

Present with Keys to Relief and
Presence of Refugees: Evacuation To
Switzerland

Evacuation of Abandoned Children
from France

Folders
A-D

K

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES; EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND
(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

- A. GENERAL (LETTERS AND MEMOS)
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WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000558

A

000559

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>No. of CHILDREN</u>	<u>CONDITIONS</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
Australia	150		Airgram #6 - 2/24/44
Canada	1,000		Memorandum of conversation, dated 2/15/44, between R.A.G. Robertson, Department of External Affairs, and American Minister.
Costa Rica	1,000	Provided all cost borne by War Refugee Board	Airgram #390 - 6/16/44
Dominican Republic	1,000 - 2,000		Cable #240 - 5/19/44
Eire	500		Airgram #16 - 4/13/44
El Salvador	100	Provided all cost borne by War Refugee Board.	Despatch #1531 - 5/4/44
Guatemala	100	Prefer French and Belgian nationality.	Despatch #1104 - 5/15/44
Honduras	50	Polish and French nationality.	Airgram 165 - 4/27/44
Nicaragua	100		Cable #271 - 5/5/44
Paraguay	100,000 families		Despatch #2093 - 5/13/44
Peru	50	French or Belgian nationality	Cable #666 - 6/28/44
Portugal	300		Despatch #494 - 5/10/44
Spain	500		Cable #2479 - 7/15/44

Total 5,850 children plus 100 families.

*Copy to - Bureau of Education
War Relocation Authority*

000560

New York Post
AUG 22 1944

Swiss To Admit Refugee Children

The Swiss government today opened its borders to the children of war-torn countries and announced that any child under 14 will be admitted without passports or permits, according to a Berne radio broadcast heard here by NBC.

The young refugees, the announcement said, may remain in Switzerland until it is safe for them to return home, and may enter from France, Italy or Germany. They will be cared for by the Help for Children section of the International Red Cross. Additional funds are now being raised by public subscription.

Previously the Swiss provided three-month "vacations" from war to thousands of refugee children, but this practice was abandoned suddenly on Aug. 6 of this

year without explanation. At the present time, however, the Swiss are caring for many French children evacuated from war zones.

Exempt Distinguished Jews

At the same time the puppet Hungarian government, which was vigorously attacked by the U. S. and Great Britain for adopting Nazi racial policies, today exempted from certain anti-Jewish laws, Jews who had "distinguished themselves" in the fields of science, art or economics.

A wireless message to the controlled Hungarian Press from MTL, official Hungarian news agency, and reported here by the FCC, said that all cases of "exemptions" would be submitted to Regent Horthy for decision.

A group of 320 Jewish men, women and children who were the first permitted to leave Hungary when that government relaxed its ban against the emigration of certain categories of Jews has reached Basle, Switzerland, the Swiss Telegraph agency reported today, for internment in a refugee camp in Basle.

000561

The New York Times.
AUG 23 1944

SWITZERLAND OPEN TO YOUNG CHILDREN

Welcome Is Extended to Those
Under 14 Fleeing War in
France and Germany

Children under 14 years old in France, Italy and Germany whose lives are "threatened by military developments" are being admitted freely to Switzerland, according to a Berne radio announcement heard here yesterday by National Broadcasting Company monitors.

In a French language broadcast from Switzerland heard by United States Government monitors, it was reported further that 1,250 refugee children from Paris and Lyon and 150 from Marseille had arrived "safe and well" in Haute-Savoie, France.

"The Swiss Government has let down immigration bars for child victims of the war," NBC quoted the broadcast as declaring. "Any child under 14 can cross the Swiss border from France, Italy or Germany at will if he feels his life threatened. The period of refuge will last until return is safe."

Expenses for care of the children will be borne by the Help the Children section of the International Red Cross, supplemented by public subscription, the announcement declared. Previously the Swiss Red Cross has been able to bring about 10,000 children a year into the country for stays of six weeks to three months. These children, who came 10,000 at a time, were natives of France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Yugoslavia, although safe passage for many children from the last three countries was almost impossible to arrange, it was reported.

Chosen either by Swiss doctors or by doctors in their own countries, the children heretofore admitted to Switzerland had been between 6 and 12

000562

New York Post
NOV 28 1944

**Jewish Orphans in Switzerland
Invited to Return to France**

Paris, Nov. 28 (ONA) — The French government has notified Jewish organizations that Jewish children of foreign nationality, who were sent to Switzerland to escape the Nazis, will be readmitted to France regardless of their citizenship. Many of these children have been orphaned and will have no immediate relatives to whom to return.

000563

AUG 3 1944

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. George L. Warren ✓
From: Mr. J. B. Friedman

Pursuant to our recent conversation, I am submitting to you a concrete suggestion as to how Cuba can most effectively assist in the refugee program.

On May 22nd Secretary Hull informed the American Ambassador in Cuba that "the War Refugee Board has just been informed by the Joint Distribution Committee that it is prepared to guarantee the maintenance of 1,000 children who . . . may be admitted to Cuba." Mr. Braden was also informed that this guarantee would be made effective through a welfare program, under the auspices of the Habana Joint Relief Committee.

Under date of July 17th Braden addressed the Secretary of State as follows:

"Please give me detailed information as to the procedure which would be followed by the War Refugee Board in making funds available for the support of some 1000 refugee children if the Cuban Government should agree to their entry. I need this information in connection with my discussions of the matter with Cabinet officials and the President. Despite continuing efforts I have not yet been able to get a definite acceptance of the proposal."

It seems to me that the essential guarantees are present for the care of 1,000 children and that the most effective step Braden can take is to see the Cuban authorities and inform them of the situation. If they wish to be helpful, they should give a prompt affirmative answer to the proposal.

AB
AAbrahams:css 8/2/44

(Signed) J. B. Friedman

Copy to: *Abrahams*

000564

To: Mr. Berio
From: J. A. Pehle

Reference is made to cable No. 891, dated March 18, 1944, to the American Legation at Bern, which provides for the issuance of 4,000 immigration visas to refugee children who entered Switzerland on or after January 1, 1944.

The Legation stated in its cable No. 3107, dated May 16, 1944, that of approximately 3,500 refugee and emigrant children, under 16 years of age, who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, only between 700 and 1,000 could be considered as eligible for visas as authorized by the Department's No. 891 under reference. The recommendation was made that the restriction regarding the date of entry be removed and that visas be made available to all qualified children under sixteen years of age.

The Board questioned the advisability of such action and so informed its representative in the Department's cable No. 2023, dated June 13, 1944, to Bern. The Legation's cable No. 4297, dated July 6, 1944, replied, however, in part, that, "The belief that assurance a group of refugee children would not stay in Switzerland when the war is over would encourage the Swiss to admit additional adult refugees motivated our suggestion, contained in Legation's message of May 16, Number 3107, to the effect that our United States immigration visas be made accessible to all eligible refugee children in Switzerland at this time, rather than limiting visas to those who have entered country since January 1."

In the light of this information, and of the statement contained in the Legation's cable No. 4530, dated July 15, 1944, that the total number of visas issued under the present authorization will probably not exceed five hundred, the Board recommends that the Department authorize its consular officers in Switzerland to issue immigration visas to all eligible refugee children without regard to the date of their entry into that country. It is also recommended that a similar amendment be made to the instructions to consular officers in Spain and Portugal who are presently authorized to issue up to 1,000 visas to qualified children in those countries.

MStandish:ar 7/19/44

000565

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE July 13, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser

FROM: Myles Standish

Mr. Lessin agrees to this cable:

From the last paragraph, first page, of the attached 5107 of May 15,
from Bern, it will be seen that removing the date limitation will permit
the issuance of an estimated maximum of 1,000 visas to "abandoned children"
who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944.

Myles Standish

000566

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: J. W. White

It will be appreciated if you will arrange for the immediate despatch of the attached proposed cable to the American Legation, Bern, for McClelland.

Attachment

000567

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND

Replying Legation's 4297, July 6, Board is requesting Department of State to authorize consular officers Switzerland to issue immigration visas to all eligible refugee children without regard date of entry into that country. No other change in conditions set forth in Department's 891, March 18, is contemplated.

000568

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND

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000569

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



*French
Children*
R. E.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On 12/19/47, the War Refugee Board received a letter from the Swiss Consulate in London, dated 12/19/47, which requested the Board's assistance in the admission of 150 children of French parents who had been separated from their parents during the war. The letter stated that the children were being cared for in the Swiss orphanages and that the Swiss Government was unable to provide for their maintenance and education.

The Board's attention was also drawn to the fact that the Swiss Government was unable to provide for the maintenance and education of the children and that the Board's assistance was requested in the admission of the children to the United States.

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From [unclear]

000570

Julius Streduli

000571

JUN 22 1944

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

Your attention is called to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 391 of March 13 to Bern, No. 1933 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board recommends that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and that appropriate consular officers be so informed promptly.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Included copy and returned in files

ME:LSL:als 6/21/44

from Dennis files

000572

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

Your attention is called to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 891 of March 18 to Bern, No. 1008 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board recommends that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and that appropriate consular officers be so informed promptly.

It is further recommended that the instructions be amended so as to cover children who shall be under eighteen years of age at the time of issuance of the visas. The guarantees of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc., given to, and approved by the Attorney General, provide in part as follows:

"That arrangements have been or will be made satisfactory to the Committee for the support and care of each said child during its stay in the United States until it reaches the age of eighteen, and for such further period as the Attorney General may require."

The Board would appreciate being informed if this proposal is not feasible because of law or regulation to the contrary.

MStandish:lcm 6-21-44

000573

June 20, 1944

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Penle

The attention of the Department of State is invited to the fact that the special authorizations sent to American consular officers in Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal to issue immigration visas to refugee children who have entered those countries from France since January 1, 1944, will expire on June 30. In this connection, reference is made to the Department's telegrams No. 891 of March 18 to Bern, No. 1008 of April 12 to Madrid, and 1017 of April 12 to Lisbon.

The Board wishes to recommend that the above-mentioned authorizations be extended to June 30, 1945, and the appropriate consular officers so informed.

MEtandishlon 6-20-44

000574

June 9, 1944

TO: Mr. Leiser
FROM: Myler Standish

With reference to the question of the Dominicans accepting refugee children, it appears from the Embassy's attached despatch, No. 1760 of May 9, 1944, that the next move is up to us.

I suggest, therefore, that McCormack take up with Farren the question of the Department of State authorizing American consular officers in Switzerland to issue visas in behalf of the Dominicans and that of informing the Dominicans of our willingness to perform this function for them.

Childs

MStandish:lon 6-9-44

000575

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

File
May 13, 1944
French Children

TO: Mr. Lesser
FROM: Myles Standish

Following is a brief summary of the general situation regarding the children's project:

HONDURAS

Will take 50 children but has no representation Switzerland, hence visas cannot be issued. Embassy requests clarification whether children expect to remain in Honduras permanently or to return their countries after the termination of war. I suggest we request Honduran representative in Portugal be instructed to issue the visas to children there.

