerson and Malin subsequently arrived in the United States early in April.

In a communication from London (Dispatch No. 14311 dated March 7) there was transmitted a memorandum from the Director of the IGC in which it was suggested that the United States might relax in certain respects the procedure now being followed with regard to the issuance of visas to refugees. The question arises out of the case of refugees detained on the Island of Mauritius (see VI A - 3, Relief to Greek and Jewish Refugees on Island of Mauritius), but it was stated that there are other refugees similarly affected by the Government's policy. That policy, according to the memorandum, appears to be that U. S. visas are not issued if any would-be immigrant is under any restriction in excess of that imposed on persons of neutral nationality; if such person has been at any time in internment, his release must be unconditional. It was suggested that, in the case of Mauritius, this Government should scrutinize the individual cases of refugees for security purposes and decide each on its merits, rather than insist that release from detention is a condition precedent to consideration

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of an application for a visa. IGC asked that this subject be given consideration by both the State Department and the Board.

In another communication from the U. S. Embassy in London to the State Department (Dispatch No. 14412 dated March 11) it was indicated that Lord Winterton, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the IGC, had requested an opportunity to talk with Ambassador Winant about certain suggestions growing out of the recent visit to Switzerland of Dr. Kullman, Honorary Deputy Director of the IGC. Copies were forwarded of the memoranda accompanying Lord Winterton's request, including one containing certain definite, confidential proposals on the matter of financing refugee relief work inside Switzerland as well as rescue and relief activities using Switzerland as a base.

Discussions in Washington with Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick Malin of the IGC were concluded late in April, complete agreement having been reached with respect to respective fields of operation. Copies of an exchange of memoranda between the IGC and the Board have been sent to Board representatives abroad, reinforcing a mutual desire for the closest cooperation between the staffs of IGC and the Board.

The Board is presently considering asking the IGC to assume the functions of the League of Nations' Nansen Office and issue travel documents to stateless refugees to serve in lieu of passports.

See also VI A - 1, Red Cross Aid in Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, and Theresienstadt; VI D - 1, Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France; VI F - 1, Recognition of Latin American Passports; and VI H - 3, Permanent Resettlement in Other Countries.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: UNRRA

The jurisdictional distinction between the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the War Refugee Board is generally described as follows: UNRRA is international in character and operates relief and rehabilitation projects in United Nations' territory; the Board is an agency of the United States set up to carry out the policies of this Government and dedicated to measures to secure the speedy rescue and relief of victims of oppression from enemy and enemy-occupied territory.

The British and U. S. Governments have agreed in principle to the transfer to UNRRA of responsibility for the maintenance and operation of Camp Lyautey near Fedhala in North Africa (see VI B - 3, Evacuations from Spain to Lyautey). Although UNRRA is "prepared to assist in the repatriation of such persons as can and are willing" to return to their countries of origin, the fact that it assumes jurisdiction over these people while at camps maintained by it will not make it responsible for finding new places for eventual settlement (Cable No. #61 to Casablanca dated April 20; see attachment #4 to VI B - 3).

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

001026

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WSA

On February 23 the Board addressed a memorandum to Admiral Land of the War Shipping Administration concerning the refusal of the Turkish Government to permit the use of a Turkish vessel for evacuating refugees from Constanza to Istanbul unless the Turkish Government were assured that the vessel, if lost, would be replaced with one of comparable tonnage. The Board received a reply from WSA committing the United States to replace the vessel in question, if sunk, with a cargo vessel, subject to clearance by Lend-Lease, subsequently obtained (see VI C, Evacuation to and through Turkey, and attachments #2, 3, and 4 thereto).

More recently WSA approval was obtained in connection with the insistence on the part of the Turkish Government that this Government guarantee to replace the "Tari" in the event of her loss with a comparable passenger rather than a cargo vessel.

In March Admiral Land ordered Myron Black, Field Director of the WSA, from Cairo to Ankara to assist Ira Hirschmann, the Board's Special Representative there, with the Black Sea shipping problem. Black subsequently assisted in negotiations for the "S. S. Tari."

