

Weekly Reports - 1944, Volume 1  
(Folder 1 of 2)

AUG 1 1944

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 17 to July 22, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,

Department of State.

Enclosure.

Ekt RBA RBHutchison:agr 7-29-44 JKS

000765

AUG 1 1944

Dear Abe,

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 17 to July 22, 1944.

Sincerely,

*(Signed) John*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

EST RBH Hutchison:agr 7-29-44 *JH*

000766

AUG 1 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 17 to July 22, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

EBS  
RBH Hutchison:agr 7-29-44

*[Handwritten initials]*

000767

AUG 1 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

EST RBH Hutchison:agr 7-29-44

000768

AUG 1 1944

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

EBT  
RBHutchinson:agr 7-29-44

000769

AUG 1 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of July 17, to 22, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Enclosure.

EBT

EBT: [initials] 7/29/44

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DUPLICATE ORIGINAL

Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of July 17 - July 22

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Minister Harrison has forwarded to us the text of his note to the Swiss Foreign Office, including the message on behalf of this Government which the Foreign Office subsequently transmitted to the Hungarian Government. The message transmitted requested that the appropriate authorities in Hungary "state their intentions with regard to the future treatment to be accorded to Jews in ghettos and concentration camps, particularly whether the Hungarian authorities contemplate the imposition of discriminatory reduction in food rations, forced deportations to Poland or elsewhere, or the adoption of other measures which, like those mentioned will be tantamount to mass execution." The message concluded with a reminder of the grave view which this Government takes concerning the persecution of Jews and other minorities and of our determination to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are dealt with in accordance with the warning issued by the President in March.

Hungarian Anti-Semitic Measures Reportedly Modified

Board Representative McClelland meanwhile advised us that credible intimations have reached him to the effect that the Hungarian Government has modified its anti-Jewish standpoint. Certain concessions are said to have been made already, including an indication of the Hungarian regime's willingness to discuss with the International Red Cross the emigration of children and possible measures of relief to Jews remaining in Hungary.

This reported softening of the Hungarian attitude was confirmed in cables from Lisbon and Ankara.

Minister Harrison subsequently indicated that he had been advised by the Swiss Foreign Office that authorization has been given by the Hungarian Government for the departure from Hungary of all Jews holding entry permits for other countries, including Palestine. The Swiss Foreign Office was said to have received this information through its Legation at Budapest, which also reported that transit through occupied territories was to be permitted by the German Government.



The encouraging nature of these reports from abroad have led us to increase our efforts to develop some program through which there could be made available to threatened persons in Hungary the balance of Palestine certificates available, 5,000 U. S. visitors visas, additional U. S. immigration visas to persons entitled to non-quota or preference status and to persons to whom U. S. immigration visas now expired were issued after July 1, 1941, along with a comparable number of visas of the other American republics, British dominions, and neutrals.

Swiss Propose Taking Children and Expectant Mothers

Another message from Harrison reported details of a conversation held with Mr. Pilet-Golas of the Swiss Foreign Office. Although previous Swiss representations toward obtaining permission for children to go to Switzerland from German and German-occupied territory have thus far been unsuccessful, Mr. Pilet indicated that the Swiss are now considering proposing to the Hungarian Government that 5,000 children and expectant mothers be permitted to go to Switzerland. Should this proposal be accepted, Harrison added, the Swiss would expect aid in arranging for the evacuation of these refugees from Switzerland after the war.

With respect to the reports that deportations from Hungary include some 400,000 persons, Mr. Pilet stated that it is difficult to ascertain the exact figure, but that so far 250,000 such deportations have been indicated by reports to the Foreign Office. It was asserted that 80 percent of the Hungarians were opposed to the arrests of Jews carried out by Hungarian authorities and the Gestapo. In many instances Hungarians are said to have been punished for endeavoring to aid and protect Jews.

The concern of both the government and people of Switzerland over the fate of the Jews in Hungary was stressed by Mr. Pilet, who indicated, again in strictest confidence, that the Swiss Government is facilitating communication between interested groups in Switzerland and Jewish organizations in Hungary. The Swiss Minister in Budapest is under instructions to leave the Hungarian Government in no doubt as to the attitude of the Swiss Government and Swiss people with regard to these persecutions. Mr. Pilet indicated that a similar message had been conveyed to the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires in Bern.

With respect to Hungarian Regent Horthy, Mr. Pilet indicated that while the Regent is said to have "washed his hands" of all responsibility, Horthy had professed to be opposed to the persecution of Jews. The conclusion was drawn by Harrison that Horthy fears being named as one of those responsible for these atrocities.

In response to our proposal that the Swiss approach the Germans on the matter of improving the treatment of un-assimilated civilian internees in Axis territory, Mr. Pilet declined on the ground that such a request would be resented and might jeopardize present efforts of the International Red Cross to furnish relief to the persecuted.

#### International Red Cross Appeal to Horthy

Harrison also indicated that the Swiss Foreign Office had reported having transmitted a direct appeal from President Huber of the International Red Cross to Horthy with respect to the situation in Hungary.

Messages reaching us through private sources have confirmed the sending of a "handwritten" appeal to Horthy from InterCross President Huber. This letter is said to have enumerated known facts concerning the anti-Jewish persecutions and to have offered to send a special InterCross mission to Hungary to be present at deportations, to assist people with medicines and food, and to exercise some control over the ultimate fate of the deportees.

The New York Times on July 19 carried an article dated Bern to the effect that, in response to President Huber's message, the International Red Cross had received assurances from Horthy that the deportation of Hungarian Jews had been suspended and that InterCross might assist detained Jews and aid in the evacuation of Jewish children. Another report appearing in the Times on July 20 indicated that InterCross had announced having obtained assurance from the Hungarian Government of unrestricted transit for refugees through Axis-controlled countries.

Harrison and McClelland have been asked to forward to us whatever information they can obtain with respect to these reports.

#### British Newspaper Reports

Ambassador Winant has reported to us the substance of various newspaper articles appearing in British papers

regarding the proposal the Germans are reputed to have made recently to the effect that they would spare the lives of the remaining Jews in Hungary in exchange for certain war materials. All articles strongly condemned the proposal as blackmail and as a fantastic attempt to sow suspicion among the Allies.

#### WAR CRIMES

According to the Intergovernmental Committee representative in Italy, records had been discovered there listing the names of more than 15,000 individual refugees -- Yugoslavs who are not Jews, Jews, and other persons -- who have been in Italy at one time or another since war began, but whose present whereabouts are unknown. Other available data were said to give the names of refugees held at "free detention" places and of those held in certain camps at various times. The IGC representative suggested that notification be given Axis authorities that this information is in the possession of the Allies and that due punishment will be inflicted upon those responsible for the ill treatment or death of the persons named.

In view of the joint agreement as to our respective fields of action, the Intergovernmental Committee has referred this matter to us. Information on this score has also been sent to the British Foreign Office as of possible special interest to the War Crimes Commission.

We are asking Board Representative Ackermann, who is still in Naples, to examine the records mentioned, if possible, and to determine their usefulness either for the psychological purposes suggested or for purposes of initiating action that might result in the rescue or relief of persons whose names and whereabouts may be available.

#### MERCY SHIP PROPOSAL

Myron Taylor has transmitted to us the substance of another telegram sent to the IGC by its representative in Italy. This cable described the organized deportation by the Germans of Jews and other refugees from Italy to German concentration camps for the ultimate purpose of their extermination.

The IGC representative suggested that the President of the United States be approached "to intervene on behalf of these persons in German camps and possibly for this purpose utilize the Pope, if thought advisable, as intermediary." Under the proposal advanced, the Axis would be asked to deliver to a

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named port in the North Atlantic all internees, including stateless persons in particular. A mercy ship would be sent to that port to carry on a shuttle service to some nearby port in liberated Italy until all had been removed to safety. Under this proposal threats would not be used; the invitation itself would be "courteous and direct" and Germany would merely "be informed beforehand that we hold the names of the majority of those who were interned in Italy."

In a cable to London for the IGC, we are indicating our view that any approach to the Germans should indicate the willingness of the Allied Governments, with due regard for military necessities, to consider measures for the reception in Allied and neutral territory of any Jews in German-occupied territory, including but not limited to deportees from Italy. The IGC is being advised that this Government has, in fact, recently indicated to the British our willingness to join in such an approach to the Germans. We are indicating that while we are prepared to consider sympathetically any plan designed to meet the Italian problem referred to by the IGC representative, we believe it to be more feasible for the Intergovernmental Committee first to determine the practical problems involved and to discuss the matter with the British Government.

REPORTS DESCRIBE CONDITIONS IN GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Through our Embassy in London we have now been furnished a copy of the widely publicized report prepared by the Czechoslovakian Government-in-Exile on the frightful conditions prevailing in the German concentration camps of Oswiecim and Birkenau. The first of these camps, it was stated, was originally reserved for political prisoners, and thousands of Germans, Czechoslovaks, Poles, and Russians were kept there in "protective custody." Professional criminals were subsequently added, and later, Jews from the occupied countries.

During the period from April 1942 to April 1944 between 1,500,000 and 1,750,000 Jews were said to have been put to death by gas or in some other way in these two camps. Half of these victims were said to have been Polish, the others being from Holland, Greece, France, Belgium, Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Norway, Lithuania, Austria, and other countries. About 90 percent of the persons arriving in Oswiecim and Birkenau were taken directly from the trains to be put to death, it was said, while the others became inmates of the camp, performing arduous labor in the vicinity and serving as human guinea pigs in some instances.

Death by gas was said to be reserved as the special fate of Jews taken to the two camps, the gassing of Aryans being carried out only in exceptional cases. Aryans were said to be shot with pistols on a special execution ground. The deaths of still other thousands from hard work, typhus, malaria, and other illness, and from ill treatment were described.

Another report, in sickening detail, concerning the systematic extermination of Jews and other persons in the two camps to which the Czechoslovakian report referred, was subsequently transmitted to us by Board Representative McClelland. McClelland's report was based upon the personal experiences related by two Slovakian Jews who managed to escape from these camps and upon the experiences independently related by a non-Jewish political internee who likewise escaped from Auschwitz. The names of a number of individuals responsible for these persecutions were also forwarded by McClelland.

#### British Editorials Call for Retribution

Retribution for such Nazi savagery was discussed recently in two British editorials, according to a communication from Ambassador Winant. The News Chronicle concluded that the only way of stopping such murders and persecutions is by letting them know that the ringleaders will not be allowed to escape. The Daily Mail declared that terms of our "code of retribution" should be hammered home to the Germans by all possible means. Lists of those to be tried, it added, should be distributed and broadcast all over Germany.

#### TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Board Representative Ackermann has reported having completed the selection and processing of the refugees who are to be given temporary havens in this country. A total of 985 refugees were subsequently reported to have left Italy in mid-July aboard an Army transport, after medical inspection had been completed at a camp near Naples. Inoculations for typhoid, typhus, small pox, and tetanus were to be completed on ship and at Fort Ontario. The clothing, health, and general condition of these refugees were reported to range from fair to good. No cripples or serious chronic cases were said to be involved, though there may possibly be a few stretcher cases.

The Director of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission meanwhile advised Ackermann that an additional 4,000 to 5,000 stateless refugees can be expected to be found when Florence is liberated.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH PORTUGAL

James Mann has returned from Portugal and has brought with him a copy of the agreement which was worked out in order to eliminate conflict in the operations of various refugee organizations operating in Spain and Portugal.

COOPERATION WITH THE BRITISH

Ambassador Winant has advised us of the receipt by our Embassy there of a letter from the British Foreign Office in response to our proposal that additional transblockade supplies be permitted certain neutral countries to meet the needs of incoming refugees. The Foreign Office indicated that British representatives have now approached the five neutral governments concerned and have also been directed to act in concert with U. S. representatives in this matter.

Report from Ankara

Board Representative Hirschmann meanwhile advised us that the proposed joint approach to the Turkish Government on this score was discussed with his British colleague. Both were of the opinion that at this time, joint action of the nature suggested would not achieve the desired purpose and might in fact tend to bring about the adoption of a less liberal policy than that now being pursued by the Turks. In place of making a joint approach, Hirschmann and the British representative propose to take advantage of the first favorable opportunity to emphasize the readiness of the U. S. and British Governments to assist Turkey, whenever it may become necessary, by arranging the onward movement of refugees to other havens and by making available food and other supplies as well as funds.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

In another communication from Ankara Hirschmann reported to us his belief that the successful completion of the voyage of the "S. S. Kazbek" indicates that the Rumanian authorities have undergone a change of heart in their attitude toward the Jewish people in Rumania. Hirschmann stated that all reports indicate that they are being more helpful in furthering the emigration of Jews from Rumania via Turkey to Palestine.

Hirschmann also indicated that he had been informed that instructions were sent to Turkish border guards in May of this year by the Turkish authorities, calling for the admission into Turkish territory of refugees attempting to cross the border illegally from Bulgaria. These instructions were said to have been issued after written assurance had been given by the British Ambassador that Palestine immigration certificates

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would be issued to those arriving in this way. It was said that 11 or 12 refugees who presented themselves at the Turkish border during May and early June were permitted to enter Turkey, after being detained and investigated by the police.

Hirschmann was informed by a representative of the Jewish Agency, however, that later in June seven additional persons tried unsuccessfully to cross the border. Despite efforts made in Ankara to have affirmative instructions sent to the border authorities, these refugees are said to have been sent back from the frontier. Hirschmann indicated that at the present time no persons are entering Turkey illegally by this route. The attitude of the Turkish officials in this matter seems to be that it is dangerous from the point of view of Turkish security to open the border indiscriminately because of the difficulty involved in distinguishing between genuine refugees and political agents. Hirschmann indicated his intention of pressing our request that Turkish frontier authorities permit the entry of refugees from Bulgaria.

Counselor Kelly of our Embassy there subsequently stated that in view of the assurance given as to the availability of Palestinian entrance visas for all Jewish refugees who reach Turkey, he was requesting that the Turkish Foreign Minister instruct Turkish consuls in Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary to issue without prior reference to Ankara individual or collective Turkish transit visas to any Jewish refugees who may apply, and also that he instruct the authorities at Turkish frontier posts to permit Jewish refugees to enter Turkey and proceed to Istanbul, irrespective of the means by which they arrive at the frontier, and even though they arrive at the frontier without Turkish visas.

#### "Bardaland" Claim Being Pressed

Despite the statement transmitted by Minister Johnson to the Swedish Foreign Office with respect to our intention of withholding action on the preliminary indemnity claim presented by the owners of the "Bardaland" pending submission of a final itemized claim, the Swedish Foreign Office has renewed the owners' request for a preliminary payment of some \$20,000. The owners of the "Bardaland" are said to have indicated that a full itemization cannot be made until the "Bardaland" arrives at Gothenburg toward the end of July. It was said that the total indemnity to be claimed was not likely to exceed approximately \$30,000.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SPAIN

According to a communication from Madrid, as a result of representations made by our Embassy there, the Spanish Government has authorized the issuance of visas to 500 Jewish

children in Hungary whom Jewish organizations in Tangier hope to transfer to temporary refuge in Spanish Morocco. It was stated that the Spanish Legation in Budapest has been instructed to do everything possible to facilitate the travel of this group to Spain. It was also understood that the Vatican has requested papal representatives in Berlin and Budapest to use their good offices to the same end.

#### Proposal To Close Camp Lyautey Opposed

Through Ambassador Winant and Sir Herbert Emerson of the IGC we were advised of a suggestion made by the IGC representative in Algiers that Camp Lyautey, which now holds 600 persons, be closed. In the opinion of the IGC representative, as a result of the improving international situation no more large contingents of refugees are to be expected. The costly maintenance of an organization designed to care for 2,000 persons is therefore, he felt, not justified. The IGC representative further asserted that the local management of the camp had recommended closing it and transferring the 600 inmates to existing camps in Egypt and Palestine and to other countries willing to receive them.

The IGC replied that the question of the future of the camp is one primarily for the U. S. and British Governments in consultation with French authorities. While the IGC had no instructions to give, it stated its feeling that any decision to close the camp now would be premature.

We are indicating to Winant our full agreement with the IGC position. Such a suggestion is, in fact, difficult to understand, in view of the necessity for caring for increasing numbers of refugees escaping from enemy territory and in view of recent decisions to expand at once existing refugee facilities in the Middle East and to open new camps in French North Africa, Tripolitania, and at Fort Ontario in this country.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

Board Representative McClelland has advised us that a census has now been completed of refugee children presently in Switzerland for whom overseas emigration is considered desirable after the war, including those arriving both before and since January 1, 1944. It was stated that the organizations to whom the children have been entrusted have begun a careful selection of children based on the various countries of destination. McClelland indicated that within two months, these organizations are expected to start presenting children to our consulates for the special U. S. immigration visas that have been authorized. It was

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estimated that the total number, however, would not exceed 500. McClelland added that, unfortunately, owing to other circumstances, the availability of these visas has encouraged only slightly the arrival of more children from France.

In another communication from Bern we were advised that some 505 refugee children entered Switzerland from France between January 1 and June 7. The number would have been considerably greater, it was thought, had it not been for the upset conditions in areas along the Franco-Swiss border, especially the disruption of all regular transportation in France.

#### Discussions Continue Re Cuban Acceptance of Child Refugees

Ambassador Braden has asked us to supply detailed information as to the procedure which would be followed in making available for the support of some 1,000 refugee children the funds which the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has agreed to supply, should the Cuban Government agree to their entry. Braden added that, despite continuing discussions with Cabinet officials and with the President of Cuba, he has not yet been able to obtain a definite acceptance of the proposal.

#### Evacuation of Norwegians to Sweden

In response to our recent request for a report as to the total amount, in the dollar equivalent, of free currency, if any, sent into enemy territory during the period ending June 1 under the Treasury license authorizing such expenditures, if necessary, in accomplishing certain evacuations from Norway to Sweden, Johnson and Olsen promptly indicated that virtually no free exchange had been made available to Norway.

On the basis of a more detailed report subsequently filed with Johnson and Olsen covering activities in Norway, we were advised that of the \$50,000 originally received, approximately 100,000 Swedish kronor were used to purchase 328,000 Norwegian kroner. This Norwegian currency was said to have been purchased locally from Norwegian refugees who had brought the currency to Sweden, and it was stressed that there could be no possible benefit to the enemy from these transactions. Of this Norwegian currency, approximately 50,000 kroner have been sent back to Norway through the underground for relief purposes, including the support of families of persons in concentration camps.

As a result of these operations, substantial numbers of Norwegians have been enabled to escape to Sweden. It was reported that during June about 850 Norwegians made such escapes, despite a severe tightening of border controls.

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During July Norwegian refugees are said to be arriving in Sweden at the rate of approximately 65 a day.

Some 10,000 youths who failed to respond to the Nazi labor mobilization are reported to be hiding in the forests in the vicinity of Oslo. Funds supplied by American Relief for Norway are likewise assisting in maintaining these youths. Other expenditures include the purchase in Sweden of food, clothing, and shoes for severe hardship cases in Norway.

#### RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

Minister Harrison has reported that, in response to our request that Switzerland obtain detailed information concerning the treatment of Jews in Hungary and as to the fate of Jews holding Latin American documentation in particular, the Swiss Foreign Office stated that since Switzerland is charged only with the protection of Uruguayan and Chilean interests in Hungary, it is unable to obtain the detailed information requested except as regards Jews holding documents issued in the name of these two republics.

The Swiss Legation at Budapest has indicated that thus far Hungarian authorities appear disposed to accord exceptional treatment to such foreign nationals under Swiss protection. It was stated that the obligation to wear the Jewish star and to declare property had thus been dispensed with, insofar as these persons were concerned, and reductions in food rations had also been avoided. In the opinion of the Swiss Legation, all Jews able to demonstrate foreign nationality would be spared anti-Semitic action on the basis of requests from their protecting power.

#### Exchange Plans Being Made

The State Department has now advised our Embassy in Madrid that definite indications have been received through trusted channels that the German Government is now disposed to cooperate in effecting exchanges on Spanish territory of German nationals from South America against refugees from German-controlled territory. It is proposed to send the refugees involved to Camp Lysatey. The State Department has suggested that our representatives in Madrid investigate the possibility of making arrangements at Madrid and Algiers, with Spanish and French authorities and with the military, whereby special treatment might be given refugees included in official exchanges whose bona fides may possibly be less open to question than those of refugees appearing on Spanish territory as a result of their own efforts. While several alternatives were suggested, State indicated that it is not particularly interested in the actual means devised, but is more concerned that this

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Government's program to rescue threatened persons shall not be imperiled by any lack of material arrangements in Spanish territory for their reception and prompt onward transportation.

#### Representations Made to Brazilian Government

We have been advised by our Embassy in Brazil that representations have been made to the Brazilian Government urging concrete action on the part of Brazil in line with the exchange standards resolution adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo. In these representations emphasis was placed upon the attitude expressed last year by Dr. Aranha to the effect that it might be a good thing for Brazil to get rid of a large number of Germans there.

#### Report from El Salvador

From El Salvador we have been advised of the text of a note sent by the Salvadoran Foreign Minister to the Emergency Advisory Committee. In this note it was stated that there are only a few Salvadorans in German territory. Outside of Germany there were said to be five Salvadorans who should be repatriated. The Salvadoran note promised that direct negotiations would be begun with respect to the repatriation of these Salvadorans.

#### Cuban Action Promised

As a result of further representations by Ambassador Braden, the Cuban Minister of State has now agreed to supplement Cuba's original representations concerning the return of deportees to Camp Vittel, by directing the Cuban Embassy in Madrid to request that the protecting power inform the German Government that Cuba will not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. It was also indicated that the Cuban Government now agrees to consider as exchange material all holders of documents issued in Cuba's name, although the right is reserved to refuse admission to such passport holders as Cuba may later prefer to exclude.

We have communicated to our Embassy in Madrid the substance of Braden's communication, along with a request that efforts be made to speed the Cuban representations.

Since some confusion exists as to whether the Cuban representations should be made through Spain as Germany's protecting power in Cuba, or through Switzerland as Cuba's protecting power, clarification has been requested.

#### Haiti Agrees To Act

We have been advised by our Embassy in Haiti that the Haitian Government has likewise agreed to issue instructions

to its Legation at Bern to inform the German Government through Swiss authorities that Haiti recognizes the validity of all its passports held by persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory until an examination of each case shall have been made. This applies to those persons who were unable to comply with the decrees-law of February 1942, as well as to those persons holding documents whose validity is open to doubt. While this decision has yet to be confirmed in writing and will require the approval of the Haitian Council of Ministers, no difficulties were anticipated.

It was emphasized that Haiti's action on this score is purely a humanitarian measure, and that Haiti likewise reserves the right to refuse to admit any such persons subsequently held to be undesirable as immigrants.

#### NEW RELIEF PROPOSALS RECEIVED

Board Representative McClelland has relayed to us the substance of a memorandum submitted by the International Red Cross on certain critical clothing requirements of civilian prisoners in German concentration camps. To date, Interross has not undertaken to send clothing to such civilian prisoners and therefore has no information based on practical experience with this type of relief. The possibility of such clothing distributions was to be investigated more fully by Interross, and a further report is expected.

#### Polish Relief

Johnson and Olsen have explored with a relief group in Sweden the nature of its activities in Poland, as well as facilities for expanding the scope of its operations. At the present time, this organization is said to be receiving urgent requests from Poland for substantial additional amounts of clothing for children, as well as for basic foodstuffs and vitamins. We were advised that funds to meet these requirements in full are lacking, and that immediate use could be made of \$25,000. The Polish Legation in Stockholm has spoken highly of the effectiveness of this organization's activities and has expressed the strong hope that American financial assistance can be obtained.

#### COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Intergovernmental Committee has now agreed to assume certain credit obligations for previously scheduled European rescue and relief activities. Arrangements have been made in this connection whereby the JDC is to act as an agent of the ICG.

*J. W. Pehle*  
J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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**JUL 29 1944**

My dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 10 to July 15, 1944.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*EAT* *ce*  
Bowler

*Joh*  
7-22-44

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JUL 25 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 10 to July 15, 1944.

Very truly yours,

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

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT

EBTowler *JH* 7-22-44

100785

JUL 25 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

*Original, signed by  
J. W. Pehle  
Original signed  
by J. W. Pehle*

*EST* HBTowler *BA* 7-22-44

000786

JUL 25 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

*Original kept by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EBP*

EBP *[initials]* 7-22-44

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JUL 25 1944

My dear Mr. Taylor:

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J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,  
Department of State.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT

EBTowler

7-22-44

100722

JUL 25 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EBT*

*EBT*  
EBTowler

7-22-44

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JUL 25 1944

Dear Abe:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 10 to July 15, 1944.