CUBA

Ambassador has not approached Cuban Government and is awaiting confirmation that JDC will underwrite welfare program through Joint Relief Committee, Habana. We have written to Leavitt requesting statement that JDC will underwrite. Reply not yet received.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Government will accept minimum of 1,000 children up to 16 years of age and a maximum of 2,000. Dominican Government will underwrite all costs. Telegram going to Ciudad Trujillo requesting confirmation that Dominican representatives, Switzerland, were instructed necessary visas.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragual Consul, Bern, instructed to issue visas for 100 children in same manner American visas are being issued. Telegram being sent expressing appreciation.

000576

URUGUAY

Report received states Uruguayan Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs reacted favorably Embassy's approach and promised expedite consideration of matter.

EL SALVADOR

Embassy reports that Salvadorean Government "views with sympathy and in principal is in agreement with suggestion" but "wishes to know whether the cost of the building, the feeding, and education, etc., of the children would be borne by the WRB and finally all the expenses which the Board would be willing to meet for more or less 100 children." Ambassador further states that Foreign Minister made no mention that the Salvadorean Government expects us to defray cost of building.

My recommendation is that we let the matter die as far as El Salvador is concerned.

In the light of the above replies, and the fact that we can take no further action vis a vis Switzerland until Swiss Foreign Office gets concrete information from its Minister at Vichy, I suggest we delay telegram to Bern at least until we have received reply to our telegram to Dominican Republic and Ambassador Braden takes some action in Cuba.

Julius Staudish

Secretary Morgenthau

April 11, 1944

J. W. Pehle

We first heard of the March 2 cable on Saturday, March 11 or Monday, March 13 when George Warren suggested to Lesser that we might reconsider our proposed cable to Bern (sent over to State for transmittal on February 21) in the light of the Intergovernmental Committee's report and recommendations that it embodied. Warren said that it had only reached his desk the day before. We had not seen any such cable and after making a thorough check, Warren was advised that no such cable had been sent over to the Board. Warren thereupon undertook to have a copy sent over to us, but when none was forthcoming, we sent a special messenger to State's code room to get a copy of it. Warren's attention has been forcibly called to this situation.

LSLesser:als 4/11/44

Handwritten notes:
C- [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

000578

copy



with respect to the determination of relative merit
Section 59.47 of the regulations of November 17, 1944 as
amended, concerning aliens entering the United States, no
consideration shall be given to the existence of the relations
described in Section 59.46 hereof during the period
when such visas may be issued to those children who
are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who
are still under 16 years of age at the date when such replace
visas are issued. It is the intention of the Department, with
respect to the quota laws, to assign numbers from the quota for
next year to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction
year until at least 6 months after the present hostilities
between Germany and the United States have ceased. Thus it
is intended that children to whom visas are issued in accordance
with this instruction, except children who in the interim reach
16 years of age, will continue to hold visas until transpor-
tation is available to the United States. Furthermore, the
for- going assumes no pertinent adverse change in the present
quota laws. You should report to the Department for further
instructions the cases of children who have passed their six-
teenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new visas or

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000579

APR 1 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

You will be interested in a cable that was dispatched to the Mission in Switzerland authorizing the issuance of four thousand visas for immigration to the United States to refugee children arriving in Switzerland from France during the first six months of 1944.

The purpose of this authorization is to give Switzerland some concrete guarantee that the refugees she receives will not be left on her hands after the war, and thus to encourage her to receive additional refugees. In view of the present absence of any means of transportation between Switzerland and the United States, it is of the utmost significance that the Department of State has agreed (and has so advised the Mission) that these visas are to be renewed and replaced, subject to the quota laws, as they expire until at least six months after the termination of hostilities.

It is equally significant that the Department of State has agreed, and has issued the necessary instructions, that the issuance of these visas (and their renewal and replacement) is not to be subject to the "advisory opinion" procedure which more often than not results in interminable delay, or the much-criticized security test which frequently results in the denial of visas solely because the would-be immigrant has close relatives in enemy-controlled areas.

Guarantees for the maintenance of the children have been approved by the Attorney General as adequate to authorize the issuance of the visas. The only problem in this connection will be children who reach their sixteenth birthday

000581

- 2 -

before transportation facilities are available. Guarantees for the support of such children will have to be arranged individually before renewal or replacement visas can be issued.

Arrangements to provide visas for a thousand refugee children/received in Spain are now going forward.
when

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

L.S.L.
LSLesser:als 3/30/44

000582

In reply please
refer to: 323

MAR 24 1944

Dear Mr. Spiegler:

This is to acknowledge receipt of, and thank
you for your letter of March 13, 1944, quoting for our
information the text of a cable to HIAS-ICA from its
Rio de Janeiro affiliate.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Louis E. Spiegler,
Counsel,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society,
1317 "F" Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

EBTowler: 3-23-44

000583

WASHINGTON OFFICE
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
(HIAS)

W. R. O. ^{x323}
Filing Authority
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

1317 F Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
National 6120

March 13, 1944

LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

Mrs. Florence Hodel
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

ABRAHAM ROCKMORE
Assistant Counsel

Dear Mrs. Hodel:

ISIDORE HERSHFIELD
Counsel Emeritus

The following is the text of a cable which the
HIAS-IGA received from its affiliate in Rio de
Janeiro:

NATIONAL
OFFICE
425 Lafayette Street
New York, N. Y.

"IMMIGRATION COUNCIL AUTHORIZED FOR
HUMANITARIAN REASONS ENTRY INTO BRAZIL
FIVE HUNDRED JEWISH REFUGEE CHILDREN
FROM FRANCE

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION"

I thought this information might be of interest
to the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Spiegler
LOUIS E. SPIEGLER
Counsel

000584

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*File
French
Children*

TO : Mr. J. W. Pehle
FROM : Mr. G. L. Warren
SUBJECT:

DATE: March 23, 1944.

Telegram no. 1851, September 18, 1942 to Marseille, France, a copy of which is attached, was repeated to Lisbon as no. A-221, December 26, 1942 with the following additional paragraph:

"Although the developments in France have altered the situation there with respect to the children, the foregoing information regarding the arrangements made for the children and the procedure to be followed, will serve as a guidance in the issuance of visas to the children at Lisbon. Telegraph request for quota numbers and subsequently telegraph brief report of visas issued."

WRB:GLWarren:MCC:KG

000585

AMERICAN CONSUL,
MARSEILLE, (FRANCE).

~~RESTRICTED~~
D.C.
September 18, 1942

1851, Eighteenth.

The Attorney General has approved arrangements made by the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Incorporated, to bring to the United States from France one thousand European children.

The children will have assurances of support satisfactory to the Attorney General and as the corporation mentioned is not one operated for profit the Attorney General has held that the children will not be subject to exclusion on account of any payment of their passage by such corporation.

Although none of the children will be sixteen years of age or over, they will not be subject to exclusion as unaccompanied children not coming to join their parents, as the Attorney General has prescribed and approved the conditions of their entry in accordance with the statutory authority vested in him.

The children will be of German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Russian, Belgian and Netherlands nationality, and some of them may be stateless. Those who are not in possession of valid passports and can not reasonably procure valid passports, may travel on affidavits of identity and nationality executed by their parents or by their guardians or custodians, who may also execute their visa applications. As the law requires the presentation of birth certificates only if they are available

it

000586

-2- #1851, September 18, to Marseille.

it is not believed that those children who are not in possession of birth certificates should be refused visas on that ground. However, some available evidence regarding the date and place of the birth of each child should be required in order that you may have a basis for determining the proper quota nationality.

The Department is prepared to assign block allotments of quota numbers to you so far as the quotas permit, for use in issuing quota immigration visas to the children, upon receipt of requests from you giving the number of the children under each quota nationality whose visa applications shall have been approved.

The advisory opinion procedure is hereby waived in the cases of the one thousand children concerned. As all of those who are of enemy nationality will be under fourteen years of age they will not be classifiable as alien enemies. Paragraph 58.47(1) of the war-time visa regulations therefore will not be applicable to them.

Those children who are under fourteen years of age need not repeat not be registered or fingerprinted when visas are issued. Those who are fourteen years of age or over must be registered and fingerprinted in the usual manner before visas are issued to them.

Representatives of the Committee will furnish you the names of the children to be included in the one thousand
concerned

000587

-3- #1851, September 18, to Marseille.

concerned and must present suitable medical certificates in support of the visa applications. Physical defects will not necessarily preclude the issuance of visas, but no visa should be issued to any child who is mentally defective or has a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or is afflicted with idiocy or imbecility.

The children will probably sail on special ships in groups of approximately five hundred each. Notify Department regarding your needs for possible additional temporary clerical personnel.

The requests for quota numbers and reports of visas issued should be submitted by Lyon and Nice through Marseille as central office to insure keeping the requests for numbers within the prescribed total.

Repeat by mail to Lyon and Nice.

HULL

811.111 Refugee Children/91

VD:RCA:HR Le A-L

000588

FEB 26 1944

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. W. Pehle

Attached is the text of a cable which I strongly urge be sent to Minister Harrison at Bern with all possible dispatch.

It has been reliably reported that there are many thousands of Jewish children, stateless and of a variety of nationalities, in hiding in France who are subject to deportation to Poland. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. This Government has already assured the Swiss Government, through the Intergovernmental Committee, that it is prepared to receive five thousand of these children if the Swiss Government can arrange with Vichy for their release from France. (Airgram #13285 from London, January 14, 1944, and enclosures). It would seem, however, that the Intergovernmental Committee considers the question of asylum in Switzerland for these children as "complementary to the main issue," i.e., an approach by the Swiss to Vichy. It would further appear that no action is contemplated pending a determination by the Swiss whether to make such an approach, and if such an approach should be made, its outcome. Past experience with approaches of this kind would indicate the probability of interminable delays while Vichy consults with Berlin.

In the meantime, a number of these children are arriving in Switzerland by their own efforts and without the aid of Vichy exit-permits. It is our understanding that although the Swiss are not turning back any refugee children that reach their borders, no organized effort to bring these children into Switzerland in large numbers is feasible unless the Swiss have some assurance that the children will be evacuated after the war. The intention of the attached cable is to extend such an assurance, at least with respect to not more than five thousand children entering Switzerland from France between January 1, 1944 and four months after the cable is sent.

As matters now stand, visas may be issued to children arriving in Switzerland from France (No. 107 to London, January 5, 1944) but in view of Switzerland's geographical position, the issuance of such visas would not constitute the assurance that Switzerland requires, unless

000589

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there is also some commitment to renew or replace such visas as they expire until at least such time as egress from Switzerland is possible and practicable. Of course, the commitment contained in the attached cable is subject to the applicable immigration laws of the United States and any amendments thereto that the Congress may enact. I have no doubt that the Swiss will so understand it, and I am nevertheless confident that this will not detract from its adequacy.

The attached cable would make the advisory opinion procedures unnecessary in connection with the issuance of these visas. It is our view that this would go a long way toward expediting their issuance and consequently toward saving the lives of a large number of children.

In view of the imminence of the forthcoming economic negotiations with the Swiss at which the reception of child-refugees by Switzerland will be discussed (No. 387 from London, January 13, 1944), I urge that the annexed cable be transmitted immediately.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

LSLesser:als 2/24/44

000590

PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN

The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 58.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked: You and all other permit-issuing authorities in Switzerland are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who have arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1944 or who shall arrive in Switzerland within four months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions and inform them that it is this Government's earnest hope that the Swiss government will promptly take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Switzerland. Please report Swiss reaction and any developments that may be of interest.