Board representatives then discussed with WSA the possibility of this Government's making a substitute vessel available to the Turks so that the "Tari" might make additional voyages to evacuate refugees after the completion of its initial trip. WSA also cabled its representative in Algiers to ascertain whether the French or Italians were willing to charter a vessel for this purpose or whether there is any small freighter available in the Mediterranean which could be chartered to the Turks. However, WSA was of the opinion that the best solution to this problem would be to treat it as one of allocation and attempt to work out an arrangement with the Turks whereby an equivalent amount of space on an Allied vessel proceeding to the eastern Mediterranean would be made available for Turkish requirements in lieu of chartering a vessel to them. (See VI C and attachments #17 through 21.)

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In connection with obtaining insurance on the "Tari" during the period of her projected use, Black advised that the rates asked by local Turkish underwriters were outrageously high. Accordingly, war risk insurance on the "Tari" will be placed through the WSA at considerably lower rates (see Cables No. 306 and 366 to Ankara dated April 8 and 25).

In February, in connection with various transportation difficulties involved in the plan to evacuate 500 Jewish children from Switzerland to Eire (see IV D - 6, Cooperation with Eire), the Board addressed a letter to Lt. Com. Becker of WSA, requesting suggestions as to how the transportation difficulties might be met.

In reply, WSA has informally advised the Board that perhaps the most feasible means of evacuating children from Spain and Portugal to Eire would be the use of British ships, despite transportation risks. It was also stated that certain Portuguese ships now carry phosphates from Casablanca to Eire, and that arrangements might be made to enlist their services in evacuations.

WSA also agree to instruct one of its representatives in the Mediterranean area to cooperate with Board Representative Ackermann in the solution of certain shipping problems involved in projected evacuations through Partisan territory (see VI E - 7, Evacuations to Italy and the Mediterranean Area).

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001028

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

FEA

In response to a letter from the Board the Foreign Economic Administration on March 27 indicated that it was complying with the Board's request that FEA representatives abroad be advised of the creation and objectives of the Board. Specific instructions to FEA representatives abroad have been dispatched, along with a request that the Board be furnished with all available information concerning the condition of refugees in the various areas, estimates as to the further absorptive capacities of the various countries from an economic point of view, shipping conditions, and the like.

Mr. Hilbert Zarky has been designated by FEA as liaison officer between that agency and the Board.

FEA assistance has been enlisted by the Board in connection with trans-blockade shipment discussions (see IV C - 1 a, Cooperation with Great Britain, and IV D - 3, Cooperation with Switzerland) and in connection with negotiations leading to the eventual guarantee, with FEA and War Shipping Administration approval, to the Turkish Government that the "S. S. Tari," if lost during projected evacuation operations, would be replaced by this Government with a comparable passenger vessel (see VI C, Evacuation to and through Turkey).

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001029

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD

In a letter dated February 9 to the Board from the President's War Relief Control Board it was indicated that a part of the procedure set up last year in connection with the National War Fund is the review of budgets or programs of member agencies by the War Relief Control Board with the advice of an informal committee composed of representatives of various government agencies interested in war relief matters. It was indicated that the budgets of member agencies of the National War Fund for 1944 had been presented and that the War Relief Control Board was inviting its Advisory Committee to meet with it for review purposes. Since a number of the budgets included projects for refugee relief, the War Refugee Board was invited to designate a representative to serve on the War Relief Control Board's Advisory Committee. This invitation was accepted and a Board representative subsequently attended the budget review meeting.

In early March the War Refugee Board was advised by the War Relief Control Board that certain persons had asserted that the provisions of Executive Order 9417, under which the War Refugee Board operates, exempt persons and agencies concerned with refugee relief from complying with requirements made by the President's War Relief Control Board under the provisions of Executive Order 9205.

In a letter dated March 6 the War Refugee Board indicated that it saw no overlapping between the two Executive Orders, as it understands them. At the same time, however, in order to resolve any doubts in the minds of third parties, the War Refugee Board delegated to the President's War Relief Control Board "such authority, if any, as may have been transferred by Executive Order 9417 from the President's War Relief Control Board to the War Refugee Board."