Sincerely,

*W. F. Powell*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original kept by  
Mr. Powell*

*EST*

WFTowler

*W*  
7-22-44

000790

JUL 25 1944

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
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Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Washington Liaison Branch,  
G-2, M.I.S.,  
Pentagon Building,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EAT*

*JW*  
EBTowler 7-22-44

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JUL 25 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of July 10 to 15, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT

EBT:

7/22/44

*JH*

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Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of July 10 - July 15, 1944

TEMPORARY REFUGEE HAVEN IN ALGERIA A POSSIBILITY

We have been advised by Ambassador Murphy in Algiers that a reply has now been received from French authorities accepting in principle the proposal that a refugee camp be established near Philippeville in Algeria. The French have suggested that a commission be set up, composed of representatives of the Inter-Allied General Staff and of the French Committee and eventually including a representative of the Yugoslav Government, to establish rules and regulations for the administration of such a refugee center and to coordinate Allied and French efforts.

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Because of the widespread concern over the plight of the Jews in Hungary, a summary of the known facts of the situation was prepared for Board members. This summary (copy of which is attached) also dealt with pleas and proposals for action received by the Board, and with our more significant activities with respect to the problem.

Hull Again Denounces Nazi Atrocities

In the course of his press and radio conference on July 14, Secretary Hull issued a new denunciation of the threatened extermination of 1,000,000 Jews in Hungary. In a prepared statement Secretary Hull declared:

"The number of victims of these fiendish crimes is great. The entire Jewish community in Hungary, which numbered nearly 1,000,000 souls, is threatened with extermination.

"The horror and indignation felt by the American people at these cold-blooded tortures and massacres has been voiced by the President, by the Congress and by hundreds of private organizations throughout the country. It is shared by all the civilized nations of the world.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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"This Government will not slacken its efforts to rescue as many of these unfortunate people as can be saved from persecution and death.

"The puppet Hungarian Government, by its violation of the most elementary human rights and by its servile adoption of the worst features of the Nazi 'racial policy' stands condemned before history.

"It may be futile to appeal to the humanity of the instigators or perpetrators of such outrages. Let them know that they cannot escape the inexorable punishment which will be meted out to them when the power of the evil men now in control of Hungary has been broken."

At the same time Secretary Hull pointed to the cold-blooded murder of the population of Distomo in Greece as "another shocking example of the reign of terror which the Nazis have introduced in Europe and which becomes more savage as they become more desperate."

#### Neutral Swedish Efforts Fail

Minister Johnson has relayed to us certain additional information made available to him in strictest confidence by official sources, concerning efforts made by the Swedish Government to aid persons in Hungary. It was reported that the Swedish Legation in Budapest, acting through a limited staff, attempted, in particular, to aid persons in Hungary having Swedish connections. According to Johnson's informant, the experience of the Swedish Legation in Budapest could not have been worse. Communication between the Legation and persons holding protective papers issued by the Legation became virtually impossible. Letters to such persons were returned as undeliverable. Only in rare instances could personal visits by the Legation's staff be undertaken, and these accomplished little. Letters and notes addressed to military officials or to the Hungarian Foreign Ministry by the Swedes were politely received, but replies were practically never forthcoming.

One example cited was the case of Jews holding Swedish passports. Hungarian authorities, instead of agreeing to leave such persons at liberty until they could be sent to Sweden, as was done in the case of other Swedish subjects, declared that after the first of July all alien Jews were to be interned. Oral inquiries addressed to the Foreign Ministry elicited only vague replies.

Vague replies were likewise received in connection with inquiries concerning the possibility of interning such persons in special camps to be maintained and administered by Sweden.

One member of the Swedish Legation in Budapest reported having been told in greatest confidence by a German officer of the latter's repugnance to the unnatural cruelty involved in the Hungarian deportations, to part of which he has been an eyewitness. It was said that when certain sealed box cars carrying Hungarian Jews were opened at the frontier so that their passengers could be transferred to other cars for onward transportation, it was found that the Hungarian cars "contained a great many corpses among which were squeezed humans, white-haired, emaciated and desperate."

Pope Pius Appeals to Hungarian Regent

We have been advised by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington that on June 25th an open telegram was addressed to Hungarian Regent Horthy by Pope Pius, voicing a personal appeal to the Regent to do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of persons being persecuted in Hungary because of their race or nationality. In response to this telegram, the Regent is said to have given assurance that he would do everything in his power to cause the demands of humanitarian and Christian principles to prevail.

The Apostolic Delegate urged that no publicity be given to the matter for fear that untimely publication might prove a detriment to the stated intentions of the Regent. The letter further indicated that the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest, acting upon instructions from the Holy See, has been active for some time in behalf of non-Aryan Hungarians and is seeking to aid and protect them in every way. The Apostolic Delegate concluded with the assurance that "the Holy Father personally, the Holy See and its Representatives throughout Europe will continue to take every possible measure to lessen and to impede the persecution of the Jewish people."

Publicity Sought for Spellman Statement in Turkey

Ambassador Steinhardt has indicated that appropriate efforts are being made to obtain publicity in the Turkish press and through Turkish radio stations for the statement recently issued by Archbishop Spellman, appealing to Hungarians to desist from their persecutions of the Jews.



Publication of Statement in Portugal Banned

According to a report from Minister Norweb, the publication and broadcasting of Archbishop Spellman's statement in Portugal has been stopped by the censor there. It was indicated, however, that indirect Hungarian approaches were successfully made.

Report from Bern

Board Representative McClelland has advised us that through his efforts the text of the Spellman statement was made available to the clandestine press and to church groups in Hungary. It was also carried in all important Swiss papers. McClelland indicated that, at the request of the head of the Catholic Church in Switzerland, the statement was read throughout the country from Catholic pulpits.

Minister Harrison meanwhile communicated to the Swiss Government the text of the resolution passed by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, appealing to Hungarians to alleviate the sufferings of persecuted peoples there. The Swiss press published the resolution widely and a copy for possible transmission to Hungary was furnished a leading Hungarian.

Harrison also reported the receipt of a note from the Swiss Foreign Office indicating that our note protesting the Hungarian persecutions, which the Swiss agreed some time ago to transmit, was actually delivered to the Hungarian Foreign Office on June 27th.

Swedish News Comment Favorable

Minister Johnson has indicated that the Swedish King's personal appeal to Hungarian Regent Horthy with respect to modifying the treatment of Hungarian Jews has been widely heralded in Swedish newspapers. One newspaper is said to have stated that "all neutrality ceases to exist" in the face of such deliberate and cold-blooded crimes against a defenseless people. Another stated that the terrible fate suffered by millions of Jews under the Nazi regime "will shake the world to its very foundation perhaps more than anything else when the full truth of what actually happened some day becomes known." No more crying injustice has ever been committed, it added, than this annihilation of innocent people on racial and religious grounds.

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London Editorial Reported

According to word received from Ambassador Winant, news of the King of Sweden's Hungarian appeal was carried throughout the British press. An editorial in the Manchester Guardian pointed out that there have been admissions from the Nazis that their persecution of Jews in Hungary has not been popular, and called for a stern warning by Britain, the United States, and Russia of what will happen to the persecutors when hostilities cease. "We have the means, through leaflets dropped by our bombers, of reaching the Hungarian people," the editorial concluded. "Why delay?"

Eden Makes Statement

In another communication from London, Winant advised the Board of a statement made by Anthony Eden in the House of Commons about the deportation of Jews from Hungary. The Foreign Minister stated that there are unfortunately no signs that the repeated declarations made by the British and by other United Nations of their intention to punish the instigators of Jewish persecutions have moved the German Government or their Hungarian accomplices to allow for the departure of even a small proportion of their victims or to abate their persecution. The principal hope of terminating this tragic state of affairs, he said, must remain the speedy victory of the Allied Nations.

In response to a question as to whether or not a further appeal could be made to the Hungarian Government, Mr. Eden indicated that facilities of the British Broadcasting Company would be used to bring home to the Hungarian regime the feelings of the British Nation.

Satellite Rescue Program Proposed

It has been suggested to us by various sources that the issuance to Hungarian Jews, particularly children and families with children, of Palestine certificates and American and neutral visas in quantity might have the effect of delaying deportations and actually saving many lives. Accordingly, we are considering the practicability of such a program in terms of the balance of Palestine certificates available, 5,000 U. S. visitors visas, additional U. S. immigration visas to persons entitled to non-quota or preference status and to persons to whom U. S. immigration visas now expired were issued after July 1, 1941, along with a comparable number of visas of the other American republics, British dominions, and neutrals.

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In cables to our representatives in Stockholm and Bern we are indicating that, before taking up the proposed program with the State Department, we would appreciate receiving from them as soon as possible their views and recommendations with respect to the suggested program. The informal views of informed persons in the Swedish and Swiss Foreign Offices are also to be solicited, if such discussions appear to be appropriate.

Meanwhile, as an experiment to determine whether the availability of American visas will facilitate the departure from enemy-occupied areas of members of persecuted groups, we have arranged for U. S. consular officers in Turkey to issue visas to four children and two adults now in Rumania upon their application for such visas following their arrival in Turkey.

We are asking that Harrison and McClelland request appropriate Swiss officials to approach Rumanian and Bulgarian authorities on behalf of the United States, with the request that Rumanian exit permits and Bulgarian transit visas be issued to this group. In support of this request, the Swiss would advise both the Rumanians and the Bulgarians that the issuance of U. S. visas to the four children has been authorized upon their arrival in Turkey and that the Polish Government has issued immigration certificates to the two adults acting as their guardians.

We are also asking our Embassy in Ankara to request appropriate Turkish officials to arrange for the issuance of Turkish transit visas to the group if such visas have not already been issued.

#### FUNDS FOR FEEDING PROJECT LICENSED

The Treasury, upon our recommendation, has authorized the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to transmit an additional \$100,000 to its representative in Istanbul for the continuation of its feeding program from Turkey. The foodstuffs are distributed by the International Red Cross to refugees in Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

Immediately upon his return to Turkey, Board Representative Hirschmann began an inquiry into the virtual cessation of refugee traffic from Constanza to Istanbul during May and June. Hirschmann learned that after the "Maritza" went down as a result of a gale in the Black Sea - after disembarking a third load of refugees - Bulgarian authorities, fearing

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a loss of additional small ships, withdrew permission releasing ships for refugee purposes. Efforts were then made to obtain the use of certain small Turkish ships engaged in transporting merchandise from Istanbul to Varna, Bulgaria.

Hirschmann reported that the Jewish Agency has now arranged for four Turkish and one Greek ship to transport refugees on their return voyage from Constanza to Istanbul. The ships ready for sailing at Constanza were said to be the "Kazbek," the "Mafkura," the "Silbil," the "Marina," and the Greek "Myrna." It was indicated that these vessels could transport, respectively, approximately 450, 150, 360, 350, and 1200 passengers.

"Kazbek" Reaches Istanbul Safely

We were subsequently advised of the arrival of the "Kazbek" in Istanbul on July 9. Among the 759 refugees from Rumania were 265 children, most of whom came originally from Transnistria, 187 young agricultural students, and 65 refugees of other nationalities, mostly Hungarians and Poles.

In response to a request made by a representative of our Embassy there, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged with the Turkish State Railways to have a special train made available for the entire contingent, and on the day following their arrival, the refugees left Istanbul for Palestine via Syria. Hirschmann indicated that the British passport control in Istanbul was most cooperative in completing the issuance of the necessary visas for Palestine without delay.

With this successful completion of the voyage of the "Kazbek," there is reason to believe that repeated operations of this character, by small boats operating without safe-conduct, will be possible.

Since the operation of evacuation ships without safe-conduct appears to be the only means of rescuing appreciable numbers of refugees in the Balkan area, we have formally indicated to the organizations concerned our willingness to share the moral responsibility involved. At the same time we have asked Hirschmann to advise the Soviet Government, through its Ambassador at Ankara, of the contemplated operations. Although a Russian safe-conduct would not appear to be necessary since the evacuation vessels are not enemy ships, we have authorized Hirschmann to get in touch with Ambassador Harriman in Moscow directly, in the event that he considers a formal Russian safe-conduct desirable.

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Hirschmann was unable to forward to us any reliable estimate as to the number of refugees in Constanza, since the number is said to vary greatly from day to day. Hirschmann's report repeated information previously reaching us to the effect that the Rumanian Government had established a committee for emigration, but suggested that the formation of this committee had actually interrupted arrangements already made for securing exit permits for persons desiring to leave Rumania. The Rumanians were reported to have decided to permit children and adults over 45 to leave the country, and this plan was said to have been accepted by the Germans.

#### "Bardaland" Safe-Conduct

According to a cable from Minister Johnson, the Swedish Foreign Office has stated that there is definitely no possibility of reopening with the Germans the matter of safe-conduct for the "Bardaland" on the basis of assurances that the refugees evacuated would not be taken to Palestine.

#### Rumanian Government Proposes Sale of Two Vessels

Another communication from Minister Johnson stated that the Director of Service Maritime Roumaine (a government enterprise), during a recent visit to Stockholm, had indicated that the Rumanian Government is extremely anxious to sell two of its vessels, the "S.S. Transylvania" and the "S.S. Besarabia," currently tied up at Istanbul. These are said to be virtually new combined passenger and cargo vessels, each with sleeping accommodations for 650 persons, in first-class condition, and available for immediate use. It was asserted that on short trips these vessels could accommodate over 2,000 persons each.

A preliminary figure of 12,000,000 kronor was mentioned for both vessels. The original cost of each was said to have been 12,000,000 kronor, and a current valuation of 35,000,000 kronor was cited for the two vessels. It was suggested by the Rumanian official that the vessels might be purchased for refugee evacuation from Constanza. In the event the boats are purchased by the International Red Cross or the Swedish Red Cross, it was asserted that the Rumanians would guarantee safe-conduct and would also guarantee, as a condition of sale, the obtaining of German safe-conduct for the vessels. It was further proposed that the purchase price of the vessels be deposited in Sweden with a guarantee that the funds be available for the purchase of goods for delivery in Rumania after the war. These goods would be held blocked in Sweden in the name of the group or organization purchasing or chartering the vessels.

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We have cabled Hirschmann in Ankara for his reaction to this proposal.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SPAIN

According to a communication from Ambassador Hayes, James Mann has spent several days in Spain talking with interested persons in Madrid and Barcelona concerning refugee problems. Mann reopened with Hayes the question of our sending a representative to Spain who would serve as an attache of the Embassy. Hayes stated that, while he is not yet convinced that there is work in the refugee field in Spain that is not already being done by the Blickenstaff organization, he would agree to our sending James Saxon to Spain for a period of not more than two months, to make a thorough study of refugee matters, with the understanding that Saxon would remain as an attache only if Hayes is then convinced of the need for such a representative.

Evacuations to Camp Lyautey

Mann has indicated that in his talks with Blickenstaff, there was emphasized the importance of evacuating from Spain stateless refugees holding North African entry visas to Camp Lyautey, particularly in view of the delays to date in arranging such evacuations. It was said that French convoys are calling regularly at Spanish ports to evacuate French refugees to North Africa in groups of 500 to 500 per trip. Mann indicated that if a commitment could be obtained for the French to take some 25 to 50 stateless persons in each convoy, our position there would be greatly improved. The Blickenstaff organization, it was stated, can deliver the refugees at the proper ports with the necessary documents, and the French would only have to furnish space in vessels.

We are asking Hirschmann and Saxon in Algiers to do their utmost to obtain such a commitment from the French.

Evacuation of Spanish Refugees from Portugal to Mexico

In connection with Minister Norweb and Board Representative Dexter's recent report concerning the absence of instructions to the Mexican Legation in Lisbon with respect to the 500 residence visas which Mexico is to grant for Spanish refugees now in hiding in Portugal, we have now learned that the newly appointed Mexican Minister to Portugal has been given full authority to grant the visas involved to persons approved by him.

We are asking that Norweb and Dexter confirm this understanding as soon as possible after the new Minister reaches Lisbon, and that they make no comment about it until such confirmation has been obtained.

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EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH PORTUGAL

James Mann has advised us that as a result of his special mission to Lisbon, an agreement has now been reached settling the fundamental differences in connection with the rescue and relief activities of certain private organizations in that area. Mann indicated that a detailed report on the matter would be made immediately upon his return to Washington.

Prominent Hungarian Jews Escape

According to a cable from Minister Norweb, during the last week in June a group of 32 Hungarian Jews arrived in Lisbon, including a number of prominent capitalists and industrialists. The group is said to have come from Berlin via Lufthansa planes; passports are said to have been given them only after they reached Barcelona. Spanish and Portuguese visas, the latter issued at Berlin, are said to have been affixed to these passports. Norweb indicated that Portuguese authorities are requiring the entire group to proceed to a place called Curis for enforced residence.

Norweb stated that all kinds of rumors are current and that a great deal of mystery surrounds the presence of the group in Portugal. Some of the rumors suggest that the Germans allowed this group of prominent Jews to leave in order to arrange peace terms through influential Jewish leaders in Great Britain and the United States, while other rumors suggest that this Government is involved by virtue of the unfreezing of certain monies belonging to the group. With respect to such rumors, Norweb indicated that they may be intended to create suspicion and foster misunderstanding in Moscow in an effort to create a schism between Russia and other Allied Nations.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

Minister Harrison has reported to us that on July 10 a joint British-American approach was made to the International Red Cross, asking that Intercross communicate to the German Government the fact of the Swedish Government's willingness to accept Jewish children from any part of German-controlled Europe, along with an unspecified number of children from Norway and other occupied countries. Harrison indicated that a reply had been promised in the near future.

Relief Requested for Yugoslav Refugees

Board Representative McClelland has advised us that at the present time there are about 1250 civilian Yugoslav refugees in Switzerland, in addition to approximately 1900 military internees. McClelland suggested that if the United Yugoslav Relief Fund could send funds to three relief

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organizations in Switzerland now attempting to care for these people with limited funds, they could be used to good advantage, particularly for the relief of children and students. The Swiss Government, it was said, would have no objection to the sending of such funds. We are presently working with the United Yugoslav Relief Fund on the development of this program.

Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France to Switzerland

The State Department has now extended to July 1945 provisions concerning the issuance of U. S. immigration visas to child refugees escaping from enemy territory.

According to another communication from Minister Harrison, Swiss Minister Stucki has repeatedly requested Laval and other Vichy authorities to permit the departure of child refugees from France. Harrison indicated that Stucki had promised that he would continue to press for an affirmative reply upon his return to Vichy.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN

In response to our request for information as to the former nationalities of the stateless refugees for whose support Board Representative Olsen has suggested that funds be furnished by American organizations, we have been advised that most of the persons concerned are of German and Austrian origin, although several other European countries are represented. An estimated 75 percent of the stateless refugees in Sweden are said to be Jewish. Olsen indicated that the only group assisting these refugees which regularly receives funds from the United States is the Mosaic community, which is said to be receiving \$1,000 monthly from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The assistance of the Mosaic community, along with aid furnished by several other Swedish organizations, has been sufficient to provide only minimum living requirements. As a result, Olsen stated, stateless refugees in Sweden are living under circumstances considerably more difficult than are other refugee groups there having legations responsible for them. We have discussed this matter with the JDC which cabled the Mosaic community for a detailed estimate of needs with a view to arranging for additional funds for these refugees.

Relief Requested for Polish Refugees in Sweden

According to another cable from Stockholm, Johnson and Olsen have had several discussions with the Polish Minister in Stockholm concerning the difficulties encountered in providing suitable assistance to some 500 Polish refugees

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there. Due to their limited vocational training, most of the employables have found work only on road construction or in the forests at very low wages. Consequently their incomes must be supplemented to provide them with even minimum living standards. Financial support from the Polish Government-in-Exile in London and from Swedish charitable organizations is so limited that approximately half of the funds required must be borrowed locally, with the hope that the Government-in-Exile will assume the obligations incurred.

It was stated that, with the help of certain Norwegian organizations, additional Polish refugees are reaching Sweden from Norway every week. According to the Polish Legation, there are approximately 6,000 Poles in Norway as compulsory workers or prisoners of war. It was stated that fairly large numbers of these persons could be brought to Sweden if funds were available to finance their evacuation and for their maintenance after arrival.

Approximately 300 Polish refugees now in Finland are also thought to be in immediate danger, and could presumably be evacuated to Sweden.

Johnson and Olsen suggested that we may wish to investigate whether an organization can be found which is in a position to contribute \$15,000 monthly over the next few months to a general program of assisting Polish refugees there and to further the rescue of additional Poles from neighboring territory under German control. The Board has discussed this with the Polish Relief Fund and the President's War Relief Control Board and it is expected that the requisite funds will be arranged for in the near future.

#### Evacuation of Refugees from Finland to Sweden

According to word received from Stockholm, it was planned to evacuate to Sweden a large number of the central European refugees in Finland by means of the "S. S. Birger Jarl," along with the previously scheduled evacuation of U. S. nationals. Advance arrangements for appropriate living quarters for these refugees were undertaken by Olsen through the Swedish Red Cross and local Jewish organizations.

Among the persons who left Finland on the "Birger Jarl" was Charge d'Affaires Gullion, who had attempted to complete plans for Jewish evacuations before his departure. Gullion cabled upon his arrival in Stockholm that only one Jewish

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refugee had appeared for transportation to Sweden before the vessel's departure, despite the prediction on the part of one member of the Finnish-Jewish community that a substantial number of refugees would take advantage of the evacuation facilities offered. Gullion indicated that since the whole evacuation was a last-minute effort, it had undoubtedly been difficult for the individuals concerned to make final plans. To this explanation Olsen added the observation that the Jewish community of Stockholm has been extremely apathetic about initiating steps to evacuate to Stockholm any further Jewish refugees, particularly stateless ones, beyond the 106 who arrived in May. It was thought that this attitude on the part of the local community may have discouraged the Helsinki group.

Olsen subsequently indicated that strong discussions were held with representatives of the Swedish and Finnish Mosaic communities because of their failure to follow through on the evacuation opportunity presented by the "Birger Jarl." At the same time it was indicated that the evacuation of stateless Jews from Finland is nevertheless proceeding by means of other vessels, and that in a week or so approximately 50 such refugees will have arrived in Sweden.

Olsen stated that there are approximately 300 aged or ill Finnish Jews who probably could get permission to go to Sweden on the basis of an invitation from the Swedish Mosaic community, including offers of homes and full medical care. Such an unofficial approach on friendly and humanitarian grounds was believed to be the only successful basis of securing Finnish permission for such evacuations, since any official approaches would imply that Finnish Jews are in jeopardy and would consequently be resented.

Aside from a few Jewish children of Finnish nationality who might get permission to go to Sweden, some of them with their mothers, it was thought that steps to evacuate to Sweden any of the remaining 1800 Jews in Finland would be quite impossible at this time.

It was urged that if the proposed evacuations are approved in principle by the Board, we indicate immediately whether guarantees of maintenance and support in Sweden can be supplied for the refugees involved.

#### Maintenance by Private Organizations

Since it is highly desirable from the Board's standpoint that as many refugees as possible be maintained by private sources, efforts have been made to obtain guarantees of such support for the refugees being evacuated from Finland to Sweden.

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As a result of our efforts in this direction, we were able to advise Olsen that the JDC, which partially supports a Swedish organization known as Mosaika Foersamlingen, wishes the latter organization to assume responsibility for the expenses involved in evacuating and maintaining Jewish refugees from Finland. Estimates are being requested of the Swedish organization as to the probable number of such refugees, the cost of their transportation from Finland to Sweden, and the amount needed for their maintenance in Sweden for the next three months.

CONDITION OF JEWS IN GREECE

A detailed report on the German persecution of Jews in Greece during the years 1941-44, prepared by a Jewish tobacco merchant who escaped from Greece to Turkey late in April of this year, has been forwarded to us from Istanbul. This report corroborates various dispatches previously received concerning persecutions in Greece.

BRITISH EXCHANGE PROJECT

We have been advised by Board Representative Hirschmann that early in July 283 Jewish refugees arrived in Istanbul from Camp Bergen-Belsen near Hannover, Germany, and 61 from Camp Vittel in France. This group proceeded immediately to Palestine under the supervision of the Turkish Red Crescent. These refugees represented completion of the third German-British exchange of this character to date, through which Jews holding Palestine certificates have been exchanged for German nationals from Egypt, South Africa, and Palestine.

In this connection it was pointed out that there remain in German areas 3,000 to 4,000 persons holding Palestine certificates, but the British have stated that they have no additional Germans available as exchange material. A precedent seems to have been firmly established, however, which may be significant in connection with our own proposed exchange involving holders of America and Latin American passports against German nationals in the western hemisphere.

RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

According to a cable from Madrid, our Embassy there was informed by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that, in response to our request, the Spanish Embassies in Berlin and Vichy were instructed to endeavor to obtain the return to Vittel of the persons said to have been transferred from there to unknown destinations. No positive results, however, have thus far been reported.