JWH WSH
LSLesser:als 2/25/44

000591

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

February 22, 1944

TO Mr. Peelle
FROM L. C. Lesser

Attached hereto is a redraft of the proposed cable to Bern with respect to the issuance of five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France.

In connection with the attached proposed cable, our attention should be directed to a letter, dated January 12, 1944, from the Intergovernmental Committee to the Swiss Charge d'Affaires at London, an enclosure to airmail #12235 from London, dated January 14, 1944. In its letter, the Intergovernmental Committee stated:

"The Committee has received assurances from the Government of the United States of America that it would be prepared to receive 5,000 children, the age limit being fourteen years for children having the nationality of a country with which the United States of America is now at war, and sixteen years for other children. The Committee further hopes that some other Governments will renew the offers of asylum which were made in the summer and autumn of 1942. If, therefore, the French authorities were prepared to grant the necessary facilities, arrangements could be put in hand for transporting a considerable number of children to places of asylum by way of Portugal or otherwise. It is, however, possible that the French authorities might be more willing to give the necessary facilities if your Government were prepared to give asylum to some, at any rate, of the children, or it may be difficult at once to find other places of asylum for children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, or again, transport to Switzerland may present less difficulties. While, therefore, the efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee will be directed towards taking full advantage of places of asylum other than Switzerland, I am desired to ask - first, whether your Government is willing to afford asylum to some of these children and, if so, to how many, and second, what assistance would the Swiss Government require for this purpose?"

000592

"Since the question of asylum in Switzerland is complementary to the main issue, namely, an approach to the French authorities with the object of getting exit facilities, and the matter is one of great urgency, I shall be grateful if your Government can make the approach as soon as convenient, independently of the complementary question."

It will be noted that while the attached proposed cable in effect urges asylum in Switzerland, the Intergovernmental Committee's approach is primarily to secure the assistance of the Swiss Government in getting children into Spain or Portugal whence they can actually be transported to the United States.

It will also be noted that in the Intergovernmental Committee's letter the age limit of children who are nationals of countries with which the United States is now at war is fourteen, whereas the proposed cable makes no differentiation between nationalities in fixing the age limit at sixteen. I discussed the fourteen year old age limit on children of enemy nationality with Mr. Travers of the State Department. He said that it derived from a cable from his Department to London, but he admitted that, so far as he knew, there was no requirement in any statute, executive order, or formal regulation for this distinction between children of enemy and non-enemy nationality. He stated, however, that the distinction was made in some agreement between State and Justice relating to this matter which, he said, was not reduced to writing. He also pointed out that a distinction is made in Title 50 U.S. Code, Section 21, which authorizes the President to intern enemy aliens "of the age of fourteen years and upward." Mr. Travers also told me that he believed that the American authorities in Spain had been instructed not to discriminate against children of enemy nationality between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, provided they were finger-printed and the other requirements of the Alien Registration Act was complied with, and the permit-issuing authority had no reason to believe that such children were dangerous to the national safety.

W.C.

000593

PROCESSES TO BE FOLLOWED BY SWISS AUTHORITIES

The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 18.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked. You are all other permit-issuing authorities in Switzerland are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who have arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1944 or who shall arrive in Switzerland within four months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions and inform them that it is this Government's earnest hope that the Swiss government will promptly take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Switzerland. Please report Swiss reaction and any developments that may be of interest.

000594

February 17, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Children from France to the United States and Other Countries. 1/

Various attempts were made, commencing in 1941 or 1942 to aid a roughly estimated 6,000 to 10,000 refugee children in France. About 3000 children were with Christian families, and it was hoped that they could be able to escape detection. The rest were said to be in great danger. The general procedure followed with respect to getting them into the United States was for the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Incorporated, USCCEC, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York, to make commitments to the Department of Justice that the children would be cared for when they arrived in the United States, and for applications for immigration visas to be filed with the appropriate American Consul in France. In this way, for example, arrangements were made in March and April 1942 whereby 50 refugee children under 16 years of age, or in the case of children of enemy nationality, under the age of 12 years, were granted such visas. 2/

In the Fall of 1942, the Attorney General approved arrangements made by the USCCEC to bring to the United States from France, 1000 European children. At this time, it was indicated that the children would be of German, Austrian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Russian, Belgian and Netherlands nationality. Some of them would be stateless. All those of enemy nationality will be under 14 years of age. 3/ Instructions to issue visas were cabled to the appropriate consuls on 18 September 1942.

Later intelligence reports received indicated that there were at least 8000 children under threat of deportation, with or without their parents. The USCCEC indicated that it would raise \$4,500,000 to cover costs and serve as guarantees for the immigration of these children to the United States, and requested the Department to make the necessary arrangements, including the issuance of a public announcement of its decision to grant asylum to children in unoccupied France. In this connection, it was pointed

1/ Unless otherwise indicated, all material in this memorandum was taken from the file, "Refugee Groups - Children From France to the United States and Other Countries." This file was found in the Visa Division of the Department of State.

2/ Letter of 9 February 1942 from the Attorney General to the Secretary of State; letter of reply from Assistant Secretary of State Long to the Attorney General (not dated); cable no. 249 of 3 March 1942 from Department to American Consul, Marseille, France; memorandum of 3 March 1942, of a conference between Mr. Harrington of the State Department and Mr. Robert Lang of the USCCEC; letter of 3 March 1942, from A. M. Warren, Chief, Visa Division to USCCEC; cable no. 112 of 13 April 1942 from Department to Lisbon.

3/ No. 1851 of 18 September 1942 from Department to Marseille, France.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72

By R. H. Paris Date 8/15/97

000595

and that Polish children escaping through Soviet Russia would be given asylum in Kenya; that 3000 Greek refugee children were in the Belgian Congo; that the Dominican Republic had offered transportation and asylum to 3500 children from France; and that Canada was considering asylum for several hundred. The letter, signed by James G. McDonald and George L. Warren, concluded as follows:^{1/}

"The announcement of asylum granted by the United States would add to the list of these humanitarian projects and might produce constructive results in the situation in France. It would give notice to the American public that every effort to rescue children was being made within the limits of the immigration law."

The problem was taken up by Under Secretary Welles with the President, and the following is Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long's memorandum of what Mr. Welles informed him had transpired at this conference:

"Mr. Welles advised me today that the President had given his consent to receive up to 5000 children but desired that there be no publicity in connection therewith."^{2/}

The following is the text of a telegram sent on 7 October 1942 to Mr. James G. McDonald from Mr. Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State:

"The President authorizes me to inform you that he approves the decision to grant visas to 5000 instead of 1000 destitute children now in France. He does not believe it desirable, however, that any public statement be made concerning this decision on the part of this Government. I should appreciate an opportunity of discussing with you and Mr. Warren at your early convenience certain details concerning this question and the question mentioned in your telegram to me of September 30."

The telegram of 30 September 1942, if germane, was not included in the files examined.

On 3 October 1942, Assistant Secretary Long wrote to the Attorney General, asking for assurances that satisfactory arrangements would be made for the admission of the 5000 children for whom the visas were to be issued at their port of entry and for their care and support in the United States. The Attorney General, on 22 October 1942, advised that such assurances had been given. The appropriate Consulates were advised of these arrangements on, or about, 24 October 1942, although all cables of advice and particularly

^{1/} Letter of 24 September 1942, from USCCEC to Under Secretary Welles.

^{2/} Memorandum of 5 October 1942, by Assistant Secretary Breckinridge Long.

those to France, were not contained in the files examined. It was indicated that Pierre Laval had advised the Embassy at Vichy that the children would be allowed to depart from France, and that a first group of 500 would be able to leave in the near future.^{5/} It might be noted, parenthetically, however, that when the JDC at Lisbon had requested the Spanish Embassy to assist in obtaining transit visas through Spain for 1000 children then in France, the latter found it necessary to cable for further (or initial) instructions.^{1/}

At this point, however, the whole matter of the refugee children was evidently dropped, largely because of the invasion of Vichy by the Nazis.^{8/} It was indicated that representatives of the American Child Welfare Committee had arrived in Lisbon on 21 November 1942 to aid in the removal of refugee children in France, and were then trying to find some neutral or French relief organization to get the children across the Spanish border. The representatives also wished to enlist the aid of the Swiss Legation at Vichy to arrange for the release of these children to Spain. The disposition of this matter is, perhaps, best indicated by the following quotation:^{2/}

"* * * They would also like to enlist the aid of the Swiss Legation at Vichy in arranging for the release of these children to Spain. They have been advised that if their committee at home wishes to have the assistance of the Swiss authorities it should discuss the matter with the Department.

"Since some time will probably elapse even in the best of circumstances before the release of any children from France could now be arranged the members of the group are interested in endeavoring to get certain refugee children out of Spain. They state that they have telegraphed the Department asking that these children be included in the blanket visa assurance if the answer is favorable they hope to send representatives to Spain to discuss the matter further with our Embassy and the Spanish Government. [So in the original.]

^{5/} Cable no. 1597, 24 October 1942, 5 p.m. from Department to American Embassy, Madrid.

^{7/} See cable no. 1598, 22 October 1942, 8 p.m., from Madrid to Department.

^{8/} This assumption is based on the absence of any substantial material between December 1, 1942 and 3 December 1943 in the files examined. It was confirmed by a statement of Mrs. Crowe, of the Visa Division, Department of State.

^{2/} Cable no. 1674, 25 November 1942, 8 p.m., from Fish, Lisbon, to the Secretary of State.

"The members of the newly arrived American group who are naturally anxious not to remain idle in Lisbon for any length of time and the Legation is doing all in its power to assist them in finding some worthwhile work to which they can turn their energies."

On 1 December 1942, the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, 122 East 22nd Street, New York, New York, raised the question with Sumner Welles. It was pointed out that the Vichy Government had restricted the granting of exit visas in the first instance to an original group of 500 children whose parents had already been deported from France. 98 exit visas had been issued prior to 7 November 1942, but no children had actually left France prior to the occupation of southern France and the exit visas had been withdrawn. The State Department was asked to ascertain through the Swiss if the French would permit any children to leave, and if the situation was sufficiently hopeful to warrant having escorts at Lisbon. A marginal note on this letter indicates that one of its writers, Mr. George L. Warren, called on Mr. Travers of the Visa Division to discuss the matter. What was said was not indicated, nor is there any evidence that anything further was done.

On 25 November 1942, Mr. George L. Warren called Mr. Eliot B. Coulter, of the Visa Division of the State Department, on the phone. He said he had received a report indicating that 200 refugee children had reached Spain, but were in prisons, the conditions in which were very bad. In many cases there were parents with them. The following are, perhaps, the more interesting excerpts from a memorandum of this conference, prepared by Coulter and addressed to Assistant Secretary Long:

"Mr. Travers had told Mr. Warren that the arrangements relating to children covered only those whose parents had been deported from France. Mr. Warren said that he had not previously understood that this restriction existed - that there had never been 5000 cases of children of deported parents, although in practically all cases the parents were subject to deportation."

Mr. Long penciled the following note in the margin, alongside this paragraph:

"Actually deported or about to be deported - to save the children as far as possible - but not to break up families unless they were to be deported. If any children can be got out of France they may be admitted here." [Underscoring in original].^{10/}

^{10/} See Exhibit "A".