Appropriations from the National War Fund totaling \$350,000 have been obtained for two projects involving the rescue and relief of refugees. (For a more detailed account of these two projects see VI E - 4, Rescue of Czechoslovakians, and VI E - 5, Rescue of Norwegians.)

(cont.)

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-71

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-28 1972

001030

The Board has informally been advised by the War Relief Control Board of the existence in the National War Fund of an unallocated balance amounting to \$6,000,000. This sum is reported to be subject to a number of claims, the most pressing being one for some \$3,000,000, claimed by Greek War Relief in order to repay the British for monies advanced by the latter to the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration for the relief of Greek refugees. The Board proposes to ask the British to forego the repayment of this indebtedness and to request the War Relief Control Board not to approve further allocations from the fund without Board approval.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks, Date SEP-28 1972

001031

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WAR DEPARTMENT

In a memorandum dated January 28 (see attachment #1) the Board furnished the War Department with suggested instructions to the appropriate Theatre Commanders concerning the establishment and responsibilities of the War Refugee Board. In a reply dated March 3 from Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, the Board was advised that a message similar to that proposed had been despatched.

On February 9 a memorandum was addressed by the Board to the War Department requesting information with respect to the number of non-Italian refugees living in camps in Bari or elsewhere, the adequacy of camp facilities for present occupants and the possibility of receiving others, and the number of such refugees outside of camps. The Board indicated that it had been advised that British military authorities were evacuating refugees from Italy to camps in Egypt. The Board indicated that it would be extremely helpful to have further details on these operations, including some indication as to whether refugees are being taken from existing camps in Italy, the program contemplated, and the basis upon which it was being carried out.

In connection with a ^{revised in files} proposal to the Board that Italians now in German-occupied countries be returned to their homes (see Cable No. 444 from Bern dated January 20 and Cable No. 619 to Bern dated February 23), a letter dated March 9 was received by the State Department from Admiral Leahy stating that the matter had been referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It was indicated that a cable had been addressed to the Allied Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Theatre, requesting his views on the feasibility of the proposal. ^{no record in files}

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001032

MEMORANDUM TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT FROM THE BOARD

January 28, 1944

To: Assistant Secretary McCloy
From: Secretary Morgenthau

In accordance with your timely suggestion it would be very helpful if instructions along the following lines were sent to the appropriate Theater Commanders:

"The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an Executive Order issued January 22, 1944, the President declared 'it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.' The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war in your theater, to effectuate this policy of

(cont.)

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

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this Government. You should cooperate as closely as possible with all public and established private agencies who are active in your theater in this field in this matter. Consistent with your needs and military security considerations, you should make communication facilities available to these private agencies for appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should report to the Department any recommendations which you may have as to what you feel this Department can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression.

Foreign representatives of the Department of State and of other Government Departments are being similarly instructed and you should give them any possible assistance."

I would appreciate your bringing this to the attention of Secretary Stimson.

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

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COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

NAVY DEPARTMENT

In a letter dated March 3 from Assistant Secretary of War McCloy, the Board was advised that as the result of consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (of a Board request with respect to the issuance of instructions to appropriate Theatre Commanders; see attachment #1 to VII C - 4, Cooperation with War Department), the Navy Department has taken steps to inform the appropriate Navy Commander concerned of the establishment and responsibilities of the Board.

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

001035

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

STATE DEPARTMENT

On January 25 a circular cable was dispatched by the State Department to U.S. Missions in Britain, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey, advising them of the creation of the Board and requesting their assistance in effectuating the rescue policy set forth in the Board's Executive Order (see attachment #1 to IV B, General Instructions to U.S. Missions). This cable was repeated to all other U.S. Missions.

A follow-up circular airgram to all U.S. Missions except London, Ciudad Trujillo, Port-au-Prince, Tegucigalpa, La Paz, and Buenos Aires was dispatched by State on February 29 (see attachment #2 to IV B).

Mr. George Warren, head of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, has been designated by the State Department to handle refugee matters at State and to act as liaison officer with the Board. James Mann, Assistant Executive Director of the Board, has been designated to act as liaison officer with State.