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A high official of the Spanish Ministry also stated that all Spanish diplomatic and consular representatives in areas under German occupation or control, including Hungary, have been instructed to render all possible assistance to Jews and other persons in imminent danger of death or persecution regardless of nationality. These efforts, it was asserted, have been responsible for the saving of many lives. One instance cited was the case of some 500 Sephardic Jews who were said to have been allowed to leave German concentration camps, from which they were to have been deported to Poland, and proceed to Spain on the strength of documentation provided by Spanish diplomatic and consular representatives. The majority of these persons, it was said, have now been transferred to Camp Lyautey, and the Spanish Government is reportedly again negotiating with the German Government for the release of an additional 160 Sephardics, along with a group of approximately 50 Jewish rabbis and their families. The Spanish Government is also said to be cooperating with representatives of Jewish organizations in Tangier in an effort to bring 500 Jewish children out of Hungary to a temporary haven in Spanish Morocco.

It was added that our Embassy has constantly endeavored to keep the Spanish Government fully informed as to the attitude of this Government, and that the Spanish Government itself appears to be seriously concerned over the inhuman persecution of innocent persons and inclined to cooperate in their rescue.

Further Instructions Sent to Hayes

We have now cabled to Ambassador Hayes in Madrid a detailed report on steps taken by Bolivia and Paraguay in response to our representations. These two republics have now directed Spain, as their protecting power, to take steps for the protection of Jews and other persecuted individuals in German-controlled territory holding Bolivian or Paraguayan passports. We have asked Hayes to approach Spanish officials-- and, if he considers it advisable, the Bolivian and Paraguayan Legations as well -- and represent as strongly as possible the interest which this Government has in speedy and continuing action being taken by the Spanish Government along lines previously suggested.

In view of the situation in Hungary we have asked that special efforts be devoted to obtaining German and Hungarian assurances concerning the protection and eligibility for exchange of persons in Hungary holding documents issued in the name of any American republic.

Hayes has also been asked to convey to appropriate

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German and satellite officials, through any unofficial channels that may be available, the fact that any officials responsible for ignoring the rights to which holders of documents issued in the name of any American republic are entitled must expect personally to bear the consequences. Hayes was asked to stress that their failure to seize every available opportunity to save lives will be considered as strong evidence of their concurrence in the policy of mass-slaughters of Jews and other civilian populations and of their participation in such crimes.

A somewhat similar cable is being sent to Harrison and McClelland in Bern. Since it is not clear from recent reports to what extent this Government's attitude regarding the status and treatment of persons claiming American and Latin American nationality has been noted by Swiss authorities and conveyed to the German Government, we are asking that representations to the Swiss Government be continued in the strongest possible terms. We are objecting, in particular, to the report relayed by the Swiss Foreign Office to the effect that Germany is still undertaking to pass on the merits of individual claims and to the apparent lack of any Swiss protest on this matter. We are reiterating our position that only the government in whose name the document has been issued, and not Germany, may deny its validity, and that unless and until such government expressly and specifically denies the validity of a document issued in its name, Germany must accord the person to whom such a document was issued the treatment, rights, immunities, and privileges to which nationals of the countries involved are entitled.

We are also indicating that we cannot accept the distinction which the Germans have attempted to draw between the issues of such documents who are now in internment camps and those issues who are elsewhere. We are indicating that we therefore insist upon the return by the Germans to internment camps reserved for nationals of American republics of all persons to whom such documents have been issued but who have been removed from such camps for consignment to the "general treatment accorded to eastern Jews."

We are indicating to Harrison and McClelland that further efforts are being made to induce still other governments protected by Switzerland or Spain to request suitable action in Bern or Madrid. Without awaiting the outcome of such requests, however, Harrison and McClelland are to continue their efforts to obtain results on the basis of this Government's attitude and the attitude of such Latin American governments as have already communicated with Switzerland and Spain.

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Ecuadoran Action Requested

In a communication to our Embassy in Ecuador the State Department has asked that efforts be made to obtain instructions from Ecuadoran authorities to their legations in Portugal and elsewhere, countermmanding previous instructions allegedly cancelling all passports delivered by the Ecuadoran Consulate in Stockholm.

Report from El Salvador

We have now been advised by our Embassy in El Salvador of the exact nature of the modification made by the present Salvadoran Foreign Minister in a recent note to the Spanish Minister to El Salvador. Our Embassy tried unsuccessfully to have the present Foreign Minister send a note identical with that of his predecessor, which had requested that the Spanish Minister take steps to safeguard the lives "of all those persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who claim to hold Salvadoran citizenship." The modification made in the note delivered on May 20, one month after presentation of the original note, consists of a change from the words "persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who claim to hold Salvadoran citizenship" to "persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who prove that they possess Salvadoran citizenship."

The Spanish Minister has confidentially indicated that he did not bother to transmit the second request because of its similarity to the first. The Swiss Government is therefore undoubtedly still working under the more liberal terms of the first request.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

In a message to Sir Herbert Emerson we have indicated our earnest hope, particularly in view of the urgency of the present situation in the Balkans, that it will be possible to start at once the credit scheme to which this Government has agreed, with the Intergovernmental Committee using the JDC as its agent in the several countries where the need is desperate.

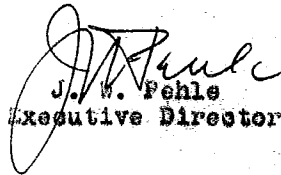
We have indicated to Sir Herbert that the JDC now has the opportunity to spend at least an additional \$4,000,000 on productive rescue operations in the Balkans. We have also indicated to him the general conviction on the part of all responsible agencies in the near East that substantial numbers of people may now be saved. For these reasons we have urged that the IGC agree to underwrite certain credit operations already organized, as it is being asked to do,

100209

so as to enable the JDC to proceed immediately with new rescue operations.

COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL

According to a communication from our Embassy in Brazil, despite various urgent representations to the Brazilian Foreign Office, President Vargas, to whom the matter was referred, has thus far shown little inclination to open the doors of Brazil to any immigration in the near future. A Foreign Office spokesman indicated that he was not particularly hopeful that Brazil would follow our war refugee policy, despite the urgency of our representations and in spite of the evident plight of the persons involved.

  
J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

000210

JUL 15 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS  
OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

In view of the understandably widespread concern with the plight of the Jews in Hungary, I feel it appropriate to inform you of the known facts of the situation and the steps we have taken in our efforts to meet it.

Ever since the occupation of Hungary by the Germans and the establishment of a puppet government there we have been urgently concerned with the situation of the Jews in that country. Some indication of the unspeakably tragic plight of these people is furnished by the Board's representatives in Sweden and Switzerland in recent cables, copies of several of which are attached.

From many sources we have received heart-breaking pleas and proposals for action. Each of these proposals has been carefully weighed and, where practicable, immediately acted upon. The attached memorandum summarizes our more significant activities with respect to this problem.

In spite of all our concern and our activities there has been no noticeable lessening in the program of persecution and extermination of Jews in Hungary.

We shall, of course, continue to push forward in all our efforts.

(Signed) John W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Attachments.

000211



SUMMARY OF STEPS TAKEN BY WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WITH RESPECT TO THE JEWS OF HUNGARY

Immediately upon the German occupation of Hungary with its indication of increased brutality to Jews and other minorities in that country, the programs of the War Refugee Board were geared to the urgency of the situation and our efforts have been unstinting to forestall deportations and executions and to rescue as many as possible of these victims. Every suggestion, from private as well as public sources, has been carefully analyzed and studied by the Board and every possible project to save these people has been vigorously pursued. The full power of the Board has been utilized with respect to the Hungarian situation in the effort to carry out this Government's determined policy to save these Nazi-oppressed peoples.

Our first step was an attempt to get the facts of the situation and urgent cables were immediately despatched to our missions in the neutral countries as well as to the Vatican requesting detailed information on the treatment of Jews in Hungary.

Efforts to Increase Protection to Jews of Hungary

With the receipt of reports that the Germans with the eager assistance of the puppet Hungarian Government were pursuing a program similar to those already undertaken in Poland and elsewhere, we commenced a series of measures designed to obtain some measure of protection for these people in Hungary. We instructed our representatives in the neutral countries to request the Governments to which they are accredited to increase to the largest possible extent the number of their diplomatic and consular personnel in Hungary in the hope that such representatives would use all means available to persuade individuals and officials in Hungary to desist in the persecution of Jews. Turkey, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland did not respond favorably to this appeal. Sweden, in view of the humanitarian considerations, agreed wholeheartedly and immediately arranged for extra diplomatic personnel in Hungary.

000012

The International Red Cross was also urged to increase its representation in Hungary in order to protect the well-being of the groups in that country facing persecution. While the reaction to this request was unfavorable at first, upon our repeated urging the International Red Cross now appears to be attempting to arrange for additional personnel in Hungary and they are cooperating with our representative in Switzerland in his efforts to help the Jews of Hungary.

At the urgent request of the Board, a cable was sent to the Vatican in the name of the Government of the United States calling the attention of the Holy See to the reports of persecution in Hungary and calling upon the Pope to express himself on the subject to the authorities and people of Hungary personally by radio and through the clergy in Hungary. The cable also urged that His Holiness might find it possible to remind the people of Hungary of the spiritual consequences of the acts being perpetrated in Hungary and that the Vatican send extra representation into Hungary. The Apostolic Delegate has just advised us that on June 25th the Pope addressed a personal appeal to Regent Horthy to do everything possible in favor of these unfortunate persons suffering because of their race or nationality. Horthy responded that he would do everything in his power to cause the demands of humanitarian and Christian principles to prevail. In addition, the Apostolic Delegate advises that the Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest has been carrying on intense activity in behalf of the non-Aryan Hungarians and in every way is seeking to aid and protect them.

At the urgent request of the Board, Minister Harrison was asked to request the Swiss Government to address an inquiry in the name of the United States Government to the appropriate Hungarian authorities asking them to state their intentions with respect to the future treatment to be accorded Jews and to remind such authorities of the grave view this Government takes concerning the persecution of Jews and other minorities. The note containing this message was delivered to the Hungarian Foreign Office by the Swiss on June 27th.

000213

Intensification of Psychological Warfare Program

In cooperation with OWI, arrangements have been made to beam messages continually to Hungary warning her people and officials to desist in persecuting the Jews and informing them of our determination to punish the perpetrators of such cruelties. OWI coverage has been very widespread from overseas as well as from the United States. The British and Russian Governments were immediately urged to cooperate in this psychological program by increased broadcasts to the Satellites.

The President's statement of March 24th on Nazi atrocities was repeatedly used in broadcasts from this country. Through our efforts the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee signed a strong statement condemning the brutal treatment of Jews in Hungary and the House Foreign Affairs Committee followed suit by unanimously approving a resolution condemning the German persecution of minorities and, in particular, the barbarous acts being pursued in Hungary. These two statements have been used over and over again in OWI programs to occupied Europe. Through War Refugee Board representatives abroad the texts of these statements were made available to the press and radio of neutral countries. A statement decrying the Nazi atrocities signed by Governor Alfred E. Smith and 70 other prominent American Christians has been given similar coverage throughout the world.

Recently, at our request, Archbishop Spellman of New York, in an unprecedented move, issued a stirring spiritual appeal to the people of Hungary to desist in submitting to the lust and tyranny of the Nazi extermination program. This statement has been hailed by people all over the world and has been radioed repeatedly to Hungary and the other satellite countries from the United States and the neutral countries. Pamphlets containing the Archbishop's statement and the other statements mentioned above have been dropped by planes over Hungary in an attempt to reach as many people as possible.

000214

#### Operations from Sweden

The Swedish Foreign Office has cooperated closely with our representative and has made available to him various official reports received from Swedish diplomatic personnel in Hungary. In addition, the Swedish Foreign Office has arranged to send Mr. Wallenberg, a prominent Swedish business man, to Budapest as attache in refugee matters with the express purpose of saving as many lives as possible. The Swedish Foreign Office has gone so far as to indicate that Wallenberg would be available for any work the War Refugee Board might wish to assign to him. We have, of course, cabled that, while Wallenberg could not act as the Board's representative nor in its name, he is free to communicate with our representative in Stockholm and to lay before him any specific proposals to aid the Jews of Hungary. Our representative has been instructed to lend every assistance possible to this mission.

In the hope that rescue operations might be increased and developed from Sweden, we have sent a detailed program to Olsen suggesting the names of persons in Hungary who might be helpful in arranging rescues and we have indicated various escape routes which might be available from Hungary. We have arranged for private funds to be sent to Olsen to be used expressly for rescue operations from Hungary and we have indicated our willingness and eagerness to discuss any suggestion or program designed to help the persecuted people of Hungary.

#### Operations from Switzerland

Board representative, McClelland, has received instructions similar to those sent to Olsen and he has been requested to coordinate the activities of American organizations in Switzerland in an effort to ensure the most effective rescue operations for Hungarian Jews. Names of individuals in Hungary who may be of assistance and possible escape routes have been sent to him. In response to McClelland's urgent request for funds to finance the rescue of Nazi victims from Hungary, the Board arranged for remittances of \$1,125,000 of private

000815

funds, to Switzerland. Through a special appeal to the Swiss Minister, arrangements were made for the Swiss authorities to make the necessary Swiss francs available for these activities. McClelland has reported to the Board that numerous operations are now under way and that all reports and appeals from the Jews of Hungary are given careful consideration in an attempt to leave no stone unturned.

Attempts to Increase Flow of Refugees from the Balkans Through Yugoslavia and Turkey

With the tragic turn of events in Hungary, the Board has intensified its efforts to develop a flow of refugees in two general directions. It has, in the first place, been devoting itself to opening channels through Yugoslavia and Italy. Funds have been sent in order to facilitate the rescue operations across the Adriatic and it is hoped that some refugees in Hungary will see through this avenue of escape. In the second place, the Board has been involved in developing plans for substantial rescue operations through Rumania and thence by sea to Turkey and Palestine. The latter plan has been the more productive. The Rumanian authorities have set up a new bureau to facilitate emigration and five small ships have been made available for rescue work from Constanza to Turkey. One of these ships has already landed in Turkey with 739 refugees including 239 orphan children. As a result of Ambassador Steinhardt's efforts, transportation across Turkey has been facilitated. The Board is making every effort to coordinate the activities of private agencies, to send increased remittances to Turkey, and to take every other possible step to maintain and increase this flow.

Military Operations

As the situation in Hungary has become increasingly desperate, the Board has received several proposals that certain military operations might take place with the possible purpose of forestalling or hindering German extermination operations. One of these was a suggestion that the railways leading from the points of deportation to the camps be bombed. This particular suggestion was discussed with Assistant Secretary of War McCloy. After careful consideration of the matter, the War Department ruled that the suggested air operation was impracticable.

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The Board has also received a variety of other suggestions in this category. It has been suggested that the concentration and extermination centers be bombed in order that in the resultant confusion some of the unfortunate people might be able to escape and hide. It has also been suggested that weapons be dropped by parachute simultaneously with such bombings. Finally, it has been proposed that some parachute troops be dropped to bring about disorganization and escape of the unfortunate people.

Arrangements are under way for the examination of these proposals by the competent military authorities.

Consideration of German-Inspired Proposals to Save the Jews of Hungary

Various large-scale and somewhat fantastic proposals are now being received through neutral countries suggesting certain concessions by the Allied governments in return for the Germans' ceasing to kill and deport the Jews of Hungary. Most, if not all, of these propositions are of dubious reliability. Nevertheless, the policy which we are following is to avoid the outright rejection of any one of these in the hope that some valid and acceptable proposal might be received.

000817

C O P Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 24, 1944  
NUMBER: 4041

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

Reference is made herewith to Legation's message dated June 17, No. 3867, paragraph three.

Now there is no doubt that the majority of the Jewish population east of the Danube especially in eastern, northern, and north eastern Hungary has been deported to Poland. Further reliable information confirming this fact has come in in the course of the past two weeks from the following independent sources: (a) Swiss official employee just returned from Budapest, (b) Railway workers in Czech resistance movement, (c) other reliable secret source regard information as to sources as absolutely confidential since any publicity regarding them would endanger lives.

Prior to the deportations, there were two weeks to a month of brutal concentration during which thousands of Jews were crowded together in primitive quarters with insufficient food, clothing and water, regardless of state of health, sex or age. The Hungarian gendarmerie on Laszlo Andre's orders largely carried out this action.

Apparently the actual large scale deportations began about May 15 and lasted until the middle of June. The movement involved 12,000 persons per day. About 7,000 through sub-Carpatho-Russia and 5,000 through Slovakia. Characteristic of such actions, people were deported 60 to 70 per sealed freight wagon for a trip of two to three days without adequate water or food probably resulting in many deaths en route.

Particularly used were the following stretches of railroad:

(1) Gamp-Kaschau-Prešov-Lubetin-Nowytsa in direction of Czawlesin; (2) Satoraljaiújfalv-Leginamich Wlany-

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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Michalovec-Medzilaborce. Also many thousand troops to and from the Polish front were transported daily over this line; (3) Munkacs-Lavoczne; (4) Galanta-Sered-Leopoldstadt-Novomesto-Trencin; (5) Vrusky-Zilina.

It is urged by all sources of this information in Slovakia and Hungary that vital sections of these lines especially bridges along ONE be bombed as the only possible means of slowing down or stopping future deportations. (This is submitted by me as a proposal of these agencies and I can venture no opinion on its utility).

At least 335,000 Jews already have been deported from the following regions according to figures received.

Approximately 130,000 in sub-Carpathia and Ruthenia mainly from the towns of Beregszacs, Felseviso, Husat, Nagyezollos, Maramarosajot, Munkacs, Tecar and Ungvar.

Approximately 90,000 in Transylvania from Bozatoree, Des, Koloszvar, Neres Vasarbely, Nagybanya, Nagyvarad, Saseregany and Szilagy, Somlyo.

In northern Lakaschau, Gyongyos, Sator Aljauhely and Sarospatak.

Approximately 75,000 in the Tisz region from: Kievarda, Matozalka, Nagykaroly, Myiregyhaza and, Szatmar Nemeti.

It is also reported by one source that deportations of approximately 20,000 have taken place from certain towns in southern Hungary such as Bacz (\*)ya, Baja, Nagykanizsa, Ujvidak and Szabadka and further exi(\*)tions also being made deport Jews from towns of Dunazzerdahely, Gyoeer, Komarom, Mlakele, Peca and Szombathely where persons are already concentrated.

Some 350,000 Jews have already been concentrated in Budapest and environs. This began around June 16 and on the 21st it was to be finished. In the city proper they have been settled in requisitioned blocks of houses in a chess board pattern so that they will not escape bombardment.

Some 15,000 Jews have been crowded into a ghetto in the factory zone along the Danube in Ujpest near Budapest.

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The principal individuals in the Horthy Government responsible for this persecution of Jews are as follows; Laszlo Enire, former subprefect of country of Pest now in Ministry of Interior; Laszlo Baky, also Interior and Andre Baroes, Minister of Interior.

In an effort to check such continued deportations Ternancezov (\*) from the United States, we recommend British and Soviet (\*) broadcasts and especially leaflets. If it is possible, the Vatican should be prevailed upon to associate itself with such protest.

There is little doubt that many of these Hungarian Jews are being sent to the extermination camps of Anaschitz (Oswiecim) and Birke Nau (Rajaka) in western upper Silesia where according to recent reports, since early summer 1942 at least 1,500,000 Jews have been killed. There is evidence that already in January 1944 preparations were being made to receive and exterminate Hungarian Jews in these camps. Soon a detailed report on these camps will be cabled.

HARRISON

(\*) apparent omissions

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
 TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATE: July 1, 1944  
 NUMBER: 2412 (SECTION ONE)

Boheman has advised me that information just received from Budapest concerning treatment of Jews is so terrible that it is hard to believe and that there are no words to qualify its description. He said that of the total number of Jews in Hungary originally not more than four hundred thousand remain now and these are mostly in Budapest. He also said that the others of whom there were well over six hundred thousand (this is a conservative estimate) have been either deported to Germany to uncertain destinations or killed. According to the evidence, these people are now being killed en masse by the Germans and large numbers are being taken to a place across the Hungarian frontier in Poland where there is an establishment at which gas is used for killing people. It is said by Boheman that these people of all ages, children, women and men, are transported to this isolated spot in box cars packed in like sardines and that upon arrival many are already dead. Those who have survived the trip are stripped naked, given a small square object which resembles a piece of soap and told that at the bath house they must bathe themselves. The "bath house" does in fact look like a big bathing establishment being a large building which has been built by the Germans. Into a large room with a total capacity of two thousand packed together closely the victims are pushed. No regard is given to sex or age and all are completely naked. When the atmosphere of the hall has been heated by this mass of bodies a fine powder is let down over the whole area by opening a contraption in the ceiling. When the heated atmosphere comes in contact with this powder a poisonous gas is formed which kills all occupants of the room. Trucks then take out the bodies, and burning follows. Jews in Hungary have been successful in getting an appeal through the King of Sweden and I am advised by Boheman that under the signature of the King a telegram has been sent through their Legation to Horthy appealing to him in Humanity's name to do what he can to stop this horrible massacre of a defenseless people and to save the lives of those who

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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are left. It is not known by Boheman whether an opportunity to see Horthy to deliver this message will be given to the Swedish Minister at Budapest. The message will be delivered to the Foreign Office if he is not permitted to see the Regent and it will be published here as soon as the government of Sweden has received confirmation of its delivery in any form.

JOHNSON

000222

COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: July 1, 1944  
NUMBER: 2412 (SECTION TWO)

The Hungarian Jews, in spite of all their difficulties, have collected money to the equivalent of 2,000,000 Swedish crowns to be used in aiding the Jews and this has been turned over to the Swedish Legation in Budapest. Wallenberg who is going to the Swedish Legation at Budapest as an attaché to handle refugee matters, was highly praised by Boheman who said that if our War Refugee Board could formulate some form of directive for him which the Foreign Office will be glad to transmit, it would be of great help to Wallenberg. There is no doubt in my mind as to the sincerity of Wallenberg's purpose because I have talked to him myself. I was told by Wallenberg that he wanted to be able to help effectively and to save lives and that he was not interested in going to Budapest merely to write reports to be sent to the Foreign Office. He himself is half Jewish, incidentally. I refer in this connection to my number 2360 dated June 28 (number 40 for the War Refugee Board) and to the suggested desirability of the formulation by WRB of some directives for Wallenberg at the earliest possible moment. My number 2271 dated June 23 is referred to also. Provided the source is not (repeat not) revealed there is no objection on the part of Boheman to any publicity use we may desire to make of that portion of the foregoing which deals with the treatment of Jews in Hungary.

I have been advised by Boheman that he is now having copies made of the last reports from Budapest to which reference has been made above and that as soon as they are ready he will turn them over to me. Copies will be forwarded by air pouch and a summary will be given by cable.

JOHNSON

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 13 1972**

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C O P Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: July 7, 1944  
NUMBER: 2511 (SECTION 1)

My number 2510 dated July 7 summarized the first part of report and second part is summarized in substance as follows. This is not suitable for publication since the contents would reveal the Swedish source of information.

SUMMARY: The Swedish Legation in Budapest, to the extent of its ability with the small staff available, has attempted first of all to aid persons who have Swedish connections and by telegraphing for increased authority, to create possibility for more effective intervention. The experience of the Swedish Legation in Budapest could not have been worse. Communication with the Swedish Legation by a majority of persons who were holding "protective papers issued by the Legation, was not possible later. As undeliverable, letters to them were returned sometimes. Of course only in a very few cases could personal visits by the Legation staff be undertaken and these proved to be ineffective or not feasible. Letters and notes addressed to military officials or to the Hungarian Foreign Ministry by the Swedes were often kindly received and replies promised but practically never forthcoming were these replies. Naturally the difficulty of the Swedish Legation in achieving any important success has been enhanced by the evident annoyance of the present regime at Sweden's breach of trade relations and there is in fact in Stockholm no normal Hungarian Legation. Therefore there has been no compliance with even the most reasonable demands. As an example, if at least those Jews who have been given Swedish passports could enjoy a status equal to that of the subjects of Sweden and were left at liberty until they could be sent to Sweden, it would not seem unreasonable. However the authorities of Hungary, instead of agreeing to this, have declared that after the first of July they would intern all alien Jews. To oral inquiries it has not been possible to obtain from the Foreign Ministry anything but vague replies.

JOHNSON

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000224

C O P Y

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: July 7, 1944  
NUMBER: 2511 (SECTION 2)

To oral inquiries regarding the internment of these persons in special camps under the care and protection of neutral Sweden, it has not been possible to obtain from the Foreign Ministry anything but vague replies.