A cable was dispatched to Madrid on 1 December 1942 asking for details on the 200 refugees reported to have reached Spain,¹¹ and a follow-up sent on 24 December 1942.¹² No further communications appeared in the file on this subject.

On 19 November 1942, the Attorney General wrote to the Secretary of State referring generally to the problem of refugee children, and the proposal which had been approved by the President. Evidently, a request had been referred to the Attorney General that children from the following named countries, in addition to France, be accepted: Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Spain and French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Egypt. The Attorney General asked whether a modification of this nature would be agreeable.¹³ This letter was never answered. A draft letter had been prepared which stated "The Department has no objection to receiving the refugee children from the countries mentioned in those cases where the parents have been or are about to be deported to enemy occupied territories."¹⁴ This was killed by a memorandum from Assistant Secretary Long,¹⁵ the gist of which was that the only countries from which we were interested in evacuating refugees were those from which there was danger of the refugees being deported.

Before embarking upon the second phase of this picture, which occurred after nearly one year's delay, it might be well to note that during 1942 approaches had been made to various governments to give asylum to child refugees. The following had offered havens, variously conditioned: Argentina, up to 1000 visas for children under 14 years of age, visas to be valid until end of 1943; Australia, 150 Jewish refugee children from Vichy France between 7 and 14 years of age; Canada, admission of 500 children under 18 years of age, non-immigrant status, for the duration of the war; Chile, admission of a small number, possible to be extended to 1000; Palestine, 1000 certificates for unaccompanied children under 18; South Africa, temporary stay to 200 Youth Aliyah certificate holders, if no passport available to Palestine; United Kingdom, unlimited number having near relatives (meaning mother, father, grandparent, uncle, aunt, brother, or sister) in the United Kingdom; and the United States, 1000-5000 visas for refugee children from Vichy France, up to 16 years of age for all except enemy aliens, where age limit is 14 years. This was reported as having been extended to those escaping to Spain and Portugal.¹⁶

On 3 December 1943, the British approached the State Department with respect to 6000 children in France. Mr. Leavitt, of the JDC, evidently desired to remove them to Switzerland, which imposed the condition that they be moved after the war. Mr. Travers, of the Visa Division, in a memorandum to Mr. Long wrote "I mentioned that we could not agree to accept them here after the war as we could not answer for the future especially as there might be a change in the immigration laws." The possibility of having the British

¹¹/No. 1374, 1 December 1942, 3 p.m. from Department to Madrid (repeated by mail to Lisbon).

¹²/Cable no. 1489, 24 December 1942, 6 p.m. to Madrid from Department.

¹³/See Exhibit "B".

¹⁴/See Exhibit "C".

¹⁵/See exhibit "D".

¹⁶/See next page.

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assign numbers, in the Palestine Quota for post war entry was also discussed.^{17/} On 29 December 1943 the British advised that they could not assign post war quota numbers for Palestine because they could not tell if it would be a mandate at that time. Furthermore, the British stated that they could not tie up these numbers when there was no certainty of the children availing themselves of them after the war.^{16/}

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of the IGC met on 4 January 1944, in London. This problem was one of the matters on its agenda. The approaches suggested were: (1) Canvass the possibilities of getting the children into the countries which had at one time agreed to accept them, in connection with which it was noted that Eire may be prepared to approach the German and Vichy Governments with an offer to take 500 children; (2) to get them to these other countries of asylum, through Spain and Portugal; (3) to get the children to Switzerland, which would be conditioned on getting the consent of one of the asylum countries to take the children after the war; (4) except in the case of Eire, to have the Swiss Government approach the Vichy or German Government on the granting of exit permits.^{19/}

Meanwhile, the financial guarantees necessary for the entry of the 5000 refugee children into the United States had been given,^{20/} and State had advised London that this Government was prepared to affirm its original offer and extend it to include: (1) the issuance of 5000 immigration visas to German, Austrian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Russian, Belgian, Netherlands or stateless children, who were to come from Occupied France; (2) the age limits were 16 for children of non-enemy origin and 14 for children of enemy origin; (3) the offer covered children coming from anywhere in France, and not merely from Vichy France; (4) age limits were to apply at the time of the issuance of the visas, regardless of whether visas were issued in Switzerland, Spain or Portugal. The cable concluded:^{21/}

"The question of receiving children from Switzerland after the war would depend on the future status of the various quotas and we do not feel we can make any post war commitments. However, every effort will be made and it is believed that a considerable number of children could be accommodated unless there should be some change in the law."

^{16/} Annex to memorandum entitled "Refugee Children in France - Memorandum IC/ADI/11.17th December 1943" in Agenda for meeting of Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee, 4th January, 1944.

^{17/} See memorandum of 3 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long.

^{18/} Memorandum of 29 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long.

^{19/} Agenda of meeting of Executive Committee of the IGC, 4 January 1944.

^{20/} Letter of 30 December 1943 from United States Committee for Care of European Children to the Attorney General; memorandum of 30 December 1943 from Mr. Travers to Mr. Long; letter of confirmation from the Attorney General to Secretary of State, 17 January 1944.

^{21/} Cable No. 137 of January 1944 from Department to London. Exhibit "E".

Shortly thereafter the following cable was sent to London: ^{22/}

"Information received from the Joint Distribution Committee indicates that the plight of Jewish children in France is growing worse continually. In Department's telegram December 30 you will note we are willing to do everything possible to accept children in this country and hope IGC will make every effort to arrange satisfactory guarantees to Switzerland which will enable them to accept additional children in Switzerland."

The 4 January 1944 meeting of the Executive Committee of the IGC was attended by representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, Netherlands, and the French Committee for National Liberation. While Mr. Winant did not have the cable under reference above, he did make the following statement: ^{23/}

"The United States Government is of the opinion that everything possible should be done to arrange for the transfer of refugee children from France, where their condition is becoming progressively worse. With regard to such children, I am instructed to state that if they can be moved in the near future and if the Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations are willing to finance their journey to the United States, the United States is prepared to accept 5000 children."

No other offers of asylum were forthcoming, although the Argentine Ambassador indicated he had asked his Government whether it was prepared to renew its offer of 1943 to receive 1000 children. ^{24/} No answer had, at that time, been forthcoming.

The British and American Governments had agreed to place the matter of the refugee children in France into the hands of the IGC, and it was authorized to take the following steps: (1) to move the Swiss Government to approach the Vichy and German authorities for the grant of exit permits; (2) to negotiate with the Swiss Government for the grant of temporary asylum to some of the children; (3) to carry on negotiations with the Portuguese Government if, and when, there is a definite prospect of getting the children into Portugal; also with the Spanish Government in regard to transit facilities; (4) to carry on negotiations with the JDC or other organizations in regard to the maintenance and transport of the children; (5) failing other arrangements for the cost of maintenance and transport, to submit proposals to the Executive Committee. The proposal made to the Committee had contained one other objective - to continue the discussions with the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada,

^{22/} Cable no. 145, 7 January 1944, 3 p.m. to London from the Department.

^{23/} Draft Minutes of IGC Executive Committee, 4 January 1944, section 3, p.2.

^{24/} Idem.

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and the United States of America, and also with the Jewish Agency For Palestine, with the object of arranging for the asylum of the children. At the request of the British Government this was amended to have the IGC conduct the discussions with the British Government, which will have its Foreign Office discuss the matter with the Colonial Office and the Jewish Agency.^{25/}

When Ambassador Winant received the cable of 7 January 1944, quoted above, he transmitted its substance to the Director of the IGC, who on 12 January 1943 asked the Swiss Government to approach the French authorities with a view to obtaining the necessary facilities for the children to leave French territory. This was limited to children under 16 years of age who were in danger of deportation or whose parents had been deported or were in danger thereof. The IGC also asked the Swiss if they were prepared to give asylum to some of these children; if so, how many, and under what conditions. It was emphasized that the approach to the French should be made at once.^{26/} No answer to this letter has yet appeared in the files examined.

On 19 January 1944, London was advised by the Department that the British Foreign Office will not find it possible to assign numbers to children in Switzerland to permit them to enter Palestine after the war. The cable contains the following sentences:

"The representative of the British Embassy stated that no one knew whether Palestine would continue to be a British mandate or the attitude which would be taken concerning immigration after the war. He mentioned that it was our understanding that the unused numbers would be made available even after the expiration of the White Paper. The reply was that this was true, but the British do not desire to tie up their numbers when the children might not even wish to proceed to Palestine after the war."

The Ambassador was requested to attempt to obtain a reconsideration of this position and have the British authorize numbers to be allocated permitting children to enter Palestine within the total allowable under the White Paper.^{27/}

It might be noted that the objections referred to above were presented on 29 December 1943 by Mr. Hayler of the British Embassy to Mr. Travers, of the Visa Division. At this time Mr. Travers had prepared a cable to Winant,

^{25/} Idem.

^{26/} Cable no. 342, 14 January 1944, from London to the Department; Dispatch No. 13285, 14 January 1944, from London to the Department - Exhibit "F".

^{27/} Airgram No. A-83, 19 January 1944, 7:20 p.m. from the Department to London.

28/
originally sent out on 7 January 1944, which contained the following as the last sentence:

"We are sorry to learn the British Government is not authorizing numbers to be allocated permitting children to enter Palestine and hope you may cause them to reconsider."

In the memorandum from Travers describing the conference and attaching a draft of the cable containing this sentence, Assistant Secretary Long penciled the following note: "Suggest elimination from present cable [with line drawn to paragraph in memo referring to this sentence, of which Travers also had quotes] and an allusion to London as a matter of general course giving account of your [unclear] [unclear]." 29/ As indicated, the telegram was not transmitted until 13 January 1944.

Joseph H. Murphy
Joseph H. Murphy

23/ See footnote 22.

29/ The memorandum and draft cable are contained in Exhibit "G".

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EXHIBIT "A"

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b7C
b7D

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VISA DIVISION

NO ANSWER

Assistant Secretary
of State

Memo to UD
11-28-42
A-L:BL,Lag

Mr. Long

November 25, 1942

Mr. Long

Dear Mr. Long:

Mr. George Warren telephoned from New York to say that he had received a report indicating that there are 200 refugee children who have reached Spain. They are understood to be in prison, probably in many cases with a parent. The conditions in the prisons are said to be very bad.

Mr. Travers had told Mr. Warren that the arrangement relating to children covered only those whose parents had been deported from France. Mr. Warren said that he had not previously understood that this restriction existed - that there had never been 5000 cases of children of deported parents, although in practically all of the cases the parents were subject to deportation.

Mr. Warren stated that with a restriction limiting the cases which can be considered to those of children whose parents have been deported from France, there will be nothing to be done regarding the children in Spain and that if there should be no other course found possible before December 10th it will be necessary to have the persons who recently went to Lisbon to assist the children, return to the United States.

Mr. Warren said that he had applied for a priority for Mr. Schwarz, the representative in Lisbon, as he can explain the situation better if he can come here in person.

I understand from Mr. Hill of EI that it is doubtful whether a priority will be available for Mr. Schwarz.

I told Mr. Warren that if he can obtain for us the names of the persons in Spain who are there with their children we will be glad to expedite action in their cases, in the usual manner, though not under the special arrangement for children.

ok
bl

actual deported or about to be deported - to have their children as Mr. Warren says - that not to break up families unless they have to be deported. If 500 children can be got out of France they may be accepted here.