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

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COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Shortly after creation of the Board, the Secretary of the Treasury sent messages to Treasury representatives in London, Stockholm, Ankara, Lisbon, Cairo, and Algiers asking them to do everything possible to assist U.S. Missions in carrying out the policy of immediate rescue to the victims of enemy persecution.

In three instances (see III A, Appointment of Special Representatives) the Board has, with Treasury approval, designated as Special Representatives of the Board Treasury representatives already stationed abroad.

In licensing communication with persons in enemy and enemy-occupied territories and the transmission of funds for relief and rescue activities on behalf of refugees, the Treasury Department, since the Board's creation, has been guided by Board recommendations. In this connection, Treasury has designated Mr. Robert Parke to serve as liaison officer between Treasury and the Board.

A basic Treasury license, typical of most of those issued to date to private organizations engaging in relief and rescue operations in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, appears as attachment #1. These basic licenses authorize the financial transactions incident to the operations involved, and also permit the necessary communication with persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory. The actual transmission of funds for operations under all basic licenses, however, is controlled by remittance licenses, since basic licenses do not cover the remittance of funds. Section 2 of the older basic license specifies the amount that may be obligated thereunder and, in the majority of cases, the period of time over which it may be so obligated. In the basic licenses more recently issued by the Treasury (an example of which appears as attachment #2) it will be noted that the amount which may be obligated in financing operations is not specified and that an expiration date is specified.

(cont.)

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

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It will be noted that the basic licenses authorize the acquisition of the necessary local currency to finance the operations by any of three stipulated methods. Although the third method permits the acquisition of the requisite local currency from persons in enemy territory against payment in free exchange, the State and Treasury Departments and the Board have taken the position that in these cases the saving of lives is paramount to the possibility that certain amounts of free exchange may become available in enemy territory.

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

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VII C - 7
attach. #1

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

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

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

To American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
(Name of Licensee)
270 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
(Address of Licensee)

Sirs:

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

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

(cont.)

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

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be reimbursed therefor in Swiss francs at the prevailing unofficial rates of exchange in Switzerland.

- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Switzerland. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account with such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.
2. The total amount of dollars or Swiss francs paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed 2,500,000 Swiss francs, or the dollar equivalent thereof, during the six months' period beginning January 1, 1944.
3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Switzerland fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. In so far as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currencies or exchange are purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.
4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Bern.
5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

(cont.)

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

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VII.C-7
attach. #1

- 3 -

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

J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

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

001041

VII C - 7
attach #2

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

License No. W-2177

Date: April 12, 1944

L I C E N S E
(GRANTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8389
OF APRIL 10, 1940, AS AMENDED, AND THE REGULATIONS
ISSUED THEREUNDER)

To Jewish Labor Committee.
(Name of Licensee)

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

Sirs:

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

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

(cont.)

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

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- (b) The second method is the acquisition of local currencies or exchange from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territories for which reimbursement will not be made until after the war. In order to insure reimbursement after the war to the persons supplying such currencies or exchange, blocked accounts may be established on your books in the United States, or in a bank in the United States or a bank in Portugal. No payments may be made from any such blocked account without the specific approval of the Treasury Department and no assignments may be made of any interest in such blocked account without such approval.
- (c) The third method should not be used if it is feasible to obtain the local funds by either of the first two methods. The third method is the acquisition of the necessary local funds, goods or services from persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory against payment in free exchange or free currency notes. Your representative should take reasonable steps to avoid such foreign exchange or free currency notes being paid to persons who will make it available to the enemy.
2. The total amount of funds paid out or set up in blocked accounts or otherwise obligated under the terms of this license shall not exceed the amounts of dollars (or the foreign currency equivalent thereof) authorized by specific Treasury licenses to be used under this license.
3. Your representative should keep the American Legation in Portugal fully informed with respect to the financial transactions effected under this license. Insofar as feasible your representative should make certain that the persons from whom the local currency or exchange is purchased are acceptable to the Legation. Your representative should satisfy himself that payments to such persons will not benefit the enemy.
4. Periodic reports with regard to any operations engaged in under this license should be filed with the Treasury Department by your representative through the United States Legation in Lisbon, Portugal.
5. This license is granted upon the statements and representations filed with the Treasury Department, and is subject to the condition, among others, that you will comply in all respects with Executive Order No. 8389 of April 10, 1940, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder and the terms of this license.