Two fresh experiences will serve to illustrate the manner in which German and Hungarian officials place the blame on each other: Recently a member of the staff of the Legation was told in greatest confidence by a German officer who had been an eye witness of his repugnance to the unnatural cruelty with which the Hungarian deportations were connected. German Red Cross nurses were on hand to serve refreshments when the sealed box cars (the small vents in these cars had been closed) were opened at the frontier and for onward transportation passenger cars were ready but it was found that the Hungarian cars contained a great many corpses among which were squeezed humans, white haired, emaciated and desperate. During a conversation with a journalist close to the present regime it was suggested that if they wanted to get rid of the Jews in Hungary, instead of tormenting and exterminating them it would be more humane to let them use emigration permits when available. What the government of Hungary does with its subjects does not concern any outsider and all peoples have the natural right to retaliate, was the journalist's reply. That the two persons talking clearly did not understand each other, which indeed was the case, was the rejoinder when it was brought out that little children could not have been able to sin against the nation. THE SUMMARY ENDS HERE.

As soon as they can be copied four enclosures to the report given above are promised by the Foreign Ministry. Aforementioned enclosures relate to (1) Jewish Council of Budapest's report on deportations and arrests; (2) report by two Slovakian Jews who escaped from an Auschwitz annihilation camp; (3) summary of item (2); (4) report

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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by women who escaped from Auschwitz camp. When received these items will be summarized by cable and by despatch translations will be sent.

By pouch closing the 11th of July a full translation of the report, without enclosures, is being sent.

JOHNSON

000826

JUL 20 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3, to July 8, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed  
by Mr. Pehle*

EBP *JA* EBTowler:agr 7-14-44

000227



JUL 20 1944

My dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

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EBTowler:agr 7-14-44

000228

JUL 15 1944

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Washington Liaison Branch,  
G-2, M.I.S.,  
Pentagon Building,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EAT Jch* BBTowler:agr 7-14-44

000229

718  
THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

Rome, August 9, 1944.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I have received your report of July 15, forwarded  
by my secretary in Washington and have read it with much  
interest.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,



MYRON C. TAYLOR

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

000230

JUL 15 1944

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,  
Department of State.

Enclosure.

*Originals signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EAT JH* EBTowler:agr 7-14-44

000231

JUL 15 1944

Dear Abe:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Sincerely,

*H. John*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Originals  
Sgd. by Mrs. Peck*

*EST* *JH* EBTowler:agr 7-15-44

000232

JUL 15 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signature) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

*EAT* HBTowler:agr 7-14-44

000233

JUL 15 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT JH EBTowler:agr 7-14-44

100234

JUL 15 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of July 3 to July 8, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EMT *EMT* wler:agr 7-14-44

000235



JUL 15 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of July 3, to July 8, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EBT 74  
EBT:inp 7/15/44

000236

Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of July 3 - July 8, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Attorney General Francis Biddle has furnished for our information copies of an exchange of correspondence between his office and Senator Robert Reynolds. In a letter dated June 14 Senator Reynolds inquired "as to just what ground the President based his authority . . . permitting refugees or anyone else to enter this country outside of our quotas or in violation of our present immigration statutes."

In response, Attorney General Biddle pointed out that the 1,000 refugees to be brought to this country from Italy are not to be entered under the immigration laws and therefore do not obtain any rights to be at liberty in the United States or to remain here. A number of instances were cited to substantiate the propriety of temporarily detaining aliens in this country outside of the requirements of the immigration laws. The Attorney General's reply reiterated the fact that the particular group of persons involved are now a burden to our military forces in an active theatre of war and that military necessity requires some temporary disposition of them. It was also pointed out that as an emergency matter these persons might be permitted to enter the United States under the immigration laws by waivers of documents by the Secretary of State and, if necessary, by waiver of grounds of inadmissibility by the Attorney General. It was believed more desirable, however, the reply concluded, not to apply the immigration laws, which create various rights and privileges, but to deal with this group as with the prisoners of war and other Axis nationals who are admitted to this country temporarily and detained here outside, but not in violation of, the immigration laws.

Report from Italy

Board Representative Ackermann has reported having completed the tentative selection of 775 refugees to be evacuated to this country. It was indicated that the balance of the 1,000 persons who are to be brought here will come from the Rome area. Ackermann stated his intention of proceeding to Rome within a few days to complete the selection process already begun there, at our request, by the representative in Italy of the Intergovernmental Committee.

000237

COOPERATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN

Despite the statement of the British Foreign Office to the effect that it is in wholehearted agreement with the President that the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy must in no way be discouraged, recent action in London with respect to the confirmation of Leonard Ackermann's appointment as the Board's Special Representative in Italy indicates that other branches of the British Government are not fully conforming with this Foreign Office policy. While the Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre consented late in May to the appointment of such a representative, subject only to the condition that he be attached to Allied Control Commission headquarters, the British Joint Staff Mission, acting on instructions from London, subsequently proposed several objectionable additional conditions to the appointment.

In order to avoid further delays we are cabling Ambassador Winant in London that we have consented to Ackermann's appointment despite the conditions involved. We are asking, however, that Winant take this matter up with the appropriate British authorities in order that the conditions in question may be promptly rescinded. The British are to be advised that we strongly object to the condition that Ackermann's activities in Italy must not increase the flow of refugees to such an extent as to place any additional burden on the British military authorities.

While it is intended that Ackermann will cooperate to the fullest extent with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and with the representative in Italy of the Intergovernmental Committee we are indicating that we likewise object to having such cooperation made a condition to his appointment if it is intended to subject or subordinate him in this way to the authority of these agencies.

Objection is also to be raised to the proposal that Ackermann's activities be strictly confined to the investigation of possible means of rescue and relief, since this limitation might well make it impossible for Ackermann to take action not inconsistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but necessary to carry out the President's mandate to the Board.

Relief through the Blockade to Cooperating Neutrals

In furtherance of our joint policy to use every available means consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to bring about the rescue of victims of Nazi oppression in

imminent danger of death, the British have now agreed to appeal with us to the humanitarianism of various neutral European governments in behalf of these persecuted persons, in the hope that they will find it possible to liberalize to an even greater extent their policies with respect to the reception and temporary care of refugees from German-controlled Europe.

In cables to our Missions in Turkey, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland we have asked that assurances be conveyed to the governments of these countries to the effect that the United States and Great Britain will be glad to arrange for the provision of such additional food and other supplies as may be required to meet the added burden resulting from the temporary care of refugees, as well as funds if needed. The governments of these countries are also to be assured that the United States and Great Britain will make every effort to arrange for the onward movement to other havens of refuge of such refugees as may be received.

Similar instructions are understood to be going forward to British Missions in these various countries, calling for British support in these negotiations.

#### FOOD PARCELS TO UNASSIMILATED CIVILIANS

Board Representative McClelland has reported that the joint British-American approach to the International Red Cross has now been made in connection with our experimental program of transblockade relief to persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe. McClelland indicated that InterCross is now studying the matter of the distribution guarantees requested. A preliminary reply was expected within a few days.

#### Cooperation of Holy See Solicited

In a letter dated June 26 the Apostolic Delegate in Washington advised Under Secretary of State Stettinius that he has communicated to the Holy See the substance of this Government's message regarding the plight of Jews and other persons detained in camps in German-controlled territory because of race, religion, or political belief. Assurances were extended that the Holy See "will do everything in its power to obtain for these unfortunates a treatment similar to that accorded civilian internees." A further response is anticipated from the Holy See itself with respect to the steps we proposed to insure such treatment.

100239

Decision on "Christina" Food Parcels Obtained

In connection with the salvaging of food packages on board the "S.S. Christina", Ambassador Winant has advised us that the Belgian Government-in-Exile has indicated that it prefers to forward to Geneva, for ultimate allocation to Belgium war prisoners as originally planned, any supplies that can still withstand such shipment. The Belgian Foreign Office indicated its willingness to sell the balance of the salvageable materials, however, to the International Red Cross for allocation to French concentration and refugee camps.

BOARD ACTS TO OBTAIN MEDICAL PERSONNEL FOR CAMPS IN NEAR EAST

For the past two months we have received repeated warnings that there is a shortage of medical personnel for existing and contemplated refugee camps in the Near East. It has been emphasized that this shortage may seriously reduce the absorptive capacity of these camps and may accordingly prevent the movement of refugees from Italy and elsewhere. This threatened shortage has been the subject of several discussions with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and with Army authorities.

Because failure to meet this need might actually result in the unwillingness of the military to receive refugees in Italy, the Board conveyed word of this situation to the National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians, an American organization. This committee has been concerned with the problems of professional adjustment of the estimated 6,500 refugee physicians who have come to this country in the past decade.

It developed that the Committee, faced both with difficulties of immediate adjustment and with anticipated post-war problems of the emigre physicians, was just completing a detailed study of the composition of a group of 4,143 physicians and dentists registered with it. This study contains details as to age, sex, length of residence in the United States, citizenship status, country of last citizenship, country of graduation from medical school, field of medicine, United States licensure, and present occupations.

The results of this study have been made available to Civil Affairs Division of the Army, a meeting between representatives of the Committee and UNRRA has been arranged, and there is reason to believe that, as a result, medical personnel will be obtained for the camps in question.

100240

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

According to a cable from Minister Johnson, the Chief Rabbi of Sweden has been informed, by what he considers to be reliable sources, of German orders to complete the deportation to Germany of all Hungarian Jews by July 15 or thereabouts. Jewish groups in Sweden have addressed a petition to the King, asking him to appeal directly to the Hungarian Government against the carrying out of these orders. This petition is being forwarded to the King by the Swedish Foreign Office, with the recommendation that he accede to the request for intervention in the matter.

Official Report on Conditions in Hungary

In another communication from Minister Johnson there was transmitted a summarized translation of the strictly confidential memorandum furnished by the Swedish Foreign Office with respect to the condition of Jews in Hungary. The discriminatory regulations reported fall into three general categories relating to professions and occupations, to housing and financial status, and to other living conditions. It was stated that these regulations apply to all Jews regardless of whether they are Jewish or Christian by religion. (In this connection it was estimated that 35% of the Jews in Budapest are Christian.) Pressure from the clergy, however, is said to have resulted in relief being granted to Christian clergymen of the Jewish race and to certain other Christians of Jewish extraction.

According to this report, one significant regulation exempts from the obligations imposed on Jews in Hungary all foreign citizens for whom certificates of citizenship issued by various legations have been submitted to the Alien Control Commission.

Inasmuch as these regulations have in most cases been issued without detailed instructions concerning enforcement, it was said that they are subject to very arbitrary interpretation, particularly in the provinces.

The Foreign Office memorandum stated unequivocally that the lives of the bulk of Hungarian Jews are in danger. Hungary was reported to have obtained permission from German authorities to retain 150,000 male Jews between the ages of 21 and 50 for compulsory military labor in the country's defense; the remaining 900,000 Jews are to be transferred to German territory. It was said that this transfer goes on daily in sealed freight cars holding 70 persons each, without sanitary arrangements and with only whatever food each person carries. Estimates of the number of persons already sent to Germany in this

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manner vary between 20,000 and 100,000. The purpose of this transportation, it was stated, appears to be partly to furnish labor for Germany and partly, in the case of children and the aged, to furnish hostages of a sort or protection against bombing if they are quartered near war industries.

Later Report Indicates Situation Demers Description

Shortly after transmitting to us the substance of the Swedish Foreign Office memorandum, Minister Johnson was advised by a spokesman of the Foreign Office that information just received from Budapest concerning the treatment of Jews is so terrible "that there are no words to qualify its description." It was said that of the total number of Jews in Hungary originally, not more than 400,000 remain and these are mostly in Budapest. The others - of whom there were, conservatively, well over 600,000 - were said either to have been deported to Germany to uncertain destinations or killed.

According to evidence reaching the Swedish Foreign Office, these people are now being killed en masse, many of them by means of a gas chamber across the Hungarian frontier in Poland. Johnson's cable continues:

"It is said by . . . [the Foreign Office spokesman] that these people of all ages, children, women and men, are transported to this isolated spot in box cars packed in like sardines and that upon arrival many are already dead. Those who have survived the trip are stripped naked, given a small square object which resembles a piece of soap and told that at the bath house they must bathe themselves. The 'bath house' does in fact look like a big bathing establishment, being a large building which has been built by the Germans. Into a large room with a total capacity of two thousand packed together closely the victims are pushed. No regard is given to sex or age and all are completely naked. When the atmosphere of the hall has been heated by this mass of bodies a fine powder is let down over the whole area by opening a contraption in the ceiling. When the heated atmosphere comes in contact with this powder a poisonous gas is formed which kills all occupants of the room. Trucks then take out the bodies, and burning follows."

At the same time the Foreign Office spokesman reported to Johnson that the proposed appeal through the King had just been sent to the Hungarian Government appealing to it

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"in Humanity's name" to do what it can to stop the massacre of defenseless persons. It was indicated that in the event the Swedish Minister at Budapest is not given an opportunity to deliver this message to Hungarian Regent Horthy himself, the message will be delivered to the Hungarian Foreign Office. It was also reported that as soon as the Government of Sweden has received confirmation of its delivery in any form, the text of the message will be publicly released.

Johnson referred again to the sincerity and ability of the newly appointed Special Attache who is soon to proceed to the Swedish Legation in Budapest.

Arrangements have already been made by Johnson and Board Representative Olsen to communicate through the Swedish Foreign Office with this Attache when he reaches Budapest. It should thus be possible for us to keep currently informed on the further developments in Hungary.

Details with respect to programs approved or contemplated by the Board in connection with the rescue and relief of refugees from Hungary have been cabled to Johnson and Olsen for transmission to the new Attache, for his information.

#### Unfavorable Swiss Reply Anticipated

Minister Harrison has indicated that, while no formal reply has been received from the Swiss Foreign Office in response to our proposal that Switzerland enlarge its diplomatic and consular representation in Hungary, a Foreign Office official has indicated that the reply will probably be unfavorable.

#### Rumania Facilitating Escape of Hungarian Jews

Harrison has also advised us of the identity of the "reliable source" through which it was learned that the Rumanian Government has issued confidential instructions to border control authorities to facilitate the admission of Jewish refugees from Hungary for transit through Rumanian territory. A message in code, received by air on June 2 from the Prime Minister in Rumania, was the basis for the information. The Rumanian delegate to the International Red Cross is said to have stated that he was able to give formal assurance, presumably for the ears of the Allies, that Jews coming from Hungary to Rumania would not only be allowed to cross the border secretly, but that their safety would be looked out for by the Rumanians. We were further advised that word received from Jewish sources in Budapest would appear to substantiate previous reports to the effect that the Rumanians are not making things difficult for the few

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Jews who have been able to reach the Rumanian frontiers.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

In view of the recent report from Jerusalem with respect to the 26 Jews who presumably still remain under arrest in Bucharest, we are asking Board Representative Hirschmann in Ankara to let us know what steps have been taken in this matter. We are relaying to Hirschmann the belief of the refugee who recently arrived in Jerusalem from Rumania that intervention regarding the fate of the arrested Jews might produce results. According to this refugee, it is not out of the question that, in view of the current military situation and as a result of such intervention, the proceedings might be wholly suspended and the persons released.

Large-Scale Evacuations from Balkans Begin

Reports received from Ankara indicate that operations have now begun in connection with the project being underwritten by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to the extent of \$3,000,000, to evacuate some 8,000 persons from the Balkans. Small boats operating without safe-conducts are being used in these operations.

Coordinating Committee Established in Turkey

We have been advised by Board Representative Hirschmann that as the result of a conference arranged by Ambassador Steinhardt in Ankara on July 2 and attended by representatives of various interested rescue and relief organizations, an agreement was reached to form an over-all coordinating committee including all effective agencies now represented in Turkey. This committee is to be directed by Hirschmann and his assistant, Herbert Katski.

Additional Rescue Projects Licensed

Upon our recommendation, the Treasury has issued a license to The Emergency Committee To Save the Jewish People of Europe, permitting the remittance of \$5,000 to the Committee's representative in Istanbul. These funds are to be used only as authorized by Ambassador Steinhardt and/or Board Representative Hirschmann, for the rescue of threatened persons in enemy territory.

Another license has been issued, upon our recommendation, to the International Rescue and Relief Committee permitting it

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to remit \$5,000 to its representative in Turkey. This license likewise provides that the funds may be utilized only as authorized by Steinhardt and/or Hirschmann in effecting rescues from enemy territory.

EVACUATION OF SPANISH REFUGEES FROM PORTUGAL TO MEXICO

A cable has now been sent by the State Department to our Embassy in Lisbon asking for certain detailed information with respect to the Spanish refugees for whom Mexican visas and U. S. transit certificates are to be made available. The State Department indicated that, upon receipt of this information, an effort will be made to process the cases within one week. If no objections are made, our Embassy in Lisbon will be authorized to grant transit certificates, provided that no objection develops on security grounds and provided the applicants first secure Mexican visas.

In case the submission of photographs is impracticable, State indicated that this requirement may be waived subject to the submission of photographs after the issuance of transit certificates and subject to the furnishing of fingerprints. Certain other requirements usually made of applicants for transit certificates were also waived by State, in view of the dangers involved in the regular application procedure for refugees who must remain in hiding until visas and transit certificates are actually in their possession.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN

Upon our recommendation, the Treasury has issued a license to the World Jewish Congress permitting the remittance of \$10,000 to its representative from Sweden, to be used in connection with the rescue and relief of Jews in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania. This license provides that the funds transmitted may be utilized only as authorized by Board Representative Olsen.

EVACUATION TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

We have now worked out with the National CIO War Relief Committee and the United Nations Relief, AFL, three rescue and relief projects to be carried out from Switzerland. Special appropriations from the National War Fund have been arranged to the extent of \$90,000 for the Belgian War Relief Society, \$90,000 for the Queen Wilhelmina Fund, and \$20,000 for the Friends of Luxembourg, and appropriate Treasury licenses covering the proposed operations have been issued to the organizations named.

000245

RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

We have now received by way of Naples a delayed communication from Harold Tittmann with respect to our request that the Holy See cooperate by supporting in Latin America and in Spain the steps we have taken to protect holders of Latin American passports and travel documents. It was stated that the Holy See, in response, indicated that while it does not wish to be identified as actually collaborating with any government, it would take independent, parallel action.

Continual efforts have been made by the Holy See since last December to prevent the transfer elsewhere of these internees, it was said. Since the Apostolic Delegate in Washington has been kept informed of the status of these efforts, it was suggested that we obtain directly from the Delegation details of the various approaches inspired by the Vatican, as well as the replies received.

Inquiry Made Re Spanish Action

We have cabled Ambassador Hayes in Madrid for information as to whether, subsequent to his dispatch of May 11, Spanish authorities have made any effort to protect Latin American passport holders or to secure the return of any such persons previously removed from Vittel or Compiègne.

Bolivian Reply Received

According to a communication from our Embassy in Bolivia, the Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated that he will comply with our requests concerning the protection and proposed exchange of holders of Latin American passports. The Foreign Minister is said to have stated that he would immediately communicate with the local representative of the Bolivian protecting power in order to add Bolivian support to the representations already made by this Government and other American republics.

Clarification of Nicaraguan Action Requested

Despite the report from Managua that the Nicaraguan Foreign Office cabled the Swiss Foreign Office on April 22 asking that Switzerland as the Nicaraguan protecting power safeguard from enemy persecution persons in enemy territory holding documents issued in the name of Nicaragua, the Swiss Foreign Office on June 13 informed Minister Harrison that no such request had been received by it. In cables to Bern and to Nicaragua we have asked that the apparent contradiction be investigated. In the event that the request previously

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reported has not actually gone out, we have urged our Embassy in Nicaragua to press appropriate authorities there for an immediate dispatch of the suggested request.

REPLACEMENT OF EXPIRED U. S. VISAS

In a letter to the State Department dated July 4, we have suggested certain additional measures which may help to save the lives of a number of persons in enemy-controlled areas who hold American immigration visas expired only by lapse of time.

In a previous letter from State it had been suggested, in connection with our efforts to safeguard the lives of persons in enemy territory holding expired American visas, that the German authorities simply be informed that visas will be issued to such persons provided they are found by the American consular officer to whom they apply, to qualify under the immigration laws.

Since the German authorities, no less than ourselves, would perceive in such a statement only the truism that visas will be issued to any applicant provided he is found to qualify under the immigration laws, Mr. Fehle in his letter of July 4 proposed instead that American consular officers be authorized to issue a new immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued after July 1, 1941, with no more formality and no other requirements than are incidental to the issuance of a replace visa, provided, first, such person present himself to an American consular officer and is not found to have become disqualified for a visa since the date his original visa was issued, and provided, second, such person has been in territory controlled by Germany or any of its satellites continuously since December 8, 1941. It was further proposed that the German Government be informed through proper channels that this Government has so authorized its consular officers.


With respect to another category of persons previously discussed with State, namely, successful applicants for immigration visas who have been in enemy territory continuously since December 8, 1941, and whose visas were not actually issued solely because they failed to appear for them in person, it was proposed that exactly the same technique be employed.

000247

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Our Embassy in London has forwarded to us a letter from the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee announcing a plenary session of the Committee for August 15, 1944. It was explained that this date is contingent on war conditions and that it may be necessary to postpone it owing to difficulties of communications and transportation.

This Government was requested to appoint a delegate and, if it so desires, a substitute delegate for the plenary session.

  
J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

000248

JUL 12 1944

Dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

EAT

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EBTowler:agr 7-6-44

000249

JUL 10 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

You will note that this report refers to your press conference on June 26. I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for your statement concerning the Hungarian situation which has been very helpful.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

Enclosure.

EBT JH EBTowler:agr 7-5-44

000850

JUL 10 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

EBT JH

EBTowler:agr 7-6-44

000851



JUL 10 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

EBT 74 HBTowler:agr 7-6-44

000252

JUL 10 1944

Dear Abe:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely,

*(Sgd) John*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Keller*

*EST* *77* EB Towler:agr 7-6-44

000253

JUL 10 1944

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,  
Department of State.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EBT* *JH* EBTowler:agr 7-6-44

000254

JUL 10 1944

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Washington Liaison Branch,  
G-2, M. I. S.,  
Pentagon Building,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle.*

*EST* *JH* RB Towler:agr 7-6-44

000255

JUL 11 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 26 to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Est JH* BBTowler:agr 7-6-44

000256

JUL 11 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of June 26, to July 1, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

EST

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EBT:inp 7/9/44

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Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of June 26 - July 1, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Ambassador Murphy and Board Representative Ackermann are continuing to work out details involved in the evacuation of the 1,000 refugees from southern Italy.

According to newspaper reports from Bari, hundreds of refugees have been crowding the offices of the Allied Control Commission to register their desire to be included in the group that is to come to this country.

The War Relocation Authority has arranged to send a representative to accompany these refugees to the United States.

Meanwhile we have cabled Murphy and Ackermann for certain specific information in connection with the refugees selected for evacuation, including breakdowns by age, sex, marital status, religion, languages spoken, occupations and professions, and countries of origin.

President's Message to Congress Publicized

Ambassador Harriman has advised us that the Moscow press on June 27 published the text of the President's special message to Congress with respect to our plans to provide a haven for these refugees from southern Italy.

According to a cable from Minister Harrison in Bern, the President's message was also communicated to the Swiss Foreign Office and to 145 newspapers in Switzerland. It was reported that assurances were received that every leading newspaper in the country would carry the message in full. Harrison also indicated that editorial comment on the President's action had been furnished seven influential German-language and French-language Swiss papers, all with extensive coverage. Swiss Radio coverage was also arranged. Efforts were to be directed toward transmitting the substance of the President's message from Switzerland to enemy territory through all available channels.

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COOPERATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN

In the course of recent discussions with the British, certain information was requested with respect to Treasury licenses authorizing refugee rescue and relief operations in enemy territory. We have now advised Mr. Thorold of the British Embassy that, as of June 1, the total amount authorized by the Treasury for such operations is \$2,088,100. Although this is the total amount authorized to be remitted to neutral countries, the amount actually sent is considerably less.

With respect to the third method of financing permitted by the licenses under question - the use of free currency in enemy territory, only a very small fraction of the total amount authorized has been used in this manner, according to reports presently available. Cables are now being sent to the U.S. Missions concerned requesting reports on the total amount, if any, of free currency sent into enemy territory under such licenses.

British Response Re Other Temporary Havens

Ambassador Winant has reported from London the substance of a memorandum from the British Foreign Office with respect to our proposal that refugees escaping from enemy territory to southern Italy be removed as soon as possible to temporary havens elsewhere. In this memorandum the Foreign Office stated that it agrees emphatically with our views that the escape of refugees from the Balkans to Italy should in no way be discouraged. Toward this end, it was said that British military authorities in the Middle East remain prepared to accommodate some 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egypt provided the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration succeeds in obtaining the necessary medical staff. In the absence of the required personnel, however, British military authorities doubt that they can accommodate more than the 25,000 who have already arrived in Egypt. The British indicated that they are therefore pressing the European headquarters of UNRRA on this matter.