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- 2 -

To avoid criticism which might result if the interested organizations shall discontinue their efforts on behalf of the children, and in order to show that the Department wishes to be as helpful as possible, it is suggested that an urgent check made of the cases in which applications have already been received and in other cases, upon receipt of information from the Consul at Barcelona and that arrangements be made to have the cases considered urgently by the committees and the Board. A substantial number of the cases may be passed and a considerable number of parents and children permitted to come to the United States. ok

We are awaiting a report from Madrid regarding the refugees in Spain, but it may be advisable to send a further cable to advise the consuls to telegraph the names of individuals to the Department. ok
bl

November 27, 1942

Mr. George Warren telephoned this morning to say that cables just received from Lisbon indicate a hope that something may still be accomplished in France through the assistance of the Swiss Red Cross. He said that the Quaker representatives in France are still functioning and have not been interned. They are trying to determine whether the Vichy Government might be disposed to intrust the transport of the children to the Spanish border to the French and Swiss Red Cross organizations.

Mr. Warren said that Mr. Travers had indicated several days ago that it might be time to inquire whether the Swiss Government was disposed to take the matter up with the Vichy Government and Mr. Warren asked whether the Department has already or would be disposed to approach the Swiss Government on the subject.

/s/ Eliot B. Coulter

Eliot B. Coulter

VD:EEC:LEB
/1/ weg

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EXHIBIT "B"

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Washington, D. C.

November 19, 1942

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

Let-to Attorney General
12-7-42
RCA. hr.

File

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This will refer to your file VD 811.111 Refugee Children/70 and 93, regarding the question of issuing visas to refugee children in France. I refer in particular to my letters to you of September 10, 1942 and October 1, 1942, which recite the nationalities of the children whom the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, Inc. desired to bring to the United States. In your letter to me of October 8, 1942 you informed me that the President had approved a proposal that the number of such children be increased to a total of five thousand.

It was contemplated, I believe, at the outset of these negotiations that all of the children in question would come from France.

Although the children are to be of the nationalities referred to in my above-mentioned letters, and are to be limited in number to five thousand, it is now desired to accept children from the following named countries in addition to France.

Spain
Portugal
Switzerland
Spanish Morocco
French Morocco
Algeria
Tunisia
Turkey
Iran
Iraq
Palestine
Syria
Egypt

Will you kindly inform me whether this modification of our previous arrangements and understandings is agreeable to you?

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Francis Biddle

Attorney General

000606

EXHIBIT "C"

C
C
P
Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In Reply refer to
WD 511.111 Refugee Children/112

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I refer to your letter of November 12, 1942 concerning the question of permitting five thousand refugee children to come to the United States from France.

The Department has no objection to receiving the refugee children from the countries mentioned in your letter in those cases where the parents have been or are about to be deported to enemy occupied territories. The interested persons may communicate directly with the Department regarding the specific numbers and nationalities of the children to be brought from each area where an American consular officer authorized to issue visas may be stationed, furnishing evidence that satisfactory arrangements are being made for the transportation of the children to the United States.

You may be interested in knowing that appropriate instructions have already been sent to the American Embassy at Madrid to facilitate the issuance of visas to refugees in Spain.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State

Breckinridge Long
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
Francis Biddle,
Attorney General.

RCA BU WG HL NR RA ES

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EXHIBIT "D"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Visa Division
Feb 16 1943
Department of State

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
A - L

December 22, 1942

Mr. Travers:

This draft does not seem to comport with my ideas of political advisability.

The countries mentioned in the Attorney General's letter are Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Spanish Morocco, French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Egypt.

In the first two of those countries there is danger, and particularly in Spain is there danger that persons may be sent back into France so that Germany can get hold of them and send them to hard labor in the east or worse. It was because of that situation in then unoccupied southern France and in Spain and Portugal that the occasion arose for our taking the step to try and save the children whose parents would be sent east and would then themselves be left to a terrible fate without guardians or families.

In Switzerland that situation does not exist. The Swiss have received quite a number of refugees from France but have not returned them to France and do not threaten to return them.

In the other territories mentioned, and entirely different situation exists with the possible exception of Spanish Morocco which I am willing to include in the same general category as Spain and Portugal, but in all the rest of the African countries mentioned the persons there are either behind the American lines or behind the British lines. They are not subject to deportation. They are not subject to persecution. They are not in danger. As a matter of fact, the American Army has taken particular pains to provide itself with the provisions to relieve the situation of those in need, and according to the American standards and as far as the military authority permits, those people will be given entire protection. In other words, they are not in danger and their children are not in danger.

000600

In the countries of Asia - Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, and Syria - they are assimilated to the people in those countries of Africa. They are in territory protected by, or occupied by, the United Nations forces and are under the protection and behind the lines of the military establishments, in each of which area the American military and political authorities are in close association with the commands. Consequently, the people there are not in danger and are not subject to persecution. They may be, in some of those areas, in some degree of discomfort, and in some localities without sufficient quantities of food. But they are no different in those localities than the persons who normally live there, and efforts to provide them with adequate supplies of food are not only under way but the food is actually in Iran and being distributed. Palestine and Syria are not reported to be short of food like areas of Iraq and Iran.

Under those circumstances, and if it is necessary at this date to reply to the letter of the Attorney General, I think it should be made clear that the reason for our desire to take the children from Spain and Portugal, and even to separate them from their families, was because of the dire fate which awaited them in case their families should be returned to German control and sent to eastern Europe, but that only those dire circumstances justify the separation of children from their families and that the children with their families are being protected in all of the North African countries mentioned and are under the same helpful treatment the natives of the other territories are being afforded with the actual development that their living conditions are being ameliorated.

(1) B. L.

B. L.

Three cheers from the balcony!

NSA

A-L:BLACK

000609

EXHIBIT #50

No. 107 of 5 January 1944 from Department to London.

Concerning letter from LCC relative to refugee children referred to in your 1290, twenty-seventh, this Government authorized issuance of a total of five thousand immigration visas to German, Austrian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Russian, Belgian, Netherlands and stateless children who were to come from unoccupied France, the age limit being sixteen years of age for children of non-enemy origin and fourteen years of age for those of enemy origin. The Government is prepared to renew and extend this offer to children of above nationalities residing anywhere in France and not merely Vichy, France, as long as the quotas concerned are not exhausted. The age limits apply at the time of the issuance of immigration visas regardless whether such visas are issued in Switzerland, Spain, or Portugal.

If it is possible for the children to leave for the United States in the comparatively near future, the status of the quotas would permit us to receive the entire number.

The question of receiving children from Switzerland after the war would depend on the future status of the various quotas and we do not feel that we can make any post-war commitments. However, every effort will be made and it is believed that a considerable number of children could be accommodated unless there should be some change in the law.

340.46 Refugees/4904

VD:PKT:ES 12/30/43

000610

EXHIBIT "F"

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

No. 13285

London, January 14, 1944.

Subject: Intergovernmental Committee on refugees Approach
to Swiss Government.

MR. ALEX. ROUCH.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

2/ Under date of January 10, 1944 the Embassy conveyed to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on refugees the Department's re-statement of the urgency of the removal of Jewish children from France, as set forth in the Department's telegram no. 145, January 7, 8 p.m. The Embassy has now received from the Director his reply in the matter, together with its enclosure, copies of which are enclosed herewith. The Department will note that the Director has asked the Swiss Government to make an approach to the French authorities and has also asked whether the Swiss Government is prepared to take some children and what assistance it would require therefor. At the same time the honorary Deputy Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, Dr. Kullmann (who is Swiss), has just left London for Switzerland, and will discuss the question more fully with the Swiss authorities.

The letter enclosed with this despatch was briefly referred to in the Embassy's telegram no. 342 of January 14, addressed to the Department.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

/s/ W. J. Gallman

Counselor of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter (IC/216/96) of January 12, 1944 from the Director, Intergovernmental Committee on refugees, to the American Embassy, London.
2. Copy of letter (IC/216/96) of January 12, 1944 from the Director, Intergovernmental Committee on refugees, to the Swiss Charge d'Affaires at London.

CC:12

000611

EMIBBT "F" (continued)

COPY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

11d Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.

12th January, 1944

LC/216/26

Dear Mr. Bucknell,

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th January regarding refugee children in France.

I enclose a copy of a letter which issued today to the Charge d'Affaires of the Swiss Legation in the absence of the Minister. You will see that I have asked the Swiss Government, first, to make an approach to the French authorities, and second, whether they are prepared to take some children, and if so, what assistance they will require. I have further asked that the first step shall be taken at once, without waiting for the result of negotiations regarding the second request. My object was to avoid as much delay as possible.

Kullmann is leaving for Switzerland tomorrow, and on his arrival will at once take the matter up with the Swiss Government.

Yrs. sincerely

(Sgd) H. W. Emerson

Mr. Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
1, Grosvenor Square,
W.1.

000612

EXHIBIT "F" (continued)

10/215/96

12th January, 1944

Sir,

The Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America have referred to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees the question of children in France who are threatened with deportation, or whose parents have been deported or are threatened with deportation. News has reached the aforementioned Governments that an order has been recently given by the German authorities to register all such children, and it is feared that this may be a preliminary to deportation.

You are probably aware of the fact that previous attempts have been made on behalf of some of the children in question. During the summer and autumn of 1942 measures were taken by the French authorities against foreign refugees and, in particular, those of German and Austrian origin in their territory. Many of the adults, both men and women, were deported to Germany and there were harassing accounts of what was happening to the children. Efforts were accordingly made, both officially and by private organisations, to persuade the authorities to give permits enabling the children to leave former unoccupied France. At the same time, approaches were made to various Governments and promises were obtained from them to give asylum to a large number of such children. Ultimately, the French authorities agreed to the issue of 500 exit permits, and preparations were in train to get the children out of France and transported via Spain and Portugal to the United States of America, when, as a consequence of the events following the Allied invasion of North Africa, the exit permits were withdrawn. Subsequent efforts to obtain a renewal of the permits - in which your Government participated - were unsuccessful.

2. In view of the great danger to which the children are again exposed, the Intergovernmental Committee considers it an urgent humanitarian duty to renew the efforts to save these innocent victims of the war. The Executive Committee in its session of the 4th January, 1944, accordingly authorised me to invoke the good offices of your Government in this respect. The first direction in which its assistance is requested is an approach to the French authorities with a view to obtaining the necessary facilities for the children to leave French territory. For the present purpose, the Intergovernmental Committee has in mind children under sixteen years of age who are themselves in danger of deportation, or whose parents have been deported or are in similar danger. The great majority of these are probably Jews, but there are certainly some non-Jewish children in the same plight. The efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee relate to such children in whatever part of France they may be.

The Charge d'Affaires,
Swiss Legation,
13, Montagu Place, W.1.