(cont.)

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

VII.C-7
attach #2

- 3 -

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

Orvis A. Schmidt
Acting Director

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

001044

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

In a letter dated May 13 it was proposed by Director Price of the Office of Censorship that the Board should assume the responsibility, from a security standpoint, for the transmission to and from various foreign points of all messages having to do in any way with refugees. Under the procedure proposed, Censorship would pass incoming and outgoing messages only with the specific approval of the Board (see attachment #1).

In a reply dated May 27 (see attachment #2) and in the course of a subsequent conference held with Mr. Price on June 2, Director Pehle pointed out that by its nature the Board is not primarily a regulatory body, nor is it the only Federal agency concerned with refugee matters. Director Pehle stated that while the Board deals only with those private agencies which it believes are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression and which it believes to be thoroughly reliable, it does not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of such messages, nor does it have facilities for such reports. In order to insure cooperation to the greatest extent possible, however, it was agreed that the Board would designate someone to serve as liaison officer with Censorship, to examine selected communications and to indicate whether the Board has any special concern with them. This person would also be in a position to furnish Censorship with any information in the possession of the Board pertaining to individuals or situations referred to in the communications involved. Ultimate responsibility, from the security point of view, will remain with Censorship. (For a summary of this agreement, as indicated in a letter from Censorship dated June 3, see attachment #3).

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

001045

LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

TO THE BOARD

May 13, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehlc:

It is the understanding of this office that the War Refugee Board is the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees. As you know, there are many groups in the United States who are interested in refugee problems, and all of these groups from time to time have desired to communicate with various foreign points in connection with these problems. Such messages invariably involve third parties. The identification of these third parties by this office has proved to be extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.

Since these communications all involve indirect communication with enemy or enemy-occupied territory, you can readily understand my extreme concern from a security standpoint. In answer to your question stated in your letter to me of May 8, 1944, I feel that it is logical that the War Refugee Board should assume the responsibility from a security standpoint for the transmission of any such messages as above referred to. The procedure that this office proposes is that any message outgoing from or incoming to the United States should not be passed except with the specific approval of the War Refugee Board. To this end, the Cable Division of the Office of Censorship proposes to require the comment of your Board in connection with each such message, and will only pass those messages which you approve. It is to be understood, of course, that the Cable Division also reserves the right to exercise such censorship action on these messages, even though approved by you, as it deems necessary.

Yours very truly,

Byron Price,
Director.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 6-11-73
By R. H. Parke Date SEP 28 1972

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VII C - 8
attach: #2

LETTER TO THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP FROM THE BOARD

May 27, 1944

Dear Mr. Price:

Reference is made to your letter of May 13, 1944, and the Board's letter of May 8, 1944, relative to communications concerning refugees which may involve indirect communications with enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

The War Refugee Board understands your concern from a security standpoint with regard to a few of the above-mentioned messages and desires that the necessary security precautions be observed. While the Board wishes fully to cooperate with the Office of Censorship, I am sure that from the reasons given below you will appreciate the difficulties involved if it should assume the responsibility proposed in your above-mentioned letter.

It should be observed that the War Refugee Board is not "the supreme authority with regard to all matters having to do with refugees". As will be noted from the enclosed copy of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing the War Refugee Board, its authority covers only a part of the refugee field. In such matters there are many other operating agencies such as the State Department, UNRRA, FEA, and others, and the Board's authority does not concern many of the activities of such agencies nor many of the activities of various private agencies. Furthermore, by its nature the War Refugee Board is not primarily a regulatory body. Accordingly, it is thought that the Board could not assume the responsibility for passing upon all private messages concerning refugee matters.

The Board does not have intelligence reports on the addressees and senders of messages of the nature indicated above. Even in those cases in which its facilities are used, it only knows that the sender or addressee, as the case may be, is affiliated with the organization in the United States indicated in such message. Of course, the War Refugee Board deals only with those agencies which it believes are sincerely interested in rescuing and helping victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and which it believes to be thoroughly reliable. Such agencies state that they deal only with reliable correspondents in the field.