The Foreign Office also indicated that as soon as the Rumanian Red Cross, the Swiss authorities in Rumania, and the International Red Cross, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, can make the necessary arrangements, a British ship can be ready on thirty days' notice to proceed to Constanza for the evacuation of Jewish refugees. While the Foreign Office felt that the German Government is no more likely to grant the necessary safe-conduct in this

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case than in that of the "S.S. Tari," it was said that nevertheless the matter would be actively pursued.

At the same time the Foreign Office indicated that it is examining the proposal that Sicily might be used as a temporary haven for refugees.

In connection with our belief that Camp Lyautey at Fedhala should not be opened to refugees from Italy but should be kept available for refugees arriving from Spain, complete agreement was expressed.

With respect to our proposal that the British grant Palestine certificates to Jewish refugees in liberated Italy, the British feel that since these refugees are in an area where they are safe from enemy persecution, preference should be given under the limited quota allotted for immigration into Palestine to those Jews elsewhere whose lives are still in danger as a result of enemy oppression. The Foreign Office concluded by pointing out that while considerable numbers of Yugoslav refugees from Hungary have already been received in Palestine, and while they do not doubt the desirability of moving other refugees from southern Italy for operational reasons, it believes that alternative places of refuge should be used to the greatest possible extent.

#### FOOD PARCELS TO UNASSIMILATED CIVILIANS

We have been advised from Algiers that the sale of salvagable food packages on board the "S.S. Christina" for allocation to French concentration and refugee camps, at a price to be decided by the International Red Cross, is acceptable to the French Committee. This decision has been transmitted by the Committee to a French representative in Washington, and negotiations are continuing here.

Efforts to obtain the agreement of the Belgian Government-in-Exile, which holds part title to the food packages, are also continuing.

#### Other Approaches to Germans Proposed

In view of the disappointingly negative answer which we received from the International Red Cross in response to our proposal that Interross attempt to obtain from the German and satellite governments assurances that Jews and other persons confined in Axis territory would be accorded treatment equal to that of civilian internees, we have asked Minister Harrison to approach the Swiss Government informally in the hope that

Swiss influence can be brought to bear upon German officials in this matter, in the interest of assuring the survival of these helpless peoples.

We have also addressed an appeal through the Apostolic Delegate in Washington to the Holy See, in the hope that the Holy See will find it appropriate to use its good offices with the German and satellite governments to alleviate the lot of Jews and other persons detained in enemy territory, at least to the extent of permitting them to receive standard packages under Intercross supervision.

#### CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Secretary Hull at his radio and press conference on June 26 acclaimed the protest issued recently by the House Foreign Affairs Committee over the persecution and murder of Jews in Hungary. Secretary Hull asserted that there cannot be too many protests against the wholesale murder being practiced by the Nazis. Pointing out that the House Committee resolution demanded that the puppet Hungarian Government put an end to these assassinations, Secretary Hull reiterated in an extremely helpful manner this Government's intention of seeing to it that those who are guilty of such inhuman conduct are fittingly punished.

#### Spellman Statement Released

The statement recently forwarded to the Board by Archbishop Spellman of New York and directed toward Hungarians, has now been released by the Office of War Information. This statement is to be shortwaved to appropriate areas. At the same time, we have asked our Missions in Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden to promote such additional use of the statement as may be feasible on the part of local newspapers and radio stations in these various European countries. The statement is also to be brought to the attention of Hungarian and other satellite authorities through whatever channels are available.

#### Report from Jerusalem

According to a communication from Consul General Pinkerton in Jerusalem, a Jewish Agency representative has now furnished additional information on the matter of Jewish persecutions in Hungary and Rumania. Hundreds of thousands of Jews are said to have been interned in Hungarian camps and ghettos. The names of twenty-six such ghettos were forwarded.

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Details were supplied by the Jewish Agency representative with respect to previous reports concerning the arrest of a number of Jewish leaders in Bucharest late in March. While intervention on the part of representatives of the local Jewish community is said to have effected the release of two of the persons arrested by the Rumanian police, all of the others are reported to be still under detention and are to be tried before a court martial. The charges brought against them are "activities harmful to the security of the state, communication with the enemy, and smuggling of Polish Jews to Rumania."

According to the recently arrived refugee from whom this information was obtained, there are reasons to believe that the authorities in Rumania are showing a tendency to alleviate the conditions of the Jews there in the hope that this may place them in a more favorable position with the Allies. It was thought that diplomatic intervention with respect to the persons still detained in Bucharest might therefore produce results. Contrary to the original report that only 12 to 15 persons remain in custody, it was indicated that there now appear to be some 26 persons involved.

#### Report from Bern

Board Representative McClelland has advised us that there is now no doubt but that the majority of the Jewish population east of the Danube, especially in eastern, northern, and northeastern Hungary, have been deported to Poland. McClelland indicated that information confirming this fact had come to him over the past two weeks from various reliable, independent sources.

Prior to the deportations there were said to have been two weeks to a month of brutal concentration, during which thousands of Jews were crowded together in primitive quarters without sufficient food, clothing, or water and without respect to health, sex, or age. Hungarian gendarmes are said to have carried out this action.

The actual large-scale deportations apparently began about May 15 and lasted until the middle of June, according to the information reaching McClelland. Some 12,000 persons per day were said to have been involved. It was reported that, characteristically, people were deported 60 to 70 per sealed freight wagon for a trip of two to three days, without adequate food or water.

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The particular stretches of railroad used in these deportations were indicated to McClelland, who relayed to us without recommendation the fact that all his sources of information in Slovakia and Hungary had urged that vital sections of these lines, especially bridges, be bombed as the only possible means of slowing down or stopping future deportations.

According to the figures received by McClelland, at least 335,000 Jews have already been deported from Sub-Carpathian and Ruthenian areas, from Transylvania, and from the Tisz region. Some 350,000 Jews are said to have been concentrated in Budapest and environs.

McClelland also forwarded the names of individuals in the Hungarian Government who are said to bear the major responsibility for these persecutions.

#### Substantial Sums Sought for Rescue Work

Various private organizations in this country have been receiving appeals for substantial amounts of money to be used in efforts to stop deportations and to permit departures for safer countries. According to one such appeal, there is the possibility that an additional 8,000 persons can be rescued from the Balkans at an approximate cost of two to two and one-half million dollars. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, to whom the appeal was addressed, has indicated that it is willing to underwrite these operations. Accordingly, we have cabled details of the proposal to Ambassador Steinhardt and Board Representative Hirschmann in Ankara, asking that they forward to us immediately their recommendations in the matter.

Another appeal indicated that some 2600 persons from the Balkans might be evacuated if the operations proposed could be underwritten to the extent of \$800,000. In these evacuations ships similar to the "Milka" and "Maritza" would be used, without hope of safe-conduct, for transporting refugees to Istanbul. In view of the risks involved, responsibility would be shared by the Board, the Jewish Agency, and the Joint Distribution Committee. Under these conditions, the JDC has agreed to provide up to \$800,000 for the program contemplated. The recommendations of Steinhardt and Hirschmann have also been solicited in this connection.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

Minister Johnson has advised us from Stockholm that the Swedish Foreign Office has indicated, in response to our

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request, that it will again sound out the Germans with respect to a safe-conduct for the "Bardaland" on the basis of our assurances that the refugees evacuated from the Balkans on this vessel would be taken to havens of refuge other than Palestine. A Foreign Office spokesman, however, indicated his belief that the Germans' previous refusal to grant a safe-conduct for the "Bardaland" is attributable to the general Nazi policy of preventing Jews from getting out of German-occupied territory to go anywhere, since to do otherwise would be contrary to the Nazi determination to exterminate all Jews. Despite these views, we are cabling Johnson that since human lives hang in the balance, we feel strongly that all possibilities for obtaining a German safe-conduct should be exhausted. We are therefore requesting that Johnson press the Swedish Government to take the action suggested.

#### Indemnity on the "Bardaland"

With respect to the indemnity claimed by the owners of the "Bardaland" covering the period during which the vessel was tied-up at Piraeus by our negotiations for its use, we have cabled Johnson that since only a preliminary estimate has been presented, we are withholding action pending submission of a final itemized claim.

The preliminary estimate of 80,000 kronor (approximately \$19,000) has meanwhile been discussed with a representative of the War Shipping Administration. The estimate submitted is considered by the WSA representative to be a reasonable indemnity under the circumstances.

#### Arrivals from Bulgaria

In a cable to Steinhardt and Hirschmann we are indicating that we were gratified to learn that Turkish border guards have been instructed not to turn back Jewish refugees at the Bulgarian border, notwithstanding their lack of Turkish visas. Since Steinhardt's cable confined itself to arrivals by rail, we are asking that inquiry be made as to whether these instructions to border guards extend to Jews and other persecuted people attempting to cross the Bulgarian border clandestinely on foot. Information is also being requested as to the number of refugees coming over the Bulgarian frontier without Turkish visas during the past month.

In another communication to Board Representative Hirschmann we are relaying a report to the effect that 1,000 Turkish pounds are demanded in Sofia for each Turkish visa. Hirschmann is being asked to investigate this report, and if verified, to endeavor to have the amount materially reduced.

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Kataki Reaches Ankara

Herbert Kataki, who is to assist Hirschmann, reached ANKARA on June 29.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

Following discussions between Mr. Pehle and Swiss Minister Brugmann in Washington, Ambassador Harrison and Board Representative McClelland in Bern were asked to discuss the refugee problem informally with the Swiss Foreign Office. We have suggested that this discussion emphasize the contribution Switzerland has made and is making to the refugee problem. We have also indicated that we would appreciate receiving from the Swiss Government, informally and confidentially, any and all suggestions on what can be done in the matter. Since certain phases of the problem can best be handled by informal arrangement with the Swiss Government rather than by formal requests to make demands on the German Government, we have indicated to Harrison and McClelland that where such action would be helpful, they are authorized to discuss particular problems with the Swiss Government on an informal basis before making formal requests.

Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France

According to a cable from our Embassy in Lima, the Peruvian Government has indicated that it is willing to receive up to 50 child refugees who have reached Switzerland from enemy territory, provided that they are of French or Belgian nationality and provided that Peru's responsibility begins at the port of Callao.

We have been advised by our Embassy in Paraguay that the Paraguayan Government is also willing to cooperate in our efforts to secure havens for these refugee children provided adequate financial assistance is made available. A copy of the note to this effect received from the Paraguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations was forwarded by the Embassy. With respect to the proposal that Paraguay notify the Swiss Government of its position in this matter, we were advised that the Paraguayan Government does not maintain a diplomatic mission in Switzerland.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN

We have now learned through Minister Johnson that the Swedish Foreign Office has agreed to issue visas to some 60 central European Jews remaining in Finland, on condition that assurances be given as to the maintenance of this group in Sweden. The necessary assurances were promptly given by the Board, and this group of refugees is expected to be evacuated shortly to Sweden on the same

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vessel that is to carry American and Allied groups from Finland.

Swedish Committee to Aid Stateless Refugees

Minister Johnson and Board Representative Olsen have also advised us that, largely as a result of their efforts, the city of Stockholm has sponsored the organization of a committee for the relief of stateless refugees. A central office is to be established for the purpose of assisting stateless refugees with their personal problems, in obtaining employment, and in obtaining direct relief in seriously distressed cases. Because of the urgency of the problem, Johnson and Olsen strongly recommended that American groups be found to make a joint contribution of \$10,000 to further the activities of this committee. It was pointed out that such an action would not only contribute materially to the effectiveness of this committee's program for stateless refugees, but would reflect the sincerity of American concern with refugee problems.

In order to facilitate the procurement of the funds requested, we are asking that information be furnished with respect to the former nationalities of the stateless refugees in question and with respect to the extent to which the group includes Jews. Information is also being requested as to the extent to which aid is being furnished such stateless refugees by organizations already receiving support from private American agencies.

Relief to Czechoslovaks in Sweden

According to another cable from Stockholm, discussions have been held with the "non-recognized" Czechoslovak Minister there concerning his difficulties in taking adequate care of the 800 Czechoslovak refugees in Sweden. It was indicated that only limited funds have been made available by the Czechoslovakian Government-in-Exile in London, and that it has therefore been almost impossible to render adequate assistance to many severe hardship cases, notably unemployables and children. It was urgently recommended that arrangements be made to provide the Czechoslovak relief organizations in Stockholm with \$2500 to help finance its activity. We have approached interested organizations on this matter and expect to be able to advise Johnson and Olsen of their decision at an early date.

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Funds for Norwegian Rescue and Relief

In response to another cable from Johnson and Olsen, we have indicated that American Relief for Norway is willing to provide additional funds for certain relief activities in Norway and for the evacuation to Sweden of Jews in concentrations camps in Norway. Under the Treasury license issued upon the recommendation of the Board, American Relief for Norway will remit \$10,000 to Olsen, to be expended under his direction by such agencies as he may select for the operations envisioned. American Relief for Norway has indicated that it will furnish additional monthly remittances of \$10,000 each if the results on the use of the initial \$10,000 are satisfactory.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH PORTUGAL

Minister Norweb has advised us that the Mexican Legation in Lisbon has not yet received instructions from Mexico with respect to granting to certain Spanish and other refugees in hiding in Portugal the 500 residence visas to which the President of Mexico is reported to have agreed. It was reported that the Mexican Legation is already preparing lists but can do nothing further until authorization is received. Norweb also reported that efforts are continuing to arrange for the granting of U.S. transit visas in some appropriate manner, in view of the danger to the applicants if they should be apprehended by the International Police before they are in possession of both Mexican residence and U.S. visas.

RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

In a cable to Harrison and McClelland in Bern we are noting the fact that United States practice is not to authorize the extension of passports beyond their two-year period of validity. Since Swiss authorities, acting in their capacity as protecting power, issue Swiss certificates of identity to the holders of expired U. S. passports, we are suggesting that a similar practice, if necessary, be adopted in the case of passports issued in the names of other American republics whose interests in enemy territory are protected by Switzerland. Harrison and McClelland are to discuss this matter with appropriate Swiss authorities and endeavor to obtain their cooperation in developing some procedure to assure the continued protection of holders of expired Latin American passports.

We are also asking that Harrison and McClelland confirm through the Swiss Government our assumption that German authorities will accept recognition by the United States of the status of all Jews interned in German camps and bearing

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Latin American identity documents as a basis for their treatment and eligibility for exchange. Since it would appear, on the basis of this assumption, that affirmative approaches by individual Latin American countries may not be considered essential by the Germans, we are asking that Harrison and McClelland explore with Swiss authorities the possibility of proceeding on this basis.

We are also drawing to the attention of Harrison and McClelland the problem of persons in enemy-controlled areas in whose names Latin American documents have been issued but who are not in physical possession of these documents because delivery has been impossible. In order that such persons may be included among those eligible for exchange, we are asking for their names, ages, and last known addresses. We are also asking that Harrison and McClelland forward to us their views, along with the informal opinion of Swiss authorities, as to the advisability of making such a list available to the Germans in an effort to protect the persons involved.

We are pointing out that the term "German-controlled" territory or areas, as used in our negotiations relating to the protection of persons holding documents issued in the names of American republics, includes Hungary. If, in the opinion of Harrison and McClelland, there is any possibility of doubt on this score, Swiss authorities are to be informed accordingly and asked to transmit such information to German and Hungarian authorities.

#### Haitian Action Again To Be Urged

According to one report from McClelland, the Haitian Legation in Bern was recently approached by an interested Jewish organization with respect to four persons holding passports issued in the name of Haiti, who were among the persons listed as removed from Vittel. The Haitian Legation there is said to have informed this Jewish delegation that such documents were fraudulent and of no value, as far as it was concerned.

Since this report from Bern makes prompt action on the part of Haiti all the more urgent, we are asking the U. S. Embassy in Haiti to attempt to expedite affirmative action on the part of the Haitian Foreign Office, including the prompt transmission of an appropriate message to the Haitian Legation at Bern affirming the validity of passports issued in Haiti's name and held by persons subject to enemy persecution.

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Salvadoran Government Reorganized


Because of the recent complete reorganization of the Salvadoran Foreign Office, Ambassador Thurston has again taken up with the Foreign Office the matter of extending protection to refugees holding documents issued in the name of El Salvador. The text of a note sent on May 20 by the Salvador Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Spanish Minister was given Thurston and subsequently forwarded to the Board.

Since it is not clear in what respect this note modified the previous request made to Spain as a result of our approaches, we have asked Thurston to investigate the matter and send us his conclusions.

In view of the fact that the Swiss Government, which acts as the Salvadoran protecting power in enemy territory, has received a formal declaration from El Salvador recognizing Salvadoran passports held by Jews in Germany and in German-occupied territories, we have also asked that the Salvadoran Government be requested to take no steps which might weaken this declaration or confuse Swiss authorities as to its continuing validity.

Ecuador and Nicaragua Being Pressed

In cables to our Missions in Ecuador and Nicaragua we are asking that efforts be continued to persuade the Governments of Ecuador and Nicaragua to take more affirmative action in connection with safeguarding from enemy persecution persons holding passports issued in the names of these two countries.

  
J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

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JUL 4 1944

Dear Abe:

I am sending you herewith a copy of  
the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 19 to June 24, 1944.

Sincerely,

*W. J. Tolson*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*EBT*

EBTowler:agr 7-3-44

*WJ*

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JUL 5 1944

My dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

EBP

ca JHP

EBTowler:agr 6-28-44

000271

JUL 4 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) J.W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Fehle*

*EBT JH* EBTowler:agr 6-28-44

100872

JUL 3 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of June 19 to 24, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

*Original got by  
Sec. Pehle*

EBT:inp 7/1/44

000273

JUL 3 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
S. W. Pehle*

EBT JH BTowler:agr 6-28-44

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JUL 3 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Sen. Pehle*

EBT JA RBTowler:agr 6-28-44

000275



JUL 3 1944

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

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

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,  
Department of State.

Enclosure.

*Original Agpd. by  
Sue Pehle*

EBT JA EBTowler:agr 6-28-44

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JUL 3 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 19  
to June 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

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

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Originals kept by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EPT H* **EBTowler:agr 6-28-44**

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JUL 3 1944

Dear Sirs:

At the request of Captain Peterson,  
I am sending you a copy of the report of the War  
Refugee Board for the week of June 19 to June 24,  
1944. These reports will be sent to you each week  
for your confidential information.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Washington Liaison Branch,  
G-2, M. I. S.,  
Pentagon Building,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original Agd by  
Sam Pehle*

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Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of June 19 - 24, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Ambassador Murphy and Board Representative Ackermann have cabled from Algiers that tentative plans have now been drawn up for evacuating to this country the 1,000 refugees from southern Italy. Ackermann is now in Italy completing arrangements for the removal of this group.

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Minister Johnson has relayed to us the principal features of an exhaustive summary of conditions in Hungary prepared by the Swedish Foreign Office on the basis of reports from the Swedish Minister in Hungary and made available to us in strictest confidence. The substance of this official summary substantiated previous reports of cruelty, torture, murders, and suicides.

In some 500 cases the Swedish Legation in Budapest is said to have been instructed to advise Hungarian authorities that the individuals involved had the protection of the Swedish Government and had been promised entry visas. It was stated that while this had been helpful in certain cases, in others it had been of no avail.

Among the recommendations made in the Foreign Office summary was the suggestion that, on the basis of the purportedly official Hungarian declaration that the Jewish problem there can be solved only by evacuation, neutral countries be persuaded to offer haven to refugees from Hungary and to assist in their evacuation. While it was not considered likely that Hungary would permit politically suspect Jews to depart, there was said to be a chance that the departure of other groups would be allowed, especially if neutral countries were to express a protective interest. Such evacuations, the report added, would require bargaining with certain German officials and would unquestionably be expensive.

Swedish Representation in Hungary To Be Increased

Minister Johnson and Board Representative Olsen have reported that, in response to our recent proposal, the

Swedish Foreign Office has agreed to appoint a Special Attache to the Swedish Legation at Budapest for the specific purpose of following and reporting on the situation in Hungary, particularly the persecution of Jews and other minority groups. While no trouble was anticipated in connection with obtaining a visa for the individual who is to serve in this capacity, the Foreign Office indicated that if the visa should be refused, the Swedish Government would in turn simply refuse to receive the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires.

The Foreign Office also stated its intention of securing the appointment, if possible, of a Swede now teaching in the University of Budapest as a representative in Hungary of the Swedish Red Cross. It was suggested that while such a Red Cross representative would in no way be connected with the Swedish Legation in Budapest, he would nevertheless cooperate closely with the Special Attache on matters relating to the treatment of minorities.

#### U. S. Note To Be Transmitted to Hungarian Government

In accordance with our request, Minister Harrison has now delivered to the Swiss Foreign Office, for transmission to the Hungarian Government, a note inquiring into the intentions of Hungary with respect to the further treatment of the Jews, with special reference to forced deportations, discriminatory reductions of food rations, and the like. The note reiterates the grave view which this Government takes regarding the persecution of Jews and other minorities, as well as our determination to see to it that those who share the responsibility for such crimes are fittingly punished. The Foreign Office has accepted this note and has agreed to transmit it verbatim. Harrison recommended that no publicity be given to this matter pending delivery of the note and that even then, no mention be made of Swiss intermediation.

#### Protection of Salvadoran Interests in Hungary

According to another report from Bern, several hundred "nationality" certificates issued by the Consul General of El Salvador in Geneva have been sent into Hungary during the past two months by various individuals and organizations presumably unaware of the fact that El Salvador has no protecting power in Hungary. The Salvadoran Consul General is said to have made attempts recently to induce the Swiss Government to accept this responsibility, but

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the Swiss Government is said to have replied that it is not in a position to consider the proposal unless it is presented officially by the El Salvadoran Government. We were advised by Board Representative McClelland that any steps in this direction would be helpful, since Switzerland's role as protecting power of El Salvador in Hungary might conceivably forestall the deportation of several hundred persons holding such documentation. Accordingly, we are asking the U. S. Embassy in San Salvador to do its utmost to persuade Salvadoran officials to act without delay in asking Switzerland to serve in the capacity suggested.

#### Other Rescue and Relief Operations through Switzerland

Harrison and McClelland are now at work upon a number of other projects designed to rescue or relieve the conditions of Jews in Hungary and the other satellite countries. We have sent detailed instructions to McClelland in connection with these efforts.

#### Rumania To Facilitate Jewish Emigration

Encouraging news with respect to the treatment of Jews in Rumania has been relayed to us from Ankara by Ambassador Steinhardt. According to information reaching Steinhardt, the Rumanian Government has decided to create an inter-departmental board for Jewish emigration under the supervision of the Prime Minister, and to establish an emigration office under the direction of the representative in Bucharest of the Jewish Agency. It was also reported that Rumania would implement this action by making the "S. S. Alba Julia" and other Rumanian vessels available for the transportation of Jewish refugees.

#### Reports Concerning Rumanian Transit Facilities Contradictory

Information reaching us through McClelland in Bern tends to confirm the softening of the official Rumanian attitude toward Jews. According to sources considered by McClelland to be reliable, the Rumanian Government has issued confidential instructions to border control authorities to facilitate the admission of Jewish refugees from Hungary for transit through Rumanian territory.

A subsequent cable from Minister Harrison, however, refers to a contradictory though somewhat earlier story in a Berlin newspaper. According to this account, the Rumanian Minister of Justice, because of the recent influx of Jews

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presumably from Hungary and Poland, issued a decree providing the death sentence as punishment for foreign Jews illegally entering Rumania, with a similar penalty for persons making possible such entries.

#### Reply Suggested to Bulgarian Minister

In a cable to Minister Johnson and Board Representative Olson in Stockholm we are suggesting that, in response to the informal reply of the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm, as reported last week, an informal reply might be made to the effect that while problems arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the Board, in considering such matters informally and objectively it is impossible to overlook the bombings of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London, and Coventry, all by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied.

Reference is being made to the appeal recently directed to Hungarians by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, calling for resistance on the part of the general public to such persecutions. We are suggesting that Johnson and Olson point out to the Bulgarian Minister that this appeal applies as much to Bulgarian and other Axis countries as to Hungary, and that those to whom such warnings are applicable have it within their power to act in such a way, with respect to Jews and other helpless civilian minorities, as to invite more favorable consideration, when punishments are meted out, than their conduct up to now may warrant.