000613

The Committee has received assurances from the Government of the United States of America that it would be prepared to receive 5,000 children, the age limit being fourteen years for children having the nationality of a country with which the United States of America is now at war, and sixteen years for other children. The Committee further hopes that some other Governments will renew the offers of asylum which were made in the summer and autumn of 1942. If, therefore, the French authorities were prepared to grant the necessary facilities, arrangements could be put in hand for transporting a considerable number of children to places of asylum by way of Portugal or otherwise. It is, however, possible that the French authorities might be more willing to give the necessary facilities if your Government were prepared to give asylum to some, at any rate, of the children, or it may be difficult at once to find other places of asylum for children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen, or again, transport to Switzerland may present less difficulties. While, therefore, the efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee will be directed towards taking full advantage of places of asylum other than Switzerland, I am desirous to ask - first, whether your Government is willing to afford asylum to some of these children and, if so, to how many, and second, what assistance would the Swiss Government require for this purpose?

Since the question of asylum in Switzerland is complementary to the main issue, namely, an approach to the French authorities with the object of getting exit facilities, and the matter is one of great urgency, I shall be grateful if your Government can make the approach so soon as convenient, independently of the complementary question.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) H.W. EMERSON.

Director.

000614

EXHIBIT "C"

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

VISA DIVISION

December 29, 1943

TO: A-L, Mr. Long

FROM: VD, Mr. Travers

Mr. Hayter called upon me today and stated that he had received information from the British Foreign Office to the effect that it would be impossible to assign numbers to children in Switzerland to permit them to enter Palestine after the war.

He stated that no one knew whether Palestine would continue to be a British Mandate or did he know the attitude which would be taken concerning immigration after the war.

I mentioned that it was my understanding that the unused numbers would be made available even after the expiration of the White Paper. He stated that that was so but they did not desire to tie up these numbers when the children might not even desire to proceed to Palestine after the war.

I have drafted the attached telegram but am not quite certain as to the desirability of the last sentence. Would you give me your reaction.

VD:HKTravers:llsg

000615

EXHIBIT "C"

January 7, 1944

Department

LOEWS

Information received from the Joint Distribution Committee indicates that the plight of Jewish children in France is growing continually worse. You will note in Department's telegram December 30 we are willing to do everything possible to accept children in this country and hope EJC will make every effort to arrange satisfactory guarantees to Switzerland which will enable them to accept additional children in Switzerland.

VD:HKT:BB

12/30/43

000616

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 1944

Jewish Children in France

It is reported that there are ten thousand or more Jewish children, stateless and of a variety of nationalities, in hiding in France who are subject to deportation upon discovery. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. The position of these children is precarious and their only salvation lies in escape to Switzerland. Many children in this category have already been received in that country, but the Swiss economy is such that large-scale migration of these children will not be welcomed by Switzerland unless it receives assurances that they will not become public charges and, further, that they will be evacuated after the war. Private agencies are ready and willing to give the former (if they have not done so already) but assurances of evacuation after the war can only be given by a sovereign government.

It is recommended that immediate steps be taken to secure the dispatch by the State Department to the Legation at Bern of a cable embodying the thought of the annexed draft. State Department objections, voiced in the past, that it cannot bind future administrations, are untenable. Such considerations, if valid, would frustrate governmental action in every field. In any event, it would appear that the Swiss government will accept moral, as distinguished from legal, assurances in this matter.

Leslie

000617

DRAFT OF PROPOSED CABLE

The following special instructions are issued to you pursuant to Part 58.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked: You are hereby instructed to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France now in Switzerland or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

You are further authorized and instructed to inform the Swiss government of the contents of these instructions, and to express to the Swiss government the earnest hope of this Government that the Swiss government will relax its border controls and take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland from France.

000618

TO:

<input type="checkbox"/> MR. PAUL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lesser
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Aarons	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Luxford
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. E.M. Bernstein	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. O'Connell
<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Olsen
<input type="checkbox"/> Files	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Reeves
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Fox	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Schmidt
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hoffman	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Stewart
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lawler	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Taylor

We ought to push ahead now on the French children matter.

JWP

J. W. PEHLE
DIRECTOR, FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000619

10425 perm.
January 19, 1941

The following special instructions are issued to you pursuant to Part 58.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked: You are hereby instructed to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children ^{from France} now in Switzerland or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached his or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times ^P ~~to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and~~ ^P to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months

000620

after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions *and*

~~immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed~~

~~and~~ without regard to the age of the alien at the time of ~~such renewal~~

the issuance of the new visa.

You are further authorized and instructed to inform the Swiss Government of the contents of these instructions, and to express to the Swiss Government the earnest hope of this Government that the Swiss Government will ~~relax its border controls~~ relax its border controls and take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland, from France. You should

also advise the Swiss Government that the Government in this country has signed a declaration of sympathy for the Swiss Government and that this Government is prepared to cooperate with the Swiss Government in the present case.

ISL:nrd - 1/19/44

000621

A.

It is the Department's intention to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under this year's quota as to re-assign this process each year until at least six months after the cessation of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. Thus it is intended that children to whom visas are issued pursuant to this instruction will continue to hold visas until transportation to the United States is available.

*These provisions are in no future
annual laws in present quota
law.*

000622

B.

There is the existence of relationships described in Section 58.48
of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens
entering the United States, shall not be ~~given any right~~ *considered* in the
issuance of new or re-issuance visas pursuant to this instruction.

*See also to the det
§ 58.47*

000623

Evacuation of Refugee Children from France to Switzerland.

It has been reported that:

(1) When non-French Jews were deported from France, beginning in July and August 1942, they were given the option of taking their children with them or leaving them behind with child care organizations.

(2) Many of the deportees exercised the latter option, and several thousand children were left in the custody of OSE, a medical and child care agency which has been subvented by the Joint Distribution Committee for many years.

(3) Thousands of additional children, however, were secreted with such private families as were willing to give them refuge, or were left to forage for themselves. These children have been, and are being relentlessly sought by the Germans and their agents.

(4) Arrangements to bring a large number of the deportees' children to the Western Hemisphere fell through with the rupture of relations between the Allies and Vichy-France in November 1942.

(5) A number of these children have reached Switzerland by clandestine means.

(6) The Allies are averse to evacuate large numbers of the deportees' children to Switzerland, but the Swiss government is unwilling to agree to receive additional children unless adequate assurances are given that the children will not be left in Switzerland after the war.

(7) Unless these children are evacuated many of them face deportation to Poland and death.

(8) The Swiss government will accept as an adequate assurance that such children as it will admit will be evacuated after the war, the issuance by this government of visas to children of this class now in Switzerland or hereafter arrive.

It is recommended that the Board take the following action at once:

(1) Request the Secretary of State to issue special instructions to the Mission at Bern, pursuant to Part 58.55(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, and other applicable provisions thereof and of law, to issue, without regard to the availability of

000624

means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children, of any nationality or stateless, now in Switzerland, or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months. The Mission should be further instructed to issue at appropriate times new visas to replace those that expire, so that the children to whom visas are issued, will at all times to six months after the war is terminated hold unexpired visas. In the first instance, visas should not be issued to children who have reached their seventeenth birthday, but any child to whom a visa is issued should receive a new one on its expiration, without regard to the child's age at the later date.

(c) The Secretary of State should further be requested to instruct the Mission to advise the Swiss Government of his instructions and to express the earnest hope of this Government that, in the light thereof, the Swiss Government will find it possible to relax its border controls and to take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland.

Funds to support this operation, as well as the appropriate guarantees for the support of the children (both in Switzerland and the United States), are available from private organizations. Consequently, it will not be necessary for the Board to allocate any funds for this project at this time.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To Mr. Lasser 164
(Room) (Bldg.)
(2)
(Room) (Bldg.)
(3)
(Room) (Bldg.)

I believe you will be interested in this in connection with your various projects relating to getting children out of France. Once we get out our visa authority maybe we can get similar action from these and other countries including Ireland. Also if we ~~try to bring~~ more pressure on France to let them out we may be able to take them to these countries. JBY

From: ~~Mr. Lasser~~ (Date)
To: ~~Mr. Lasser~~ (Room) (Bldg.)

000626

ANNEXURE I

Y

Regarding offers of visas for refugee children
in former Unoccupied France

Argentina. Up to one thousand visas for children under 14 years of age, visas valid until the end of 1943.

Paragraph of the decree stipulates that these visas are for children at present in concentration camps in Europe.

Australia. 150 Jewish refugee children from Vichy France between 7 and 14 years of age.

Canada. Admission of 500 children under 18 years of age under non-immigrant status for the duration of the war, and does not constitute a basis for the admission of parents or other relatives at a later date.

Number possibly to be extended to one thousand.

Chile. Admission of a small number of children. No indications as to age, etc., available.

Palestine. One thousand certificates for unaccompanied children under 13.

Children can also qualify under certificates granted to their fathers aged 18 to 35.

No restriction as to country of residence, i.e., certificates available to escaped children from Occupied countries into neutral territory of Western Europe.

South Africa. Temporary stay in the Union granted to 300 Youth Aliyah certificate holders if no transport were available from Lourenco Marques to Palestine.

No information available as to grant of 250 visas of non-transit character.

United Kingdom. Unlimited number having near relatives in the United Kingdom (Allied, or refugees from Nazi oppression of enemy alien or in.) Near relative being defined as meaning mother, father, grand-parent, uncle, aunt, brother or sister. Jews or non-Jews.

Concessions subsequently extended to Spain, Portugal and Sweden.

000627

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

APPENDIX I (Continued)

United States of America. One thousand - 5,000 visas for refugee children from Unoccupied France. Age limit: 16 years of age for non-enemy aliens, 14 years of age for enemy aliens.

Subsequently concession extended to refugee children having managed to escape into Spain and Portugal.

Consent of parents necessary.

000628

Evacuation of Abandoned Children from
France to Switzerland.

It has been reported that:

(1) There are thousands of Jewish children in France who were abandoned by their parents when the deportation of non-French Jews from France was ordered. Some of these children are being surreptitiously cared for by French families, some are receiving some organizational care and still others are foraging for themselves.

(2) These children are now being relentlessly sought by the Gestapo and face deportation and death unless they can be evacuated to Switzerland immediately.

(3) A number of such children have reached Switzerland, but the Swiss government wants adequate assurances that such children, whether now in Switzerland or hereafter admitted, will be evacuated after the war, before it will agree to admit any additional children.

It is recommended that the board take the following action at once:

(1) request the Secretary of State to issue special instructions to the Mission at Bern to issue, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children, of any nationality or stateless, now in Switzerland, or who shall arrive in Switzerland within three months. The Mission should be further instructed to issue at appropriate times new visas to replace those that expire, so that the children to whom visas are issued will at all times to six months after the war is terminated hold unexpired visas.

(2) The Secretary of State should further be requested to instruct the Mission to advise the Swiss government of his instructions and to express the earnest hope of this

000629

Government that, in the light thereof, the Swiss government will find it possible to relax its border controls and to take such other action as will further and facilitate the entry of refugee children into Switzerland.

Funds to support this operation, as well as the appropriate guarantees for the support of the children (both in Switzerland and the United States), are available from private organizations. Consequently, it will not be necessary for the Board to allocate any funds for this project at this time.

000630



000631

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CENTRAL SERVICES

ALH-853
Distribution of [redacted] AM 9 40
true reading only by
special arrangement.

Bern
Dated June 5, 1945

Rec'd 10:25 a.m.

Wm R. [unclear]
[unclear]

[redacted] W) OC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

CONTROL COPY

3044, June 5, 10 a.m.