Because of its small professional staff, the Board is not equipped to make the necessary security investigation of the sender or addressee

(cont.)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parka Date SEP 28 1972

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- 2 -

of each of the messages which you propose to forward to it for specific clearance before transmission to the addressee. Accordingly, this office could only pass upon the substance of the message and since your office can better exercise this function, it is thought that the duplication in such cases would serve no useful purpose. However, the Board desires to cooperate with the Office of Censorship to the greatest extent possible and in specific cases at the request of the Office of Censorship it will gladly give any background information available to it relative to any group or organization concerned in any particular messages. Also, in specific cases pursuant to request, the Board will attempt to obtain for the Office of Censorship information from refugee organizations in the United States concerning their correspondents or agents abroad.

It has occurred to me that the Office of Censorship might desire to send one of its officers to the Board to study available background material relative to various refugee organizations and acquaint such representative with various projects in the refugee field. If you desire to send such a representative, the Board will gladly receive him and make such information as it has available.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

001048

LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

TO THE BOARD

June 3, 1944

Dear Mr. Fehle:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Byron Prico,
Director.

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

001049

VII D

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

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

001050

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

MEASURES PROPOSED TO BOARD

In a circular letter dated February 8 and addressed to ninety-four private organizations concerned with refugee problems (see attachment #1) the Board asked for suggestions as to specific action which the Board might take to effectuate the rescue and relief objectives outlined in the Board's Executive Order.

In response, detailed proposals have been received by the Board from the following organizations: Agudas Israel of America, American Committee of CSE (a French child-care group), American Friends of Polish Jews, American Friends Service Committee, American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Catholic Committee for Refugees, Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, Jewish Labor Committee, Joint Emergency Committee for European Jewish Affairs, League for the Liberation of Lithuania, National Council of Jewish Women, Netherlands-Jewish Society, Refugee Economic Corporation, Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, United Palestine Appeal, and World Jewish Congress.

According to a detailed analysis prepared on the basis of these responses, the measures proposed fall into eight general categories: appeals by this Government directly and through intermediaries to the German Government for cooperation in the evacuation of European Jews; warnings to the German people and their officials and to the satellites generally; efforts directed especially toward the satellite countries; special relations with neutral European countries; temporary havens and permanent resettlement; proposals implementing evacuation; programs for persons who cannot be evacuated; and general suggestions designed to implement the work of the Board financially and through cooperation with other nations and organizations.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO VARIOUS PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE BOARD

February 8, 1944

Gentlemen:

The War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, was created by President Roosevelt on January 22, 1944. The President's purpose in creating the Board, as well as the Board's duties and authority are set out in Executive Order No. 9417, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

The Board is not unmindful of the fact that private agencies, including yourselves, have for some time been active in seeking means to effect the relief and rescue of Jews and other minority groups threatened with extermination by the enemy. Nor is the Board unmindful of the fact that such agencies have actually brought relief to and effected the rescue of a number of such victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is presently preparing programs for action and earnestly solicits the advice and cooperation of every agency concerned with the problem. Consequently, the Board would appreciate it if you would submit to it, at your earliest possible convenience, a detailed statement in writing of such specific action as you believe the Board should take to effectuate the policy announced in the Executive Order, and of the measures that you are equipped to take to lend assistance to such program. While your statement may be informal, it should contain all available information necessary or incidental to the effectuation of any project you suggest. In this connection, you should bear in mind that the Board must, of necessity, confine itself to projects involving the relief or rescue of groups of persons and cannot deal with proposals limited to any specific individual.

The Board is fully cognizant of the difficulties involved in the preparation of any such statement, but nevertheless believes that the effort thus expended will have its compensation in achievement.