#### House Committee Adopts Resolution

Mr. Pehle met this week with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, in executive session, to summarize activities and objectives of the Board. Following this meeting, on June 27 a resolution concerning refugees and approving the activities of the Board was unanimously approved by the Committee. The resolution, addressed to all Nazi-occupied territories but especially to Hungary in particular, reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby expresses its deep concern over the plight of the threatened millions in Nazi-occupied and Nazi-dominated territories. The House of Representatives expresses its approval of the activities of the War Refugee

Board, which is facilitating the actual rescue of persons so captured, furnishing relief to such persons by making available food and other supplies, and attempting to influence through psychological and other means the attitudes of both the leaders and rank and file populations in those territories where extermination of minority groups is imminent, and be it further

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

We are communicating the text of this resolution to our representatives in key U. S. Missions abroad for transmission to the appropriate authorities in Great Britain, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. We are asking that it be given the widest possible publicity, and that its contents be brought to the attention of the Hungarian government through all available channels.

Resolution Introduced in House of Representatives

On June 23 another resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Bloom, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This resolution calls upon the Secretary of State to urge that the government of Turkey "in the interests of humanity facilitate the entry into Turkey of refugees who can escape from the Nazis, and establish in Turkey a refugee camp in which





such persons can be temporarily sheltered."

Ambassador Steinhardt is being instructed to give this pending resolution such local publicity in Ankara as he may find desirable and to use it, in his discretion, to bring further pressure on the Turkish Government.

FOOD PARCELS TO UNASSIMILATED CIVILIANS

Blockade authorities have now agreed to permit the distribution by the International Red Cross, to persons interned in southern France, of certain foodstuffs still fit for human consumption salvaged from the cargo of the "S. G. Christina" now at Cette, France. The food supplies in question are contained in some 315,000 food parcels originally intended for distribution to French and Belgian prisoners of war. Negotiations have begun with French and Belgian officials, who hold title to the parcels, and with the International Red Cross. We are endeavoring to expedite this relief measure and have indicated that we will arrange for any incidental financing that may be necessary.

Arrangements Proceeding for Experimental Relief

In a cable to Bern we are advising Harrison and McClelland of details of the agreement recently reached covering our experimental program of relief to persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe, for distribution by the International Red Cross, subject to certain distribution guarantees.

We have also asked the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee to request the International Red Cross to approach German authorities immediately to ascertain whether they will, in principle, permit the Red Cross to distribute food and clothing parcels in all camps in German-controlled Europe holding persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners-of-War Convention. The International Red Cross is also to ascertain whether German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels in fifteen selected camps.

Harrison and McClelland are being asked to follow this matter closely upon the receipt by the International Red Cross of the Joint Blockade Committee proposal, and to report to us immediately on any developments.

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Cooperation of International Red Cross Insured

McClelland has meanwhile been attempting to work out with the International Red Cross procedures and guarantees with respect to the distribution of such parcels. Inter-cross has now supplied the names of the principal concentration camps in Germany and in German-occupied territories to which it believes parcels could be sent with satisfactory guarantees of distribution. McClelland indicated that Inter-cross would at all times be prepared to present to blockade authorities detailed evidence of the proper distribution of such packages.

Inter-cross estimates were forwarded as to the number of individual food and clothing parcels that could be shipped each month to the various camps through existing Inter-cross facilities. In connection with the distribution of food parcels to the Resienstadt, it was pointed out that Inter-cross has received written permission from the Germans for one of their delegates to visit the Resienstadt this month.

With respect to the financing of such relief projects, Inter-cross indicated that it had been advised that various Allied governments in London, as well as the French Committee in Algiers -- all with nationals in Nazi hands -- are prepared to contribute generously.

In unequivocally endorsing the stockpile plan which we have arranged, McClelland indicated that he is not only convinced of the adequacy of Inter-cross distribution controls; in many cases he feels that the controls offered are superior to those available for assimilated groups.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

A review of the situation in Turkey reveals that the "S. S. Milka" has been indefinitely detained by German authorities in Buryas, the "S. S. Maritza" has been sunk, and it now appears extremely doubtful that either a German or Bulgarian safe-conduct will be granted for the "S. S. Tari." Under these circumstances, Ambassador Steinhardt has approached the Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Office with a view to inducing Turkish authorities to authorize the use of a number of Turkish vessels to transport refugees from Balkan ports to Istanbul. The Turkish Secretary General indicated that he would look into the matter at once.

Efforts to Obtain German Safe-Conduct To Be Renewed

We are asking that Steinhardt, in his discretion, renew

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his efforts to obtain a German safe-conduct for the "Tari" from Constanza to a Turkish port, this time upon the assurance to the German Government that any Jewish refugees evacuated on the "Tari" would be taken from Turkey to havens of refuge other than Palestine. This action would be in line with our recent request that Minister Johnson ask the Swedish Government to take up again with the Germans the question of a safe-conduct for the "Bardaland," on the basis of the same assurances.

Refugees Still Arriving Overland from Bulgaria

Steinhardt meanwhile has cabled us for details of the reports reaching us with respect to the refusal of Turkish border guards to permit Jewish refugees without visas to enter Turkey. Steinhardt noted that during recent months only one such instance has come to his attention.

With respect to our proposal that advance arrangements be made with Turkish authorities to permit the entry into Turkey of refugees from Bulgaria lacking Turkish visas, Steinhardt reiterated previous informal assurances on the part of the Turkish Foreign Office that entry would not be refused to such refugees provided that British and Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul issue them Palestine entry certificates. It was pointed out that such certificates are now being issued without delay and as a matter of course. As a result, Steinhardt stated, a considerable number of refugees without Turkish visas who have arrived overland at Turkish border points from Bulgaria have already passed through Turkey en route to Palestine.

For some time past, according to Steinhardt, Turkish border guards have been under instructions not to turn back Jewish refugees but to detain them on the Turkish side of the frontier pending instructions. It was pointed out that if we should attempt to convert the present benevolent attitude of the Turkish authorities into an arrangement of a more formal character, the Turks might conclude that plans were afoot to carry on evacuations on such a scale as to severely tax Turkish facilities. Steinhardt therefore feels that, at least for the present, we should try to hold the Turks to strict compliance with the informal assurances that have already been given, rather than risk the withdrawal of these informal assurances in the course of pressing for a more formal agreement.

JDC Evacuation Operations in Turkey Authorized

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COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

We have now arranged for the liaison already established with the Office of Censorship by the Foreign Funds Control to function for the Board as well, in connection with cables relating to refugee matters.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

In response to our request for information as to the present status of the Intergovernmental Committee credit scheme, to which this Government had indicated its agreement, Ambassador Winant advised us that Sir Herbert Emerson apparently had not yet been informed of our response to the British Foreign Office.

We have communicated to Winant details of this Government's reply to the original British proposal, including information concerning the \$1,500,000 operational fund which has been made available to the IGC. Winant is also being informed of our concern that the credit scheme be started as soon as possible.

COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA

Ambassador Harriman has reported having recently discussed with Vyshinski the general question of the relief and rescue of victims of enemy persecution, as well as the President's recent action in setting up an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country. Harriman pointed out that American public opinion has been very much concerned over the appalling reports that have been received concerning the persecution of Jews in Europe, and inquired as to whether there was any concrete action that the Soviet Government could take in this respect.

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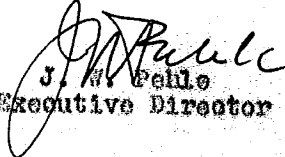


Vychinski replied that the same reports had come to the attention of the Soviet Government. It was stated that active study is being given to the entire matter, including the proposals set forth in a recent letter from the Embassy.

COOPERATION WITH NEW ZEALAND

We have been advised by the U. S. Legation in New Zealand of the appearance in a Wellington newspaper of an editorial describing the concern expressed by returning servicemen over the acquisition of professional, business, and industrial undertakings by alien residents of New Zealand. The editorial is said to have urged investigation on a national scale of the extent and effect of alien infiltration.

Another Wellington news story reported by the Legation dealt with statements made by the Prime Minister of New Zealand on the matter of post-war immigration. The Prime Minister is said to have reiterated his belief that while the rehabilitation of her fighting men must be New Zealand's first consideration, immigrants will be needed and welcomed in New Zealand after the war. A well-planned scheme of immigration was urged, with priority to immigrants from Great Britain and then perhaps to people of other Allied nations.

  
J. W. Seale  
Executive Director

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Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of June 19 - 24, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Ambassador Murphy and Board Representative Ackermann have cabled from Algiers that tentative plans have now been drawn up for evacuating to this country the 1,000 refugees from southern Italy. Ackermann is now in Italy completing arrangements for the removal of this group.

CONDITIONS IN THE SATELLITE COUNTRIES

Minister Johnson has relayed to us the principal features of an exhaustive summary of conditions in Hungary prepared by the Swedish Foreign Office on the basis of reports from the Swedish Minister in Hungary and made available to us in strictest confidence. The substance of this official summary substantiates previous reports of cruelty, torture, murders, and suicides.

In some 800 cases the Swedish Legation in Budapest is said to have been instructed to advise Hungarian authorities that the individuals involved had the protection of the Swedish Government and had been promised entry visas. It was stated that while this had been helpful in certain cases, in others it had been of no avail.

Among the recommendations made in the Foreign Office summary was the suggestion that, on the basis of the purportedly official Hungarian declaration that the Jewish problem there can be solved only by evacuation, neutral countries be persuaded to offer haven to refugees from Hungary and to assist in their evacuation. While it was not considered likely that Hungary would permit politically suspect Jews to depart, there was said to be a chance that the departure of other groups would be allowed, especially if neutral countries were to express a protective interest. Such evacuations, the report added, would require bargaining with certain German officials and would unquestionably be expensive.

Swedish Representation in Hungary To Be Increased

Minister Johnson and Board Representative Olson have reported that, in response to our recent proposal, the

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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Swedish Foreign Office has agreed to appoint a Special Attache to the Swedish Legation at Budapest for the specific purpose of following and reporting on the situation in Hungary, particularly the persecution of Jews and other minority groups. While no trouble was anticipated in connection with obtaining a visa for the individual who is to serve in this capacity, the Foreign Office indicated that if the visa should be refused, the Swedish Government would in turn simply refuse to receive the Hungarian Charge d'Affaires.

The Foreign Office also stated its intention of securing the appointment, if possible, of a Swede now teaching in the University of Budapest as a representative in Hungary of the Swedish Red Cross. It was suggested that while such a Red Cross representative would in no way be connected with the Swedish Legation in Budapest, he would nevertheless cooperate closely with the Special Attache on matters relating to the treatment of minorities.

U. S. Note To Be Transmitted to Hungarian Government

In accordance with our request, Minister Harrison has now delivered to the Swiss Foreign Office, for transmission to the Hungarian Government, a note inquiring into the intentions of Hungary with respect to the further treatment of the Jews, with special reference to forced deportations, discriminatory reductions of food rations, and the like. The note reiterates the grave view which this Government takes regarding the persecution of Jews and other minorities, as well as our determination to see to it that those who share the responsibility for such crimes are fittingly punished. The Foreign Office has accepted this note and has agreed to transmit it verbatim. Harrison recommended that no publicity be given to this matter pending delivery of the note and that even then, no mention be made of Swiss intermediation.

Protection of Salvadoran Interests in Hungary

According to another report from Bern, several hundred "nationality" certificates issued by the Consul General of El Salvador in Geneva have been sent into Hungary during the past two months by various individuals and organizations presumably unaware of the fact that El Salvador has no protecting power in Hungary. The Salvadoran Consul General is said to have made attempts recently to induce the Swiss Government to accept this responsibility, but

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the Swiss Government is said to have replied that it is not in a position to consider the proposal unless it is presented officially by the El Salvadoran Government. We were advised by Board Representative McClelland that any steps in this direction would be helpful, since Switzerland's role as protecting power of El Salvador in Hungary might conceivably forestall the deportation of several hundred persons holding such documentation. Accordingly, we are asking the U. S. Embassy in San Salvador to do its utmost to persuade Salvadoran officials to act without delay in asking Switzerland to serve in the capacity suggested.

Other Rescue and Relief Operations through Switzerland

Harrison and McClelland are now at work upon a number of other projects designed to rescue or relieve the conditions of Jews in Hungary and the other satellite countries. We have sent detailed instructions to McClelland in connection with these efforts.

Rumania To Facilitate Jewish Emigration

Encouraging news with respect to the treatment of Jews in Rumania has been relayed to us from Ankara by Ambassador Steinhardt. According to information reaching Steinhardt, the Rumanian Government has decided to create an inter-departmental board for Jewish emigration under the supervision of the Prime Minister, and to establish an emigration office under the direction of the representative in Bucharest of the Jewish Agency. It was also reported that Rumania would implement this action by making the "S. S. Alba Julia" and other Rumanian vessels available for the transportation of Jewish refugees.

Reports Concerning Rumanian Transit Facilities Contradictory

Information reaching us through McClelland in Bern tends to confirm the softening of the official Rumanian attitude toward Jews. According to sources considered by McClelland to be reliable, the Rumanian Government has issued confidential instructions to border control authorities to facilitate the admission of Jewish refugees from Hungary for transit through Rumanian territory.

A subsequent cable from Minister Harrison, however, refers to a contradictory though somewhat earlier story in a Berlin newspaper. According to this account, the Rumanian Minister of Justice, because of the recent influx of Jews

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presumably from Hungary and Poland, issued a decree providing the death sentence as punishment for foreign Jews illegally entering Rumania, with a similar penalty for persons making possible such entries.

Reply Suggested to Bulgarian Minister

In a cable to Minister Johnson and Board Representative Olsen in Stockholm we are suggesting that, in response to the informal reply of the Bulgarian Minister in Stockholm, as reported last week, an informal reply might be made to the effect that while problems arising from aerial bombings are not within the province of the Board, in considering such matters informally and objectively it is impossible to overlook the bombings of such civilian centers as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, Amsterdam, London, and Coventry, all by forces with which Bulgaria continues to be allied.

Reference is being made to the appeal recently directed to Hungarians by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, calling for resistance on the part of the general public to such persecutions. We are suggesting that Johnson and Olsen point out to the Bulgarian Minister that this appeal applies as much to Bulgarian and other Axis countries as to Hungary, and that those to whom such warnings are applicable have it within their power to act in such a way, with respect to Jews and other helpless civilian minorities, as to invite more favorable consideration, when punishments are meted out, than their conduct up to now may warrant.

House Committee Adopts Resolution

Mr. Pehle met this week with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, in executive session, to summarize activities and objectives of the Board. Following this meeting, on June 23 a resolution concerning refugees and approving the activities of the Board was unanimously approved by the Committee. The resolution, addressed to all Nazi-controlled territories but directed to Hungary in particular, reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby expresses its deep concern over the plight of the threatened millions in Nazi-occupied and Nazi-dominated territories. The House of Representatives expresses its approval of the activities of the War Refugee

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Board, which is facilitating the actual rescue of persons so exposed, furnishing relief to such persons by making available food and other supplies, and attempting to influence through psychological and other measures the attitudes of both the leaders and rank and file populations in those territories where extermination of minority groups is imminent, and be it further

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

We are communicating the text of this resolution to our representatives in key U.S. Missions abroad for transmission to the appropriate authorities in Great Britain, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and Switzerland. We are asking that it be given the widest possible publicity, and that its contents be brought to the attention of the Hungarian Government through all available channels.

Resolution Introduced in House of Representatives

On June 23 another resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Bloom, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This resolution calls upon the Secretary of State to urge that the Government of Turkey "in the interests of humanity facilitate the entry into Turkey of refugees who can escape from the Nazis, and establish in Turkey a refugee camp in which

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such persons can be temporarily sheltered."

Ambassador Steinhardt is being instructed to give this pending resolution such local publicity in Ankara as he may find desirable and to use it, in his discretion, to bring further pressure on the Turkish Government.

FOOD PARCELS TO UNASSIMILATED CIVILIANS

Blockade authorities have now agreed to permit the distribution by the International Red Cross, to persons interned in southern France, of certain foodstuffs still fit for human consumption salvaged from the cargo of the "S. S. Christina" now at Cette, France. The food supplies in question are contained in some 315,000 food parcels originally intended for distribution to French and Belgian prisoners of war. Negotiations have begun with French and Belgian officials, who hold title to the parcels, and with the International Red Cross. We are endeavoring to expedite this relief measure and have indicated that we will arrange for any incidental financing that may be necessary.

Arrangements Proceeding for Experimental Relief

In a cable to Bern we are advising Harrison and McClelland of details of the agreement recently reached covering our experimental program of relief to persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe, for distribution by the International Red Cross, subject to certain distribution guarantees.

We have also asked the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee to request the International Red Cross to approach German authorities immediately to ascertain whether they will, in principle, permit the Red Cross to distribute food and clothing parcels in all camps in German-controlled Europe holding persons not assimilated to the status of prisoners of war under the Geneva Prisoners-of-War Convention. The International Red Cross is also to ascertain whether German authorities will permit the immediate distribution of food parcels in fifteen selected camps.

Harrison and McClelland are being asked to follow this matter closely upon the receipt by the International Red Cross of the Joint Blockade Committee proposal, and to report to us immediately on any developments.

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Cooperation of International Red Cross Insured

McClelland has meanwhile been attempting to work out with the International Red Cross procedures and guarantees with respect to the distribution of such parcels. Interross has now supplied the names of the principal concentration camps in Germany and in German-occupied territories to which it believes parcels could be sent with satisfactory guarantees of distribution. McClelland indicated that Interross would at all times be prepared to present to blockade authorities detailed evidence of the proper distribution of such packages.

Interross estimates were forwarded as to the number of individual food and clothing parcels that could be shipped each month to the various camps through existing Interross facilities. In connection with the distribution of food parcels to the Resienstadt, it was pointed out that Interross has received written permission from the Germans for one of their delegates to visit the Resienstadt this month.

With respect to the financing of such relief projects, Interross indicated that it had been advised that various Allied governments in London, as well as the French Committee in Algiers -- all with nationals in Nazi hands -- are prepared to contribute generously.

In unequivocally endorsing the stockpile plan which we have arranged, McClelland indicated that he is not only convinced of the adequacy of Interross distribution controls; in many cases he feels that the controls offered are superior to those available for assimilated groups.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

A review of the situation in Turkey reveals that the "S. S. Milka" has been indefinitely detained by German authorities in Burgas, the "S. S. Maritza" has been sunk, and it now appears extremely doubtful that either a German or Bulgarian safe-conduct will be granted for the "S. S. Tari." Under these circumstances, Ambassador Steinhardt has approached the Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Office with a view to inducing Turkish authorities to authorize the use of a number of Turkish vessels to transport refugees from Balkan ports to Istanbul. The Turkish Secretary General indicated that he would look into the matter at once.

Efforts to Obtain German Safe-Conduct To Be Renewed

We are asking that Steinhardt, in his discretion, renew

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his efforts to obtain a German safe-conduct for the "Tari" from Constanza to a Turkish port, this time upon the assurance to the German Government that any Jewish refugees evacuated on the "Tari" would be taken from Turkey to havens of refuge other than Palestine. This action would be in line with our recent request that Minister Johnson ask the Swedish Government to take up again with the Germans the question of a safe-conduct for the "Bardaland," on the basis of the same assurances.

Refugees Still Arriving Overland from Bulgaria

Steinhardt meanwhile has cabled us for details of the reports reaching us with respect to the refusal of Turkish border guards to permit Jewish refugees without visas to enter Turkey. Steinhardt noted that during recent months only one such instance has come to his attention.

With respect to our proposal that advance arrangements be made with Turkish authorities to permit the entry into Turkey of refugees from Bulgaria lacking Turkish visas, Steinhardt reiterated previous informal assurances on the part of the Turkish Foreign Office that entry would not be refused to such refugees provided that British and Jewish Agency representatives in Istanbul issue them Palestine entry certificates. It was pointed out that such certificates are now being issued without delay and as a matter of course. As a result, Steinhardt stated, a considerable number of refugees without Turkish visas who have arrived overland at Turkish border points from Bulgaria have already passed through Turkey en route to Palestine.

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Exchange Action Urged

In a circular letter to U. S. Embassies in the various Latin American republics the State Department has indicated its desire to proceed as quickly as possible with the presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals based upon the resolution relating to exchange standards recently adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo. Reports have been requested by State with respect to any initiative taken by these various governments in connection with the projected exchange.

COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

We have now arranged for the liaison already established with the Office of Censorship by the Foreign Funds Control to function for the Board as well, in connection with cables relating to refugee matters.

COOPERATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

In response to our request for information as to the present status of the Intergovernmental Committee credit scheme, to which this Government had indicated its agreement, Ambassador Winant advised us that Sir Herbert Emerson apparently had not yet been informed of our response to the British Foreign Office.

We have communicated to Winant details of this Government's reply to the original British proposal, including information concerning the \$1,800,000 operational fund which has been made available to the IGC. Winant is also being informed of our concern that the credit scheme be started as soon as possible.

COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA

Ambassador Harriman has reported having recently discussed with Vyshinski the general question of the relief and rescue of victims of enemy persecution, as well as the President's recent action in setting up an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country. Harriman pointed out that American public opinion has been very much concerned over the appalling reports that have been received concerning the persecution of Jews in Europe, and inquired as to whether there was any concrete action that the Soviet Government could take in this respect.

100905

Vyahinski replied that the same reports had come to the attention of the Soviet Government. It was stated that active study is being given to the entire matter, including the proposals set forth in a recent letter from the Embassy.

COOPERATION WITH NEW ZEALAND

We have been advised by the U. S. Legation in New Zealand of the appearance in a Wellington newspaper of an editorial describing the concern expressed by returning servicemen over the acquisition of professional, business, and industrial undertakings by alien residents of New Zealand. The editorial is said to have urged investigation on a national scale of the extent and effect of alien infiltration.

Another Wellington news story reported by the Legation dealt with statements made by the Prime Minister of New Zealand on the matter of post-war immigration. The Prime Minister is said to have reiterated his belief that while the rehabilitation of her fighting men must be New Zealand's first consideration, immigrants will be needed and welcomed in New Zealand after the war. A well-planned scheme of immigration was urged, with priority to immigrants from Great Britain and then perhaps to people of other Allied nations.

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Aksin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Sargoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. H.D. White, Files.

000906

JUN 28 1944

My dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 12  
to June 17, 1944.

Very truly yours,

Witness: J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

EBT  
EBTowler:agr 6-21-44

100907



JUN 26 1944

Dear Abe:

I am sending you herewith a copy of  
the report of the War Refugee Board for the week  
of June 12 to June 17, 1944.

Sincerely,

*(Signed) John*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*EBT*

EBTowler:agr 6-23-44

*JH* ✓

000908

JUN 26 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 12,  
to June 17, 1944.

Very truly yours,

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

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*EBT* *OK* EBTowler:agr 6-21-44

000909

Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of June 12 - 17, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

On June 12 President Roosevelt addressed a message to Congress explaining in detail the necessity for his recent decision to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country to which 1,000 refugees -- for the most part, women and children -- are to be brought from southern Italy.

"Congress has repeatedly manifested its deep concern with the pitiful plight of the persecuted minorities in Europe whose lives are each day being offered in sacrifice on the altar of Nazi tyranny," the President's message began.

"This Nation is appalled by the systematic persecution of helpless minority groups by the Nazis. To us the unprovoked murder of innocent people simply because of race, religion or political creed is the blackest of all possible crimes . . . ."

Reviewing the efforts of this Government to alleviate the condition of persecuted peoples throughout enemy Europe, the President's message paid tribute to the "direct and forceful attack on the problem" made by the Board since its inception, including not only the successful evacuation of refugees from enemy territory, but also the adoption of many measures to protect the lives of those who have not been able to escape.

"Above all," the message asserted, "the efforts of the Board have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. This statement is not idle speculation. From various sources, I have received word that thousands of people, wearied by their years of resistance to Hitler and by their sufferings to the point of giving up the struggle, have been given the will and desire to continue by the concrete manifestation of this Government's desire to do all possible to aid and rescue the oppressed.

"To the Hitlerites, their subordinates and functionaries and satellites, to the German people and to all other peoples under the Nazi yoke, we have made clear our determination to punish all participants in these acts of savagery. In the name of humanity we have called upon them to spare the lives of these innocent people.

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"Notwithstanding this Government's unremitting efforts, which are continuing, the numbers actually rescued from the jaws of death have been small compared with the numbers still facing extinction in German territory. This is due principally to the fact that our enemies, despite all our appeals and our willingness to find havens of refuge for the oppressed peoples, persist in their fiendish extermination campaign and actively prevent the intended victims from escaping to safety.

"In the face of this attitude of our enemies we must not fail to take full advantage of any opportunity, however limited, for the rescue of Hitler's victims. We are confronted with a most urgent situation . . . . .

"Recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that unless many refugees who have already escaped to that area and are arriving daily, particularly from the Balkan countries, can be promptly removed to havens of refuge elsewhere, the escape of refugees to that area from German occupied territory will be seriously impeded . . . . Many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary refuges in the territory of other United and friendly nations. However, in view of the number of refugees still in southern Italy, the problem could not be solved unless temporary havens of refuge were found for some of them in still other areas. In view of this most urgent situation it seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem."

The contents of this message have been relayed to key U.S. Missions in both Europe and Latin America. We have asked that efforts be made to give it the widest possible publicity, particularly in Europe.

The London office of the Office of War Information has indicated in this connection that in its broadcasts to enemy-occupied and neutral countries, it has been carrying the story of the President's action in setting up an Emergency Refugee Shelter in this country and has been stressing the significance of this step.

Favorable editorial comment on the new Emergency Refugee Shelter has continued to appear in newspapers throughout the United States, as well as in British papers. We have also received a steady stream of congratulatory letters and telegrams on the President's action.

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#### OTHER TEMPORARY HAVENS

With respect to the President's suggestion that refugees might be taken to Cyprus, we have learned that the company village of the Cyprus Mines Corporation at Mavrovuni, which was occupied by the British Army for three years, is now vacant. It is estimated that this village could accommodate about 1,500 families. A number of staff houses are also reported to be available.

According to a cable from Ambassador Winant, however, the head of the Refugee Department of the British Foreign Office has asserted that it would be absolutely useless to look to Cyprus for such assistance. The British Government is said to have been informed by the governor of that territory that no more refugees could be accommodated because of the large number of Greek refugees who have fled to Cyprus.

#### Establishment of Refugee Haven in Tripolitania

We have asked that Winant convey to the British Foreign Office our appreciation of the British Government's agreement to establish on a joint basis a refugee center in Tripolitania.

We are now awaiting British suggestions as to location of the proposed camp and with respect to whatever steps may be necessary to put the camp in condition to receive refugees. We have indicated our earnest hope that this project will now move forward with maximum speed.

As for the question of medical and administrative personnel, we have advised Winant that one possibility is to request the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to administer the camp, as in the case of Camp Lyautey. If the British prove agreeable to this suggestion, we would then approach UNRRA representatives in Washington on the matter.

#### Cooperation of French Committee To Be Solicited

We have advised Ambassador Murphy and Board Representative Ackermann in Algiers of the favorable response of the British to our suggestion that a refugee haven be set up in Tripolitania. The sympathetic position of the British on the matter of moving Jewish refugees from southern Italy to Palestine has also been indicated. Murphy and Ackermann were requested to bring to the attention

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of the French Committee the action taken by the President, as a result of which these affirmative actions on the part of the British were obtained. Our representatives are to explore carefully with the French Committee all possible means by which refugee facilities in the Mediterranean area might be increased.

Evacuations to the Middle East

We have now had a report from the Chief of the Balkan Mission of UNRRA reviewing in detail conditions previously reported by Ackermann. According to this report, in January the Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration, a British organization functioning in that area, prior to the operation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, was asked to accept responsibility for 20,000 Yugoslav refugees. The Egyptian Government agreed to make accommodations available in Egypt, while a staff, supplies and services were made available by the British Army. A total of 26,000 refugees had actually arrived in Egypt by June. While camp space and supplies are said to have caused no difficulties, obtaining transportation facilities and an adequate medical staff have been serious problems.

In May, according to this report, MERRA was asked to assume responsibility for a total of up to 40,000 refugees. Since MERRA was scheduled to be taken over by UNRRA on May 1, it was necessary to get UNRRA's approval from Washington. This approval was forthcoming on condition that the Army make available the necessary administrative and medical staff, supplies and other services. Although the Army is said to have agreed to this, the actual shortage of doctors has been so great that a sufficient staff could not be made available from Army sources. The flow of refugees will therefore be seriously impeded until more doctors and nurses are made available.

We are therefore continuing to work with UNRRA on this problem of obtaining sufficient medical and nursing personnel, as well as necessary supplies and transportation facilities.

According to Ambassador MacVeagh, through whom this report was transmitted, another question that has arisen is the matter of stateless refugees. Egyptian regulations currently require guarantees of repatriation after the war and thus prevent the evacuation to that country of persons lacking such guarantees. It was stated that while Yugoslav

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Jews are not affected by these regulations, Jews of Hungarian and other enemy origin are so classified by the Egyptians and are accordingly refused admission to camps there.

#### FOOD AND CLOTHING STOCKPILES IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

As a result of persistent efforts on our part, the agreement of the British was obtained last week to transblockade shipments of urgently needed relief supplies destined for civilians in internment camps in enemy Europe. Following recent discussions between Executive Director Fehle, Dingle M. Foot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, and representatives of State and FEA, an agreement has now been reached with the British to permit the shipment of 100,000 food parcels per month, for a period of three months, for distribution by the International Red Cross to persons in Nazi internment camps.

In addition, and at our suggestion, it was also agreed that 25,000 clothing parcels would be prepared for later distribution to these same people when certain information has been obtained from the International Red Cross on the clothing situation in the camps.

Assurances will be required from the International Red Cross as to distribution to intended beneficiaries and as to adequate supervision to insure no benefit to the enemy, and reports are to be made on the delivery of all consignments.

A memorandum to this effect was drawn up following recent conferences between British and U. S. officials, and was signed by representatives of both Governments. Efforts are being made to get this program under way at once, now that the basic blockade decision has been made.

While the British had proposed that this program be limited to detained persons in what was formerly unoccupied France, at our insistence it was agreed that the proposed measure would not be so limited and that it would apply to any internment camps in Europe selected by the International Red Cross. This three months' program is admittedly experimental. If successful, it is contemplated that this system of relief will be considerably expanded.

#### SITUATION IN HUNGARY

According to a report from Minister Harrison in Bern, a decree has been issued in Budapest mobilizing into military

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auxiliary labor battalions all Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 48.

Board Representative McClelland subsequently indicated from Bern that in the course of a discussion with Dr. Karl Burokhardt of the International Red Cross, it was learned that Intercross has only one man in Hungary at the present time. This representative is in Budapest in his capacity as Director of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hungary, since it was feared that his going as an Intercross delegate would have delayed his receipt of a German visa. It was reported that, significantly, this representative had not yet been officially accredited as the Intercross delegate to the Hungarian Government.

McClelland reported that Intercross still wishes to enlarge its representation in Hungary and is trying to find a second suitable delegate to send there. It was also reported that Intercross is continuing its efforts to obtain German permission to send its Zagreb delegate to Budapest, at least temporarily.

McClelland also indicated that a purchasing agent sent to Budapest by the Intercross Joint Relief Commission had confidentially been instructed to get in touch with Jewish circles there and examine with them all possible channels of rescue and relief for Jews in ghettos and concentration camps.

#### Swiss Government To Be Asked To Act

In view of the recent negative response from Intercross in connection with our proposal that the German and satellite governments be approached in an effort to insure more favorable treatment of unassimilated civilian internees in enemy territory, we have suggested to Minister Harrison that he approach the Swiss Government with a request that the Swiss authorities transmit and support such a proposal in the interests of insuring the survival of the helpless victims concerned.

#### Report from Sweden

We have been advised by Minister Johnson that the Swedish Foreign Office has now been approached in connection with our suggestion that the Swedish diplomatic and consular force in Hungary be increased. According to a Foreign Office spokesman, the Swedish Government is keenly aware of the dangerous position of the Jews in Hungary and has already indicated its anxiety in official representations to the Hungarian Government. A favorable reaction was reported to the suggestion that Swedish representation in Hungary be increased in the hope that it might have some effect in saving the lives of intended victims of the Nazi

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terror, and in obtaining more accurate information with respect to conditions there. It was also reported that the Swedish Government is already considering the possibility of sending food for the relief of those in concentration camps.

In the course of Johnson's discussions with the Foreign Office, it was remarked that the only reason the Swedish Government had consented to receive a representative of the present regime at Budapest was in order to be able to continue Sweden's own representation in Hungary. The Foreign Office promised to make available to Johnson at an early time the substance of an exhaustive report from the Swedish Minister to Hungary concerning the condition of Jews there.

#### Archbishop Spellman Makes Statement

In response to our request, we have now received from Archbishop Spellman of New York a strong statement designed for dissemination in Hungary as a basic part of our psychological warfare campaign abroad. We have not yet received authority from the Archbishop to use the statement domestically. We have approached him for this permission, however, and are hopeful that it will be forthcoming. The statement reads in part as follows:

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

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

"It seems incredible, therefore, that a nation which has been so consistently true to the teachings of the Catholic Church should now bow to a false, pagan mysticism of blood and race . . . .

"I cannot believe that a people with such profound Christian faith, with such a glorious history, with the oldest parliamentary tradition on the Continent, will chant a hymn of hatred and willingly submit or countenance tyranny, blood lust and brigandage . . . ."

#### Russian Cooperation Solicited

Ambassador Harriman has reported having addressed a letter to Vyshinski, communicating the text of the stirring appeal addressed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to the Hungarian people. Harriman's letter also renewed our request that the Soviet Government issue a statement comparable to the President's declaration on atrocities against the Jews. It was also requested that Soviet radio stations broadcast appropriate messages to Germany and the satellite countries and issue leaflets supplementing any such broadcasts.

#### Leaflets over Hungary Urged

Board Representative Ackermann has cabled from Algiers that, in his opinion, it would be appropriate at this time to make fuller use of the President's declaration on atrocities against the Jews, particularly by means of pamphlets to be dropped over Hungary, where the greatest number of Jews in occupied territory are now concentrated. Such pamphlets would stress the President's appeal to the Hungarian people to hide Jews or aid their escape. Ackermann also indicated that the OWI in Algiers could give greater coverage to the President's statement if such a directive were received from the OWI in Washington. Accordingly, we are asking OWI cooperation in this matter.

#### SITUATION IN BULGARIA

In response to our suggestion that the reportedly sympathetic attitude of the Bulgarian Minister to Sweden might be explored in somewhat the same manner as the attitudes of the Rumanian and Bulgarian Ministers in Ankara were explored by Board Representative Hirschmann, Minister Johnson has reported that an informal memorandum was presented along the lines suggested. Johnson was advised that this memorandum is being forwarded to the Bulgarian Foreign Office and that a reply can be expected in due course. Meanwhile an informal response has been received from the Bulgarian Minister stating, in effect, that both the Bulgarian Government and the Bulgarian people have maintained a sympathetic attitude toward Jews. It was asserted

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that the Government of Bulgaria has never turned a deaf ear to humanitarian considerations or to those of tolerance. It was alleged that the air forces of the United States, however, have been engaged in acts of violence and cruelty against the defenseless civilian population in Bulgaria, including the total destruction of the Queen's chateau, which was said to have been far removed from any objective of a military nature and in an isolated location.

The reply concluded with the observation that if a stop could be put to the alleged slaughter of an innocent civilian population, then the Bulgarian Government would undoubtedly be prepared not only to recognize the moral right of this Government to advance humanitarian pleas, but also to approve action consistent with such pleas.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

In response to Ambassador Steinhardt's recent cable describing as "remote" the possibility that Turkey might be persuaded to agree to accept refugees from Bulgaria without transit visas or other entry permits, we have asked that Steinhardt reconsider the matter. We have pointed out that the problem of refugees arriving by land at the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier differs materially from that of refugees arriving in Turkish waters by boat from Greece or Rumania. Since the latter may leave Rumanian or Greek territory without entering Turkish territory, their departure from Rumania and Greece onto the high seas is not subject to interference by Turkish border guards. Moreover, their applications for transit facilities can be handled on a group or individual basis while their vessels stand safely offshore. Persons seeking to cross the Turkish-Bulgarian border, however, can be prevented from leaving Bulgaria by Turkish border guards where transit visas or other entry permits are lacking. According to reports reaching us, this has not been an infrequent occurrence. Refugees arriving by land at the Turkish-Bulgarian border obviously cannot safely await on the Bulgarian side of the border the outcome of entry procedures.

We have advised Steinhardt that it is for these reasons that the possibility of making such advance arrangements was suggested. We have pointed out that if such arrangements could be made, subject to the speedy routing to Palestine or elsewhere of the refugees concerned, as in the case of sea-borne refugees, then persons escaping over the land route would be placed in a position no less favorable than those arriving by sea.

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Steinhardt has been reminded that other neutral countries adjacent to enemy-controlled areas refrain from barring the entry of refugees lacking entry permits, although such persons are sometimes subjected to technical arrest for illegal entry. If the Turkish Government were to adopt a similar procedure and instruct its border guards accordingly, there is reason to believe that additional lives could be saved, especially if the information were to reach Jews and other persecuted peoples in the Balkans that they would not be turned back at the border.

Sailing of the "Bardaland" from Piraeus

According to word received from Ambassador Winant, our cable urging that acceptance of the "Bardaland's" sailing be withheld by the British pending further attempts to obtain a German safe-conduct was received too late to prevent the vessel's departure from Piraeus on June 10.

In view of the fact that the British Foreign Office attributed the German refusal of safe-conduct for the "Bardaland" to what was described as a settled German policy of refusing to facilitate in any way the evacuation of Jews to Palestine, and because similar rumors have been received in the past, we have asked Minister Johnson to request the Swedish Government to renew its negotiations with the Germans for a safe-conduct, on the assurance that refugees evacuated on the "Bardaland" would be removed from Turkey to havens of refuge other than Palestine. We have taken this action not only because there is still the possibility that use of the "Bardaland" might be arranged despite its departure from Piraeus, but also in order to ascertain the accuracy of the statements that have been made with respect to the German attitude.

Meanwhile Minister Johnson has referred to us from Stockholm a preliminary claim of 80,000 kronor presented by the owners of the "Bardaland" through the Swedish Foreign Office as an estimate of indemnity due them for charter hire covering the period the vessel was tied up at Piraeus. The Swedish Foreign Office is said to feel that such a settlement would be reasonable, particularly in view of the seamen's war bonuses and the war-risk insurance involved.

Number of Refugees from Bulgaria Decreasing

We have been advised by Ambassador Steinhardt that, in the course of a discussion with Barlas of the Jewish Agency about the reasons for the decreasing number of

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Jewish refugees arriving in Istanbul by rail from Bulgaria, he was informed that the president of the Jewish community in Ruschuk had recently called on the Chief of Police of Sofia to inquire as to why exit visas for refugees were being withheld. The Chief of Police is said to have replied that he had directed that the issuance of exit visas to Jewish refugees be discontinued because of a report to the effect that refugees arriving in Istanbul were being closely questioned by representatives of the British and American Intelligence Services concerning military and other conditions in Bulgaria.

Coordination of Rescue Work in Turkey Approved

In response to a suggestion recently advanced by the Turkish Foreign Office, we have communicated to Steinhardt our feeling that differences of opinion between private refugee organizations must not in any way interfere with the basic task of rescuing the largest possible numbers of refugees from enemy territory. We have indicated our earnest hope that Hirschmann and the Embassy will be able to coordinate and supervise all rescue activities in Turkey, as the Foreign Office has suggested, to the extent necessary to assure that each private refugee organization makes the most effective contribution to the over-all program.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SPAIN

In accordance with the State Department's instructions, Ambassador Hayes has returned as unused the quota numbers for 332 U. S. visas which were to have been granted during the month of May to refugee children reaching Spain from France.

Removal of Refugees to North Africa

Ackermann has informed us that a ship is now definitely scheduled to arrive in Spain on June 20 for the purpose of evacuating the refugee group destined for Camp Lyautey. In addition to the assistance of the War Shipping Administration representative successfully enlisted by Ackermann following cancellation of an earlier sailing date, Ambassador Murphy has taken up the matter with the Commander of Naval Forces in the Mediterranean Area, pointing out the unfortunate results of any further delay. Murphy has indicated that the ship will now proceed as scheduled unless extremely urgent operational requirements interfere.

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Ambassador Hayes has meanwhile advised Ackermann that Blickenstaff is proceeding with arrangements necessary in order to embark this group of refugees at Cadiz on the date specified.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

Rescue and relief activities in France are developing satisfactorily despite numerous arrests among the staffs of organizations carrying on such work, according to a report from Board Representative McClelland. Organizations that have officially been dissolved, but which continue to function, are reportedly maintaining 3700 abandoned children there, in addition to 2,000 placed with private families. It was stated that these numbers are steadily increasing, despite the fact that 450 recently escaped to Switzerland and 50 managed to reach Spain. Relief activities on behalf of the sick and distressed in hospitals were also reported.

It was said that close contacts are being maintained with similar organizations in Belgium maintaining 2500 children, as well as in Holland, where 550 child refugees are being cared for. Similar organizations in Rumania are said to be helping some 2,000 children evacuated from Transnistria, along with several thousand in old Rumania. Efforts are reportedly being made to set up a relief organization in Hungary along the lines of those in France to rescue and sustain the lives of more than 170,000 children who are said to be in great danger there.

#### Rescue of Christian Refugees from France

The French representative of the American Committee for Christian Refugees has also reported that rescue and relief work in France is being handicapped by arrests. During the past few weeks total arrivals in Switzerland are said to have averaged 60 per day, however, despite the fact that escape from France has become increasingly difficult.

#### Swiss Hospitalization Proposed for Civilian Prisoners

In a cable to Bern we are indicating that the Friends Service Committee would like to know whether it would be possible to arrange for hospital internment in Switzerland of selected hospitalized or ill civilian prisoners now held in Germany or occupied countries. We are advising McClelland that similar arrangements were apparently worked out during the last war.

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EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN

Board Representative Olsen has now received the funds whose transmission we recently arranged. Olsen reported that initial advances have been made, and further funds will be supplied against established results and in accordance with the ability demonstrated in carrying out our objectives.

Rescue of Refugees from Finland

Minister Johnson has reported that during the past week the last of some 100 Jewish refugees arrived in Sweden from Finland. It was stated that preliminary arrangements have been made covering the evacuation from Finland of an additional group of 50 Jews of German, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and Rumanian origin. Johnson indicated that Finnish authorities have already granted permission for the departure of this group, which is said to be comprised of people of advanced age, mostly unemployables.

RESCUE OF JEWS FROM GREECE

Ambassador MacVeagh in Cairo has forwarded another memorandum dealing with the plight of Jews in Greece. This memorandum repeated previous "conservative" estimates to the effect that about 5,000 Jews are still in hiding in Athens.

There is said to be little information available as to the fate of Jews in the provincial towns. Those who have been able to join the Partisans reportedly run less risk of being exterminated by the Germans, who have thus far avoided the systematic pursuit of guerrilla warriors. In order to increase cooperative efforts on the part of native villagers, it was urged that a message be addressed to these people by the Free Greek Government, calling upon them to facilitate the escape of Jewish refugees as a humanitarian measure. It was suggested that such an appeal should be read in the villages, rather than distributed in leaflet form, since leaflets might fall into the hands of the Germans, who would attempt measures of reprisal.

RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

We are asking Harrison and McClelland in Bern to forward to us the list of the names of deportees from Vittel, which was recently furnished by the Swiss Foreign Office. We

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are indicating that this list is not to be used for the present for the purpose of investigating nationality claims, but may enable us to take more effective protective action.

We are also asking that Swiss authorities be pressed for action designed to accomplish the return of the Vittel deportees since, to judge from McClelland's reports, the Swiss have not yet actually requested their return. We are pointing out that reports reaching us indicate that the remaining Jews were removed from Vittel in late April or May and that appropriate inquiries and protective steps should be extended to cover any such additional removals.

#### Honduras


According to a report from our Embassy in Honduras, the Honduran Government has "ignored and had nothing to do with" the Spanish Minister, whose residence is at San Salvador. It was stated that under these circumstances the representations suggested by us in connection with extending protection to holders of Latin American passports do not appear to be practicable.

#### Paraguay

We have now received a copy of the formal note from the Paraguayan Government agreeing to recognize the validity of Paraguayan passports held by persons now in German concentration camps and authorizing this Government to negotiate an exchange in which persons holding Paraguayan passports would be included. In connection with the proposed exchange, the request was made that preference be given to native Paraguayans.

#### Nicaragua

According to a report from our Embassy in Nicaragua, the Foreign Office there has been advised by its representative in Madrid that the Spanish Foreign Minister has agreed to use his good offices in the interests of having returned to Vittel any bearers of Nicaraguan passports who may have been removed from there.

  
J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

100923



JUN 21 1944

Dear Mr. Malin:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 5  
to June 10, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) J. W. PEHLE

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

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EBTowler:agr 6-14-44 JET

000924

JUN 20 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 5  
to June 10, 1944.

Very truly yours,

Signed J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

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000925

JUN 20 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 5  
to June 10, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

EBTowler:agr 6-14-44

000926

OFFICE OF THE  
UNDER SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON



June 20, 1944.

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

Dear Jack:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of June 5 to June 10, 1944. I should be very glad to have these reports each week for my personal information.

Sincerely yours,

  
Under Secretary.

000927

JUN 19 1944

Dear Abe:

I am sending you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for the week of June 5 to June 10, 1944. If you so desire, I shall be glad to send you these reports each week for your personal information.

Sincerely yours,

*(Signed) John*

Honorable Abe Fortas,  
Under Secretary of Interior,  
Department of Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

*FA*  
FH:lab 6/17/44

000928

JUN 17 1944

Dear Mr. Bean:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 5  
to June 10, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Bean,  
The Bureau of the Budget,  
Room 435,  
Department of State,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

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Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for June 5  
to June 10, 1944.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Myron C. Taylor,  
Department of State.

Enclosure.

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Towler:agr 6-14-44

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Report of the War Refugee Board  
for the Week of June 5 - 10, 1944

TEMPORARY HAVENS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

Confirming the announcement made at his press conference on May 30, President Roosevelt outlined to the press on June 9 details of the plan whereby 1,000 refugees are to be brought to this country immediately from Italy, outside of the regular immigration procedure. An historic Army camp, Fort Ontario, at Oswego, New York, has been set aside as an Emergency Refugee Shelter for these refugees for the duration of the war.

In directing Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers to arrange for the immediate departure of these refugees from southern Italy, the President cabled:

"Information available to me indicates that there are real possibilities of saving human lives by bringing more refugees through Yugoslavia to southern Italy. I am also informed that the escape of refugees by this route has from time to time been greatly impeded because the facilities in southern Italy for refugees have been overtaxed. I am advised that this is the situation at the present moment and that accordingly possibilities of increasing the flow of refugees to Italy may be lost.

"I understand that many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary havens in areas adjacent to the Mediterranean and that efforts are being made to increase existing refugee facilities in these areas. I am most anxious that this effort to take refugees from Italy to areas relatively close by be intensified.

"At the same time I feel that it is important that the United States indicate that it is ready to share the burden of caring for refugees during the war. Accordingly, I have decided that approximately 1,000 refugees should be immediately brought from Italy to this country, to be placed in an Emergency Refugee Shelter to be established at Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York, where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war. These refugees will be brought



into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure just as civilian internees from Latin American countries and prisoners of war have been brought here. The Emergency Refugee Shelter will be well equipped to take good care of these people. It is contemplated that at the end of the war they will be returned to their homelands.

"You may assume that the Emergency Refugee Shelter will be ready to receive these refugees when they arrive. I will appreciate it therefore if you will arrange for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible, consistent with military requirements, of approximately 1,000 refugees in southern Italy. You may call upon representatives of the War Refugee Board in Algiers to assist you in this matter. The full cooperation of our military and naval authorities should be enlisted in effecting the prompt removal and transportation of the refugees.

"In choosing the refugees to be brought to the United States, please bear in mind that to the extent possible those refugees should be selected for whom other havens of refuge are not immediately available. I should however like the group to include a reasonable proportion of various categories of persecuted peoples who have fled to Italy.

"You should bear in mind that since these refugees are to be placed in a camp in the United States under appropriate security restrictions, the procedure for the selection of the refugees and arrangements for bringing them here should be as simple and expeditious as possible, uncomplicated by any of the usual formalities involved in admitting people to the United States under the immigration laws.

"However, please be sure that the necessary health checks are made to avoid bringing here persons afflicted with any loathsome, dangerous or contagious disease.

"If you encounter any difficulties in arranging for the prompt departure of these refugees please let me know."

Cooperation of Other Government Agencies Assured

At the same time the President despatched the following memorandum to the Secretaries of War, Navy and Interior,

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and to the Director of the Budget, as well as to the Executive Director of the Board:

"There is attached a cable which I have despatched to Robert Murphy in Algiers, requesting that he make arrangements for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible of approximately 1,000 refugees now in southern Italy.

"These refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure and placed in Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army shall take the necessary security precautions so that these refugees will remain in the camp and the actual administration of the camp is to be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

"Accordingly, the following steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible:

"(1) The War Department and the Navy Department shall send whatever instructions are necessary to the military authorities in Italy and North Africa to expedite the transportation of these refugees to the United States.