DEPT AND WRB FROM HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND

Dept's 1947 WRB 529, June 2.

No (repeat no) US visas have been granted refugee
children admitted Switzerland since no children were
ever presented to receive such visas.

HARRISON

EDA

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000632

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (██████ W)

JUNE 2, 1945

1945 JUN 4 AM 10 15

Mr. [unclear]

CC/L
LIAISON

CONTROL COPY

RELEVATION

BERN

1947

The following for Harrison and McClelland from

DEPT and War Refugee Board is WRB 529.

DEPTB 891 of Mar 19, 2605 of July 28 and 3194

of Sep 15, 1944.

DEPT and Board desire to know whether any
refugee children admitted to Switzerland were
beneficiaries of visas authorized in foregoing
cables and, if so, the numbers.

GREW
(Acting)
(GL)

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

WRB:Venc:J.L.
6/2/45

WE

VD

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000633

CABLE TO HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference Department's 891 of March 18, 2605 of August 1,
and 3194 of September 15, 1944.

Department and Board are desirous of knowing whether any refugee
children admitted to Switzerland were beneficiaries of visas in
foregoing cables and, if so, the numbers.

June 1, 1945

Miss Ripple (for the Sect'y), Coin, Model, Hutchison, McCormack, Files.

PJMOC:FH:hd 6/1/45

*Just a leaf copy not
sent in files
(then of it)*

000634

DEPARTMENT

JP OF
STATE
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ([redacted] W)

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM
November 29, 1944
4 P.M.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

W. R. [redacted]
15
[redacted]

AMLEGATION

BERN

4027

The following for McClelland is WRB 299.

Reference your 7589 of November 17.

The authorization to which you refer was given for the purpose of encouraging Swiss willingness to receive refugee children by concrete U.S. action assuring their evacuation. Accordingly, the authorization will remain in effect as long as necessary to influence Swiss action with respect to refugee children seeking admission to Switzerland to escape enemy persecution. Whether in order to accomplish this purpose it will be desirable to continue the authorization for a period beyond the time when flight from enemy persecution is necessary, is a matter on which the Board would appreciate your views.

Of course, visas issued pursuant to this authorization are subject to the assurances with respect to replacement contained in Department's 891 of March 18.

STETTINIUS
[redacted]
([redacted])

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:KG
11/28/44

WE

VD

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000635

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference your 7589 of November 17.

The authorization to which you refer was given for the purpose of encouraging Swiss willingness to receive refugee children by concrete U.S. action assuring their evacuation. Accordingly, the authorization will remain in effect as long as necessary to influence Swiss action with respect to refugee children seeking admission to Switzerland to escape enemy persecution. Whether in order to accomplish this purpose it will be desirable to continue the authorization for a period beyond the time when flight from enemy persecution is necessary, is a matter on which the Board would appreciate your views.

Of course, visas issued pursuant to this authorization are subject to the assurances with respect to replacement contained in Department's 891 of March 18.

THIS IS THE END OF THE 230

2:00 p.m.
November 21, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,
~~Evans~~ Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files.

L.S.L. Jett
BAKzin:LSLesser:hh

000636

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DU-330

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

Secretary of State

Washington

7589, Seventeenth
FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 891, March 18

I have recently been approached by organizations
responsible in Switzerland for care of refugee children
which are anxious to know whether 4,000 United States
immigration
visas authorized in Department's wire under reference
will still be available after this war.

Any information you could secure concerning this
question would be appreciated.

HARRISON

RR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 141-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1977

CONTROL COPY

PLAIN

Bern

Dated November 17, 1944

Rec'd 8:37 a.m. 18th

000637

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: September 21, 1944
NUMBER: 6248

McClelland sends the following for the War Refugee Board.

The question of bringing 5000 Jewish children to Switzerland from Hungary appears to be a matter on which Mrs. Sternbuch has been working personally and which she transmitted to the United States for the attention of the Union of Rabbis. On the 20th of September I discussed the matter with her. Mrs. Sternbuch says that a diplomat who came to Switzerland recently from Hungary (whose name she was not at liberty to reveal) told her that according to information he had received from "competent German quarters", if convincing and concrete assurances were given by either the United States or British Governments that these children would be admitted to the United States and to the British Isles, the Germans would certainly permit 5000 children to leave Hungary by way of Switzerland. According to Mrs. Sternbuch's explanation of the matter the question of the Swiss Government considering as insufficient the guarantees given and sponsored by Great Britain and the United States that such children would be evacuated from Swiss territory did not therefore arise. The fact that the Swiss Government has been given appropriate guarantees is fully understood by Mrs. Sternbuch.

Reference is made in the above to the Department's September 15 cable No. 3194.

HARRISON

DCR:EBH:MEM 9/22/44

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ekzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Cable Control Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000638

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATE: September 15, 1944
NUMBER: 3194

Cable to McClelland.

Sternbuch is reported to endeavor to bring 6000 children from Hungary to Switzerland. German authorities allegedly ready to permit departure under intercross auspices, and Sternbuch doubtful whether Swiss government has received sufficient guarantees regarding subsequent evacuation of said children to countries other than Palestine.

It is expected that such guarantees have been offered to Swiss government pursuant to Department's 891 of March 10, 2280 of July 3, and 2877 of August 21, as well as pursuant to information regarding agreement by Ireland and Honduras (Department's 2978 of August 29), Nicaragua (Department's 3120 of Sept. 8, WRB's 188), Portugal, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, (Department's 3180 of Sept. 14, WRB's 184) and Cuba (Department's A-1412 of August 14), to admit children from Hungary.

In addition, the assurances contained in paragraph three of Department's 2605 of July 28 fully apply, of course, to children from Hungary.

You may inform Sternbuch of the existence of these guarantees and assist him in any promising program of evacuating children from Hungary to Switzerland.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 171.

HULL

Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Aksin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Piles

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000639

*2 - War Refugee Ad.
Mr. Pyle*
CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 15, 1944
NUMBER: 4533
X

McClelland sends the following for WRB and Visa Division.

Legation's message of July 6, Number 4297 and Department's message of July 1, Number 2236, are the subject of reference in Legation's message of July 15, Number 4530.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Ltr. 1-11-79
By R. H. Parks Date: **SEP 10 1972**

000640

dw
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

Wad by St. Pille
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LFG-949
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Bern

Dated July 15, 1944

Rec'd 7:25 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
JUL 17 1944

4530, July 15, noon.

Census of refugee children at present in Switzerland
for whom overseas emigration is desirable after the
war including those will have arrived both before
and since January 1, 1944 now complete. Organizations
entrusted with children are beginning second stage
involving careful selection children based on various
countries of destination. Understandable opposition
is being encountered however among older children
many of whom do not wish to leave Europe until in
possession more precise information re their
deported parents. Expected that within two months
organizations will start presenting children to our
Consulates for special United States immigration
visas. Total number will probably not exceed 500.
Unfortunately availability these visas has been able
influence only slightly arrival more children from
France for reasons previously outlined.

d
HARRISON

WFS VMB

000641

*2-man Refugee Fed
Mr. Peble*

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 11, 1944
NUMBER: 4401

Reference is made herewith to your June 13 telegram no. 2623, WRS 39, last paragraph.

I was told by Minister Stucki, who was here for a few days, that he had presented the matter to Rochat and Laval repeatedly; and he promised me that he would press further for a reply of a favorable nature. The Minister returned to Vichy on the sixth of July.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 4-14-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000642

ORIGINATED TEXT OF TELEGRAM FORM

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2023

FOLLOWING IS FOR McCLELLAND

Reference last paragraph your 3107, May 16.

Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purpose for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children. While revising the January 1 date backward might assure the Swiss that some refugee children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not focus the attention of the Swiss to the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action paralleling that taken in this matter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of offers from those governments to the Swiss which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the Minister and appropriate Swiss authorities, it appears with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference Legation's 2810, May 3. Please report if Minister Berna has received any additional information from Stackl at Vichy regarding his efforts there.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 39

HULL

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akain, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, E. D. White, Fehle, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Data SEP 19 1972

000643

*2-um Refugee Rd.
m. Pable,*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 6, 1944
NUMBER: 4297

as

McLellan sends the following for WRS.

With reference to Department's cable of June 13, Number 2023, regardless of availability of overseas emigration visas, Swiss authorities have always allowed entry of refugee children (in principle, girls to 18, boys to 16) from France.

The belief that assurance a group of refugee children would not stay in Switzerland when the war is over would encourage the Swiss to admit additional adult refugees motivated our suggestion, contained in Legation's message of May 16, Number 3107, to the effect that our United States immigration visas be made accessible to all eligible refugee children in Switzerland at this time, rather than limiting visas to those who have entered country since January 1.

Around 505 refugee children under 16 years have entered Switzerland from France without parents between January 1 and June 7. The upset conditions in Haute Savoie and Jura areas along Franco-Swiss border, and especially the disorganization of all regular transportation in France, are responsible for the smallness of this number. These conditions make it most difficult to bring children up to the border and to an increasing extent, they will probably continue to do so. The rate at which children arrive is primarily decided by these two factors.

DCR/GFW 7-10-44

HARRISON DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000644

*2 - Quia Refused
m. Pihle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

TO: American Legation, Bern
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 3, 1944
NUMBER: 2236

CONTROL COPY

*French
children*

Reference is made herewith to Department's March 18 telegram No. 891.

This is to inform you that provisions concerning issuance of immigration visas to refugee children which was mentioned in reference cable has been extended to 1945, July 1 of that year. For issuance July through October the nonpreference quota immigration numbers given below were allotted to Zurich:

German 609 to 3008; Belgian 31 to 200; French 83 to 382; Polish 162 to 761; Netherland 81 to 360; and Czechoslovak 63 to 312.

This is 25% monthly. Additional allotment will be made then. It is requested that you inform consuls and current information as to developments would be appreciated by the Department

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

*Proposed
copy sent m. Pihle*

000645

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: June 13, 1944
NUMBER: 2023

CONTROL COPY

FOLLOWING IS FOR McCLELLAND

Reference last paragraph your 3107, May 16.

Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944, would not accomplish the purpose for which visas were made available since principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue these visas was the encouragement such authorization might give to the Swiss Government to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children. While revising the January 1 date backward might assure the Swiss that some refugee children now in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, it would not focus the attention of the Swiss to the relationship between the availability of American visas and the admission of additional children.

For your information, action paralleling that taken in this matter by the United States is being contemplated by a number of the governments in Latin America. Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with the details of offers from those governments to the Swiss which, it is believed, may provide for children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1.

If, after consultation with the Minister and appropriate Swiss

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000646

-2-

Swiss authorities, it appears with some clarity that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by issuance of visas to children who entered prior to January 1, please so inform the Board.

Reference Legation's 2810, May 3. Please report if Minister Bonna has received any additional information from Stucki at Vichy regarding his efforts there.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 39.

HULL

000647

JUN 13 1944

Dear Mr. Held:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Tschlepoff was received under date of June 8, 1944, through the American Legation at Bern:

"In connection with your \$10,000 appropriation, we have been advised by our New York Committee of the misunderstanding. These funds have been used for removal of several hundred children from especially dangerous areas, which is of vital importance. The use of your grant for any purpose other than rescue activities has never been considered."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Adolph Held,
Chairman,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

FH:lab 6/13/44 JH

000649

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Wan
Ref. Bel
Mr
to file
copy

TO : American Legation, Bern
FROM : Secretary of State, Washington
DATE : June 8, 1944
NUMBER: 3657
X

CONTROL COPY

Tschilpoff and McClelland send the following for Jewish Labor Committee, New York and WRB.