I think that you can understand our desire for having the suggestions of all agencies submitted to the Board in writing and at the

(cont.)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter: 1-11-72

By R. H. J. SEP 28 1972

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VII D-1
attach. #1

earliest possible moment. On the other hand, I want you to know that the staff of the Board is always available for discussions with your representatives and the consideration of such further proposals or suggestions as you may be prepared to make.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. 1
By R. P. SEP 28 1972

001053

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

FUNDS FOR BOARD PURPOSES

Despite uninformed comments that have appeared in the press with respect to the availability of funds for Board purposes, thus far no projected rescue or relief operations have been held up for lack of funds, nor is it anticipated that any worthwhile effort will fail because funds are lacking. Inasmuch as private agencies concerned with refugee problems are expected to continue in the future, as in the past, their underwriting of rescue and relief projects, the Board to date has not felt it necessary to establish any fixed program for financing such activities.

The Board is attempting to obtain for rescue and relief operations to be carried on by private organizations certain unallocated funds remaining in the National War Fund (see VII C - 3, Cooperation with the War Relief Control Board). In two instances, the Board has already successfully aided two private groups in obtaining monies from the National War Fund for rescue operations (see VI E - 4, Rescue of Czechoslovakians, and VI E - 5, Rescue of Norwegians).

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1973

001054

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

One of the first actions of the Board upon its firmation was to send an urgent message to the International Red Cross asking for a report with respect to what operational areas in occupied Europe were feasible in connection with providing food and medicines to Jews and other persecuted minorities denied the facilities made available to the rest of the population (Cable No. 279 dated January 27). The Board in effect took over from the Intergovernmental Committee, to which the Red Cross had at first addressed its appeal; \$100,000 was contributed by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for this feeding program, and its transmission was licensed by the Treasury upon the Board's recommendation (see VI A - 1, Red Cross Aid in Rumania, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, and Theresienstadt, and the attachments thereto).

The Board also approved a license permitting the JDC to remit money for the purchase of food in Switzerland to be distributed by the Red Cross to internees at Theresienstadt (see VI A - 10, Relief in Theresienstadt).

IRC representatives in Ankara and Geneva have cooperated fully in efforts to obtain safe-conduct from all belligerents in connection with rescue operations to and through Turkey (see VI C, Evacuations to and through Turkey).

Upon the invasion of Hungary, the Board asked that the IRC send "effective representation to Hungary in order to protect the well-being of groups facing persecution" (Cable No. 1023 to Bern dated March 27). The IRC, however, declined to intrude into the "domestic policy" of Hungary. The IRC was said to feel that a special delegation under the circumstances might be considered inconsistent with its traditional functions (Cable No. 2312 from Bern dated April 13; see V B - 1, Approaches to the Satellites).

In a cable to Bern the Board has recently asked that the IRC attempt to obtain assurance from the German and satellite governments that Jews and other persons detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion, or political belief, will be accorded treatment equal to that of civilian internees. The Board has also asked the IRC to make every effort to obtain for Jews and other victims of Nazi oppression, including those not actually interned, opportunities to obtain food and other necessities on a basis of equality with the local population (see V B - 2, Approaches to the Germans, and Cable No. 1498 to Bern dated April 29 comprising attachment #1 thereto).

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001055

VIII.
ADM. MATTERS

001056

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. PERSONNEL

B. BUDGET

1. PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BOARD PURPOSES

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

001057

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: PERSONNEL

On March 24 John W. Pehle, formerly Acting Executive Director of the Board, was named permanent Executive Director by the President (see attachment #1).

As of April 15 there were 25 professional persons working full time on Board problems. In addition, four Special Representatives of the Board were at work in Europe and French North Africa (see III-A, Appointment of Special Representatives).

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

001058

III A
attach.# 1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1944

The appointment of John W. Pehle as permanent Executive
Director of the War Refugee Board is hereby approved.

(signed)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date SEP 28 1972

001059

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: BUDGET

Arrangements were made with the Bureau of the Budget for the allocation from the President's Emergency Fund of \$1,000,000 for all necessary expenses of the Board in carrying out the purposes set forth in Executive Order 9417.

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001060

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: BUDGET

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BOARD PURPOSES

Shortly after the creation of the Board a donation of \$100,000 was made by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society to the Treasury for Board purposes. Unsolicited individual contributions amounting to a total of several hundred dollars have also been received. The Board has indicated that such private contributions are not to be used for administrative expenses but will instead be set aside for appropriate projects.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 28 1972

001061