"(2) The War Department shall arrange to furnish and properly equip Fort Ontario to receive these refugees; shall arrange for their transportation from the port of arrival to the camp; and shall arrange for the necessary security precautions.

"(3) The War Relocation Authority shall make arrangements to handle the actual administration of the camp, which will be designated as an Emergency Refugee Shelter.

"(4) Until UNRRA is in a position to assume the financial responsibilities involved, the Bureau of the Budget shall make arrangements for financing the project; using to the extent possible any available funds of the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the War Refugee Board, and from the Foreign War Relief appropriation, and if necessary drawing upon the President's Emergency Fund."

U. S. Missions Asked to Act

As a result of the President's action, we are now in a stronger position to urge Allied and neutral countries to expand existing refugee facilities. Moreover, by opening our own doors to a limited number of refugees we are bringing new hope to all the oppressed peoples of Europe.

We are promptly communicating to Ambassador Winant in London the text of the President's cable to Murphy in Algiers, as well as certain other details with respect to the establishment of the Emergency Refugee Shelter. Winant is being asked to bring the President's action to the attention of the British Government and to emphasize its significance. We are also asking that Winant explore with the British the question of expanding existing refugee facilities in the Mediterranean and of finding new havens of refuge in that area. The possibility of taking refugees to Cyprus, as suggested by the President, is likewise to be explored.

In similar cables to our Missions in Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey, we are asking that it be made clear to the governments of these various countries that we are determined to find havens of refuge for all persecuted peoples who can escape from German-controlled territory. With this principle in mind, our representatives are to explore carefully with the governments to which they are accredited all possible means by which they can facilitate the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression.

We are also asking that our representatives abroad do everything possible, consistent with the military situation, to publicize the President's action in enemy territory as well as in the various neutral countries.

A circular airgram along the same lines is being despatched to our Missions in Latin America.

Public Response Heartening

Since the President's original announcement to the effect that he favored the establishment of temporary havens for war refugees in this country and elsewhere, we have received a number of telegrams of congratulation. News coverage and editorial comment have likewise been encouraging. Editorials endorsing the President's move promptly appeared in the New York Times, the New York

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Herald Tribune, the New York Post, the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, and the Washington Evening Star, among others. The latter editorial, which appeared on June 10, said in part:

"President Roosevelt's announcement that 1,000 European refugees will be granted temporary shelter in this country will be welcomed by all who have given any thought to the plight of those great numbers of people who have been uprooted by the war and put to flight by the Nazis. Life has dealt harshly with these men, women and children, and they need the support of every nation that can serve as a haven for them. Heretofore the United States has limited its assistance to diplomatic efforts to establish homes for them in other lands; now, on the strength of the President's decision, we shall share directly in the task of caring for them . . . . In view of the dimensions of the problem, the number seems surprisingly small and perhaps we shall find it desirable, later on, to open our doors to many more -- a gesture contemplated by a Congressional proposal to set up several "free ports" to accommodate additional thousands. In any event, no one with the least humanitarian impulse will question the fitness of Mr. Roosevelt's action; it is simply a step in recognition of the moral responsibility which every nation, in a position to help, bears toward the oppressed and stricken of the world."

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH ITALY

Our efforts to find still other places of refuge relatively close by southern Italy have been intensified. In pressing for the establishment of refugee centers elsewhere, we have encountered real evidence of the fact that by opening our own doors for the duration of the war to even so limited a number of refugees, our hand has been materially strengthened.

#### Temporary Refuge in Palestine

According to a cable from Ambassador Winant, the head of the Refugee Department of the British Foreign Office, in response to our 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

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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.

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.

U. S. and Britain Jointly to Establish Haven in Tripolitania

The British have also responded to our own gesture 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 Ambassador 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.

RELIEF THROUGH THE BLOCKADE TO COOPERATING NEUTRALS

We have also been advised by Winant that the British, in response to our approaches, are now prepared to instruct their representatives in Turkey, Spain and Portugal to join with our representatives in giving assurances that if a more generous policy toward receiving and caring for refugees is adopted by these countries, the provision of additional supplies will be arranged to meet the needs of such new refugees. It was pointed out that the word "provision" is preferred by the British in place of the word "shipment," since it was felt that the general shipping situation might make it impossible to send supplies by means of Allied ships.

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FOOD AND CLOTHING STOCKPILES IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

Although it had been proposed on several occasions in the past that foodstuffs and clothing in package form be shipped to the International Red Cross for distribution to unassimilated groups in enemy territory, such proposals have previously been rejected, primarily because adequate assurances were lacking that the relief provided would go to the intended beneficiaries and not to the enemy.

Because of the alarming scarcity of food and clothing in neutral markets at the present time, the International Red Cross has again urged that we create stockpiles of food and clothing parcels to be held in Geneva and at other neutral locations for distribution exclusively to unassimilated groups in camps. In transmitting this request Minister Harrison strongly recommended favorable action. The concurrence of State and the Foreign Economic Administration in this matter has now been obtained.

SITUATION IN HUNGARY

According to information transmitted by our Legation in Bern, steps recently taken in Hungary are unmistakable preliminaries to the mass deportation and extermination of the Jewish population, especially in the Carpatho-Russian and Marmaros regions. The number of persons immediately involved is said to be about 200,000, with all signs pointing to the extension of such actions to the Jewish population in Hungary proper.

From all reliable reports, including stories appearing in the Hungarian press, the Hungarian population has not sympathized with the brutal anti-Jewish measures reported. On the contrary, Hungarians in general are reported to have sided openly with the persecuted Jews and to have tried to aid them by furnishing food and clothing.

Hungarian authorities are said to have taken severe measures to isolate the camps in which these people have been placed. According to one newspaper account, the mass attempt on the part of the general public to get food and clothing to Jews in concentration areas has been an "incomprehensible phenomenon. As a result, the authorities have been forced to take the necessary police measures to cut off such Jews from all contact with the population."

The lot of the Jews in such improvised camps is said to be wretched. The cattle markets, tile factories, and wood yards in which they are confined are reported to be almost completely devoid of sanitary facilities. In many instances,

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thousands of men, women and children, along with the sick and the aged, are forced to live in the open under frightfully over-crowded and degrading conditions. Since the persons confined in these camps were permitted to take nothing with them in the way of blankets or covers, it has become tragically obvious, according to this report, that a great many of them will die from exposure as well as from disease and slow starvation, even before they are jammed into cattle cars for deportation.

It was urgently suggested through our Legation in Bern that an attempt be made to persuade the Soviet Government to issue a declaration on atrocities against Jews similar to that issued by President Roosevelt late in March. It was stated that since Soviet armies are standing on the frontiers of Hungary and since there is already a mortal fear of the Russians in the hearts of a large number of "collaborators" in Hungary, a declaration by the Soviet Union would have all the more weight. Moreover, it was urged that any such Russian declaration be publicized in pamphlet form, as well as over the radio, since most Hungarians in the regions concerned do not have radios.

It was also indicated that certain channels of particular value, especially Communist, would be opened up through which relief and rescue operations from Switzerland could be carried on in the Balkans if such a Soviet declaration were to be forthcoming.

#### Soviet Cooperation to be Solicited

The substance of these reports has been communicated to Ambassador Harriman in Moscow. Harriman has been asked to relay to appropriate Soviet authorities the nature of these reports, along with the text of the statement recently directed to Hungarians by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in an effort to obtain Soviet action along the lines suggested.

#### Spanish Relations with Hungarian Regime

Ambassador Hayes has informed us that, in response to certain inquiries directed to the Spanish Foreign Office with respect to the situation in Hungary, he has been advised that the measures taken by the Germans thus far in Hungary have applied mainly to Czech, Polish and German Jews. The Spanish "representative" in Budapest is said to have reported that the Sephardic Jews, for example, have not been confined in concentration camps, nor had he been unduly hindered in carrying out his instructions

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to make arrangements for evacuating these people. It was his hope, the Foreign Office added, that the Germans would be sufficiently preoccupied in organizing Hungary for waging war to prevent their taking steps similar to those taken in Poland.

Hayes reported having urged that instructions be sent to Budapest directing the Spanish "representative" and his staff to be as active there as possible, since their presence might have a deterring effect on the Germans. The Spanish Foreign Office is said to have agreed to this.

In view of the fact that the Foreign Office went out of its way throughout the interview to refer to its envoy in Hungary as a "representative" and not as a Minister, Hayes felt that it would be useless to suggest that additional personnel be sent to the Spanish mission in Hungary, especially since such action would be against Spain's current policy of minimizing its connections with the present Hungarian regime.

#### Portuguese Relations with Hungarian Government

Minister Norweb has advised us from Lisbon that in his opinion representations to the Portuguese Government with respect to enlarging the Portuguese mission in Hungary would be impolitic and perhaps even prejudicial to the favorable attitude now existing in Portugal with respect to the reception of refugees. Norweb pointed out that as a result of having made fairly strong representations, following the invasion of Hungary, seeking to persuade the Portuguese Government not to recognize the puppet government in Budapest, it would seem inappropriate that he now approach the Portuguese with the proposed request. As a practical matter, and aside from this consideration, Norweb voiced grave doubts that the Germans would allow any increase in personnel in the Portuguese mission in Hungary at this time.

#### Report from Sweden

Minister Johnson has reported that, in response to his inquiry, the Swedish Foreign Office replied that thus far no information has been received from its Budapest Legation to indicate that the mass annihilation of Jews in Hungary is contemplated.

#### Turkish Position vis-a-vis the Hungarian Government

According to a cable from Ambassador Steinhardt, Hungarian-Turkish relations are virtually non-existent at

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the present time, due to the strain resulting from the Turkish Government's having materially reduced the shipment of strategic materials to Hungary, at the request of the Allies. Steinhardt indicated that the Turkish Government therefore does not feel that it is in a position to ask the Hungarian Government for permission to expand the Turkish diplomatic and consular force in Hungary, as we had requested. Moreover, it was reported that the Turkish authorities were convinced that any such request would be refused, especially since the Germans would have to approve it.

In Steinhardt's opinion, any approach to the Hungarian Minister in Ankara or to his staff in an effort to restrain the Hungarian Government in its persecution of Jews would be of no use whatever, since their pro-Nazi attitude is notorious.

With respect to the suggestion that the Turks be asked to allow refugees to enter Turkey without Turkish visas, Steinhardt indicated that the acceptance of such a proposition by the Turks is an extremely remote possibility. In this connection Steinhardt pointed out that in obtaining permission for Jewish refugees to enter and pass through Turkey without Turkish visas, he has had to make separate representations to the Foreign Minister concerning each group or individual upon arrival.

Approach Proposed to Hungarian Government through the Swiss

In a cable to Minister Harrison and Board Representative McClelland in Bern we have indicated that we have had under consideration the advisability of asking the Swiss Government to address an inquiry on behalf of this Government to appropriate authorities in Hungary, asking them to state their intentions with respect to the future treatment to be accorded Jews in ghettos and concentration camps and, more specifically, whether they contemplate forced deportations to Poland or elsewhere, the imposition of discriminatory reductions in food rations, or the adoption of any other such measures. At the same time the Swiss Government would be requested to remind Hungarian authorities of the grave view which this Government takes with respect to the persecution of Jews and other minorities, and of our determination to see to it that all those who share the responsibility for such acts are properly dealt with when hostilities cease. The widest possible publicity in Hungary, through broadcasts and otherwise, would be given such a request when made.

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Harrison and McClelland have been asked to give careful consideration to this matter, and unless they are of the opinion that positive disadvantages would be involved, they are to proceed promptly to make the requests outlined.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH TURKEY

According to word reaching Minister Harrison in Bern, when the German Legation at Bucharest was asked by the Rumanians to grant safe-conduct for the "S. S. Tari," the Rumanians were told that the German authorities would not be opposed to such evacuation operations from Rumania provided they were not directed toward the countries with Arabian interests, including Palestine. It was explained that the Germans consider the Arabs their friends and have no intention of aiding immigration viewed with disfavor by the Arabs.

Harrison pointed out that although such a position does not necessarily mean that the Germans would permit the emigration of Jews from Rumania to non-Arabian countries, there might be such a possibility which we would want to explore.

German Safe-Conduct for "Bardaland" Denied

We have now heard from Ambassador Winant in London that, according to the British Foreign Office, the Germans have likewise refused to grant safe-conduct for the "Bardaland." Statements of the British Foreign Office in this connection tend to support the conclusion that it is settled German policy to refuse to facilitate in any way the evacuation of Jews to Palestine.

Winant indicated that the British therefore intended to accept notice of the sailing of the "Bardaland" from Piraeus on June 10, as previously scheduled, unless there were objections on our part.

We promptly cabled Winant, urgently requesting that the British withhold acceptance of the "Bardaland's" sailing. Winant was asked to approach the Swedish Government at once with the request that the Germans be asked to grant safe-conduct for the "Bardaland" for voyages across the Black Sea from Rumania to Turkey, with the assurance to the Germans that refugees evacuated on the "Bardaland" would be taken to havens of refuge other than Palestine.

We have also asked that Winant convey to the British Foreign Office our conviction that if the German refusal of safe-conduct for evacuation voyages across the Black

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Sea is based upon their opposition to taking such refugees to Palestine, the British and American Governments should leave no stone unturned in attempting to find havens of refuge elsewhere. It was suggested that Winant refer specifically to the possibility of taking such refugees to Cyprus, Tripolitania, and Cyrenaica.

A cable subsequently received from Minister Johnson in Stockholm confirmed the Germans' refusal of safe-conduct for the "Bardaland." We are advising Johnson of our instructions to Winant in this connection, and Johnson is to discuss with the Swedish Government the possibility of again taking up the matter with the Germans on the basis of the assurances proposed.

#### WRB Representative Returning to Istanbul

Arrangements have been completed for the return to Turkey of Board Representative Ira Hirschmann, who is now en route there. Herbert Katzki is being sent to Ankara to serve as Hirschmann's Administrative Assistant.

#### Rescue Work to be Centralized under WRB Representative

Ambassador Steinhardt has advised us that the Secretary General of the Turkish Foreign Office has proposed that all requests for aid on behalf of Jewish refugees hereafter be made of the Foreign Office through the Board's representative in Ankara or, in his absence, by some other officer of our Embassy there. Steinhardt indicated that he, too, was of the opinion that more satisfactory progress with greater speed and less confusion will be made if the Jewish refugee work is centered in the hands of permanent representatives situated in Turkey and under Hirschmann's supervision on his return. Steinhardt pointed out that competitive bidding in Turkey on the part of an increasing number of organizations and individuals merely tends to increase the cost of rescue operations without increasing the limited number of vessels available for such purposes.

#### Plans for the "Bardaland" Re-examined

In another cable from Ankara, Steinhardt has indicated that, while he does not believe that the Turkish Government would have any objection to the proposed refitting of the "Bardaland" at Istanbul with the necessary passenger accommodations, information reaching him indicates that material and labor facilities for such work are greatly limited. Delays are said to be interminable and the cost highly excessive under present conditions. Steinhardt

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could suggest only one alternative: refitting the "Bardaland" in some Egyptian port where British naval facilities might be made available upon request.

In connection with the proposed destination of Istanbul in place of Haifa, Steinhardt again stressed the limited nature of rail facilities across Turkey to Palestine. The fear was voiced that if many refugees should be landed from the "Bardaland" at Istanbul for movement by rail to Palestine, the resulting congestion might threaten the constant "illegal" transportation of refugees already tacitly sanctioned by the Turkish Minister.

#### "Tari" to Remain at Our Disposal

In order to keep the "Tari" at our disposal on short notice in the event a Bulgarian or German safe-conduct is eventually obtained, and at the same time avoid having to pay the penalty of £ 5,000 in Turkish money per day that has been demanded of us for non-use of the "Tari," Ambassador Steinhardt has persuaded the Turkish Minister to issue instructions permitting the "Tari" to be used by the State Steamship Lines for short voyages between Istanbul and Izmir or Samsun, on the understanding that none of the accommodations put in for refugees are to be disturbed and that the ship will be available to us when each such voyage is completed. Under the arrangements made, no such interim trip of the "Tari" is to last over two weeks.

With respect to further "illegal" voyages by such boats as the "Bellacitta" and the "Milka," it was indicated that no definite schedule exists, nor can any prediction be made with any degree of accuracy because of the clandestine nature of their operations.

#### EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SPAIN

According to a communication from Madrid, certain rescue and relief operations authorized under a license issued by the Treasury in March are apparently being carried on in Spain, despite certain objections previously raised by Ambassador Hayes.

In a cable to Madrid we are indicating that our views on this matter will be discussed with Hayes by James G. McDonald, who is now awaiting completion of technical arrangements before his departure on a special Board mission to Spain. We are suggesting that if more immediate information is desired on these matters, Hayes may wish

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to get in touch with Assistant Executive Director James Mann, who reached Lisbon recently and is conferring there with Minister Norweb and Board Representative Dexter concerning problems confronting the Board in Portugal. We are also indicating that, if Hayes desires, Mann could proceed to Madrid for a conference immediately after completion of his mission in Lisbon.

Evacuations to North Africa

Board Representative Ackermann advised us from Algiers that the British, who are charged with transporting refugees from Spain to French North Africa, had indicated that the French ship originally assigned to embark some 700 refugees on June 7 was taken off this run by the French for another trip, and will not be ready to move refugees until the latter part of June.

Ambassador Hayes also cabled his concern, upon learning from the British that shipping would not be made available as scheduled.

Ackermann subsequently indicated that, with the assistance of War Shipping Administration representatives in Algiers, a new tentative date for the ship's sailing from Spain has been set for somewhere around June 25. A definite date is to be set about June 15.

Since a French ship is to be used, French authorities are said to have asked whether pesetas are to be paid for port dues in Spain. This question was in turn referred to us, and we have arranged for up to 100,000 pesetas to be made available in Madrid for this purpose. Ackermann has now been asked to inform Hayes of the amount of pesetas necessary, as well as the names of the persons to whom such pesetas should be delivered.

Evacuation of Children to Tangier

According to a communication from our Legation in Tangier, favorable consideration has been given by the High Commissioner there to the request of the Jewish communities of Tangier and Tetuan that 500 refugee children be permitted to go to Tangier temporarily from Hungary. The High Commissioner is said to have stated that since Madrid would have to make the final decision, the request was forwarded by him with a favorable recommendation. The important question, it was said, is not so much a financial one as finding the necessary supplies in Tangier for the children.

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EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH PORTUGAL

According to information received from the Unitarian Service Committee, the President of Mexico has personally agreed to the issuance of 500 Mexican residence visas to certain Spanish and other refugees in hiding in Portugal, these visas to be issued by the Mexican Minister in Lisbon at his discretion. In a cable to Minister Norweb and Board Representative Dexter in Lisbon, we are asking for a prompt report as to the manner in which the granting of U. S. transit visas could best be accomplished for these refugees, in view of the danger to the applicants if they should be apprehended by the International Police before they are in possession of both Mexican residence and U. S. transit visas.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN

We have arranged for the transfer of \$50,000 to Board Representative Olsen in Stockholm for use in connection with the rescue of persons now in hiding in the Baltic states.

The remittance to Stockholm of \$10,000 by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis has been authorized by the Treasury, upon our recommendation, to be used for rescue operations in the Baltic countries, as authorized by Board Representative Olsen.

EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWITZERLAND

In a detailed report Board Representative McClelland has informed us that, after a careful examination of rescue and relief possibilities from Switzerland, he has concluded that any really effective action must be taken through underground channels.

After careful consideration of McClelland's findings, we are arranging for \$125,000 to be sent at once to Bern for certain urgent relief and rescue projects outlined.

Rescue of Abandoned Children from France

In a cable to Bern, in response to a suggestion recently made by McClelland, we are indicating our feeling that the issuance of U. S. visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to 1944 would not accomplish the purpose for which the visas were made available. We are pointing out that the principal motivation behind the authorization of these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit the entrance

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of still other child refugees. We are asking McClelland to let us know, however, if, after consultation with Minister Harrison and appropriate Swiss authorities, there is any reason to believe that the escape of child refugees into Switzerland would be accelerated by the issuance of visas to children who arrived there prior to January 1 of this year.

#### RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS

We have been advised by Minister Harrison that the Swiss Foreign Office has now furnished our Legation there with the names and citizenship claims of 162 persons removed by the Germans from Camp Vittel to an unknown destination.

Our Embassy in Madrid has transmitted the text of a note received from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in response to our request that the Spanish Government make representations to the Germans for the return of the internees removed from Vittel. This note stated in substance that since Switzerland is charged with the protection in Germany of North American interests, as well as those of the majority of the South American Republics, except for Bolivia and Paraguay, it would be advisable if our request were directed to the Swiss Government, "thus avoiding any misinterpretation which might arise should the Spanish Government carry out the desired intervention."

Charge d'Affaires Butterworth has reported that, in reply, he informed the Spanish Ministry that representations have, in fact, already been made to the Swiss Government on this score. Butterworth pointed out that the request addressed to the Spanish Government had been put forward on a humanitarian basis. He also indicated that there was reason to believe that the Vittel group contains a number of persons holding documentation issued in the names of the governments of certain American Republics with whose interests the Spanish Government has been entrusted.

#### Chilean Government Acts

We have been informed by our Embassy in Santiago that, according to a letter from the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our representations concerning the Vittel group are being supported by Chile in both Madrid and Bern.

#### Cuba to Protect Passport Holders

Ambassador Braden has advised us from Havana that the Cuban Minister of State has informed the Netherlands Embassy

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in Washington, which had previously made inquiry about the matter, that the Cuban Government will not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. Braden indicated, however, that there was an oral reservation not transmitted to the Netherlands Embassy, to the effect that if conclusive proof were presented regarding the falsification of a Cuban passport, the Minister of State could not insist upon its recognition because of his feeling that to do so might endanger the holders of legitimate passports.

In cables to our Missions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay, we are pressing for certain more active steps in connection with the protection and rescue of Latin American passport holders.

#### AMERICAN EXCHANGE STANDARDS BROADENED

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" earlier this month, have been limited in theory 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.

Since the security requirements reflected in this resolution have substantially declined in importance, 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.

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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 [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 . . ."

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 us, the State Department is now in a position to start proposals for exchange. We have indicated that, in cooperation with other official and humanitarian agencies, we are 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, we are prepared to arrange and finance safe havens elsewhere.

#### RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

##### Support of Polish Government-in-Exile Pledged

There has been forwarded from London a copy of a declaration issued by the Polish Government and approved by the Council of Ministers, in which full support is pledged to every endeavor made by the United States in connection with the rescue and relief of refugees.

##### No Reply from Ethiopia

According to an airgram from our Legation in Addis Ababa, representations and repeated inquiries have thus far failed to evoke any statement from the Ethiopian Government concerning the extent to which it is prepared to cooperate in the rescue and relief of Jews and other

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persecuted minorities. The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, however, is said to have informed a member of the Legation's staff that, since the country is still engaged in reconstruction efforts, the assistance it could afford refugees is necessarily limited.

#### Haitian Cooperation Solicited

In a cable to our Embassy in Haiti we are requesting that appropriate authorities of the Haitian Government be asked to make a prompt declaration to Germany, through the protecting power, to the effect that the decree-law of February 4, 1942, does not apply to persons who continuously since prior to that time have been within territory under the control of Germany or Italy. Under the law whose application we are seeking to limit, persons naturalized in Europe since May 29, 1939, would lose their Haitian citizenship unless they succeeded in reaching Haiti on or before August 5, 1942. We are pointing out that by exempting persons who, through no fault of their own, have been unable to comply with the condition subsequently imposed, protection can be extended to save a number of innocent lives.

#### Paraguayan Immigration Policy Outlined

Ambassador Frost has forwarded to us a copy of a letter received from the Paraguayan Foreign Office stating the policy to be followed by Paraguay on immigration. In this letter it was stated that Paraguay may possibly receive more than 100,000 families as immigrants. The proposed immigrant groups would be offered the opportunity of establishing themselves in partially developed agricultural colonies. It was stated that a preliminary step to this program would be the systematic classification of would-be immigrants before they embark, for the purpose of giving preference to young families of farmers or artisans skilled in small industries. The families of merchants or workmen without special talent would not be accepted.

  
J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

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JUN 12 1944

Dear Pat:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 29 to June 3, 1944.

I am sure that you will appreciate the extremely confidential nature of the information contained in the report, which is intended only for you and Sir Herbert Emerson personally.

Very truly yours,

*Jim*  
Albert Abrahamson  
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Malin,  
Vice Director,  
Intergovernmental Committee  
on Refugees,  
c/o American Embassy,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*ETA* EBTowler:agr 6-10-44

000950

JUN 12 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am pleased to send you herewith a copy  
of the report of the War Refugee Board for May 29  
to June 3, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
John G. Winant,  
The American Ambassador,  
London, England.

Enclosure.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

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EBTowler:agr 6-6-44

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