In connection with your \$10,000 appropriation, we have been advised by our New York Committee of the misunderstanding. These funds have been used for removal of several hundred children from especially dangerous areas, which is of vital importance. The use of your grant for any purpose other than rescue activities has never been considered.

HARRISON

6/13/44
Message sent
to Jewish Labor
Committee

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

000650

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

MESSAGE RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 16, 1944
NUMBER: 1107

[REDACTED]

Switzerland transmits the following for attention
of the Visa Division and VAB.

Reference is made herein to the Legation's cable
of April 6, No. 2123.

To date no visas have been issued to refugee children
and the following reasons are submitted as the explanation.
In order to determine the eligibility of a child for over-
seas emigration the organizations officially responsible
for all refugee and emigrant children now in Switzerland
desire first to conduct a thorough investigation in each
case. This was started early in April and it is aimed
particularly at securing as accurate information as possible
the whereabouts of the child's near relatives. Also the
organizations are concerned as to the advisability of
emigrating children whose parents have been deported to
the east, but who cannot at the same time be considered
as deceased. In some cases the question therefore arises
whether it will not be advisable to plan for awaiting
period after cessation of hostilities or until it can be
determined by various channels whether parents are still
in Europe and whether they are alive. No doubt such

waiting

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000651

waiting would be in Switzerland in which case assurance of material assistance from overseas for children here would be desirable. All children, unequivocally eligible for emigration to the United States can begin receiving their visas, as soon as investigation individual cases this angle is completed.

Approximately 3,500 refugee and emigrant children under 16 years, who arrived prior to January 1, 1944 are at present in Switzerland. Due to death, deportation or disappearance of parents, of these 3,500 between 700 and 1,000 only can be considered as abandoned and consequently in the first instance eligible for part of the 4,000 visas of the United States. Not only relief organizations but Swiss authorities desire further emigration possibilities especially for this group, the paramount concern of Swiss in whole refugee problem being assurances that there be reduced to a minimum the number of refugees liable to remain on their hands after the war. From their point of view this question is vital and their whole policy regarding admission of additional refugees has an important bearing.

About 350 parentless Jewish children under 16 entered Switzerland clandestinely from France between January 1 and May 4, 1944. Along with parents or relatives approximately 125 more have entered. Although border control measures on the German-occupied side particularly in Haute Savoie are

are becoming increasingly stringent, they continue to arrive irregularly in small groups. Because all movement of persons are strictly controlled it is progressively more difficult for organizations effecting rescue, primarily the Jewish "Oeuvre de secours aux enfants", to bring children within striking distance of the border on the French side. At present Haute Savoie is not "zone interdite". Considered as a safer route, children who recently arrived in Geneva were brought through Department of Ain and Bellegarde. Naturally, with coming military operations, this rescue work will become more difficult than now if not impossible, a factor in general which will operate more against the arrival of refugees in Switzerland than limited measures of "refoulement" of the Swiss. It is doubtful for this reason that a number of children eligible for visas able to reach Switzerland from France by July 1, 1944 will reach six hundred.

Would it not be possible, in view of the small overall number of refugee and emigrant children at present in Switzerland eligible for United States immigration visas (including arrivals up to May 4, 1944 a maximum would be 1,500) to consider our visas as available to all of them, provided this would be in harmony with our immigration laws, rather than just to those who have entered the country since January 1. The number eligible will further be reduced by the fact that at least 10% of these children will have passed their

000653

their 16th year by December 31, 1944 toward alleviation of Switzerland's refugee problem after the war such a possibility would constitute valuable if small concrete gesture by our Government and any other steps which we might desire to take in order to persuade the Swiss to admit additional refugees would thus be facilitated.

MERRISON

DCR:MAS:RM
8-17-44

000654

Handwritten notes:
Classified
1/11/72

Handwritten notes:
War Refugee Act
and Rella

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 3, 1944
NUMBER: 2910

CONTROL COPY

In order to clarify the situation the possibility was discussed by me with Minister Bonna of obtaining permission for children to come to Switzerland. (Refers to your number 1469, WRS number 5, dated April 27.) According to Minister Bonna, it was his understanding that in approaching the French Minister Stucki had attempted to secure general permission for the children to depart from France and had not restricted the request to exit permits for Spain only. Permission to come to Switzerland would have been included if this were true. Nevertheless, in order to be sure, Minister Bonna said he would inquire of Stucki who last week departed for Vichy. Children have been denied permission to come to Switzerland for a temporary sojourn (rehabilitation) for some time now, according to Minister Bonna.

Developments will be reported.

HARRISON

DGR:MPL
5/6/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000655

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

*War Refugee
Bill*

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMLEGATION, Bern
DATED: April 27, 1944
NUMBER: 1459

CONTROL COPY

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTER AND McCLELLAND.

First paragraph of your telegram of April 12, 1944, no. 2315, is referred to herewith.

We desire clarification as to whether the Swiss Government's second approach to Lavalle will consist of formal requests for children or request that the children be allowed to go to Switzerland temporarily. In view of the non-objection of Pilet Gola, the War Refugee Board is planning to request Eire and Portuguese Governments for paralled action and the above information is needed. The Swiss Government's proposed second approach obviously is within the framework of the original Intergovernmental Committee request for such action and therefore this Govern-ment desires it.

The War Refugee Board will welcome any additional suggestions you may have for expediting immigration from France of orphaned and abandoned children subject to enemy persecution.

For

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

000656

For your information consular officers in Spain and Portugal have received instructions similar to those transmitted in the Department's no. 891 for issuance of 1,000 immigration visas. Governments of Canada and Australia and appropriate other American Republics are being approached with the suggestion that they make similar offers to Swiss Government regarding children.

FORGOING IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 5.

HULL

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF
IMMIGRATION
AND NATURALIZATION
SERVICE

O I I MA

000657

April 22, 1944

12:20 p.m.

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: J. W. Pehle

There is attached for appropriate clearance and prompt
despatch a cable to the American Legation at Bern, Switzerland.

J. W. Pehle

MStandish:lon 4-21-44

000658

DRAFT OF CASES TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BELM

FOR MINISTER AND McCLELLAND

Please request Pilet Colaz to issue the instructions to Swiss Legation at Vichy as suggested in first paragraph your 2315 of April 14. In view non-objection Pilet Colaz we are approaching Portuguese and Eire Governments with request for parallel action. War Refugee Board would welcome any additional suggestions you may have for expediting emigration from France of orphaned and abandoned children subject to enemy persecution.

For your information consular officers in Spain and Portugal have received instructions similar those transmitted Department's 291 for issuance 1,000 immigration visas. Governments of Canada and Australia and appropriate other American republics are being approached with suggestion that they make similar offers to Swiss Government regarding children.

8 LSL
Hstandishlon
4-21-44

000659

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 18 1972

000660

*Realty - Laval
2043
588*

*Ward Eugene Red
Mr. Pille*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 14, 1944
NUMBER: 2315

Reference my 2336, dated April 11.

(1) In compliance with the request of Mr. Pilet Golaz, I called on him April 12 and he explained to me that exit permits for children in question was the specific request made of Laval by Minister Stucki. Therefore, if you should so desire, Pilet Golaz is ready to instruct the Swiss Legation at Vichy to endeavor to obtain permission for children in question to come to Switzerland, but he could only expect an equally negative answer in view of the flat refusal given Minister Stucki.

(2) In reference to your 1090, March 31, while he saw no objection, Mr. Pilet frankly did not believe that Laval's position would be modified by the eventual support of Portuguese and Eire Governments.

HARRISON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000661

COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

BERN: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 11, 1944
NUMBER: 2236

With reference to the request of the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees for children which section one of my number 1825 dated March 24 mentioned, the Political Department advises me that unfortunately they have just been informed that Laval's decision was negative in spite of the efforts of Minister Stucki. They were not able to give me any reasons for such refusal because no explanation was given.

The Inter-Governmental Committee will be advised by the Political Department and the Governments of Britain and the United States will be informed by the Inter-Governmental Committee. The Political Department in doing so will recommend that steps taken to reply, in the very interest of the continuation of the contributions of Switzerland in trying to alleviate the sufferings engendered by war, shall be strictly preserved from any publicity both in England and in America.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/20/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000662

such statements since they are very cooperative).

3. Also a medical certificate from a doctor

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 6, 1944
NUMBER: 2123
X

US URGENT

The following message is from Zurich.

On April 3 there was held here a conference of visa officers from the Consulates at Basel, Geneva and Bern. Upon production of the following evidence it is proposed to facilitate the issuing of immigration visas to the refugee children referred to in Department's number 891 dated March 18 to the Legation at Bern, provided the Department has no objection.

1. Date and place of entry into Switzerland which could be contained in a statement from the Swiss Federal police.
2. There should also be produced a birth certificate but if this is not available the above statement of Federal police should include date and place of birth as given on entry into Switzerland (the Swiss Federal police will readily give such statements since they are very cooperative).
3. Also a medical certificate from a doctor approved by the Consulate.
4. Photographs - three.
5. If available, passport or other travel document; however, if not available visa should not be denied because of this.
6. Ten dollar fee.

Upon reissuance only fees and photographs will be necessary. It is the expectation that almost all children will be presented by refugee organizations to the Consulates.

It is

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 19 1972

000663

2- #2123 from Bern

It is reported by Dr. Donald Lowrie of the YMCA who is on the committee of refugee organizations in Switzerland, that since January 1, 1944 approximately 120 refugee children under sixteen have entered Switzerland from France, and that the most optimistic estimate is that before June 30 less than 1,000 additional may enter. It is reported by Dr. Lowrie also that the authorities of Switzerland have been most cooperative and that last November they confidentially agreed to accept fifteen hundred unaccompanied children but that there has been a great increase in difficulties on the French side of the border. Because of the strictness of the German border control it is most unlikely that any children will come in from Germany. According to Dr. Lowrie it was also confidentially agreed by the Swiss in February to allow "passers" with children to stay for twenty four hours in Switzerland and that it is not yet certain that American immigration visas for these children will be required by the Swiss. Up to the present time none have applied.

HARRISON

EGR:111,
4/7/44

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein,
Cohn, DuBois, Friedmann, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford,
Mann, Manson, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pebls, Pollak,
Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White,
Files

000664

*was Referred to
Mr. Peltz
10/2/44*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 3, 1944
NUMBER: 2046
X

CONTROL COPY

Loury, Reigner and organizations interested in the movement from France of refugee children have already been notified informally and consultation is suggested with the Consuls. Today at Zurich the Consul General is convening the Consuls to simplify and organize the routine of the visa issue which naturally will be worked out with the welfare groups' assistance and cooperation. This refers to your number 1089 dated March 31, 1944. It would be of assistance to all of us here and enable us to better correlate our efforts ^{your} if action on my number 1754 dated March 22 could be expedited.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/8/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000665

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM MESSAGE

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMBASSADOR, ROME
DATE: APRIL 1, 1944
NUMBER: 1097

*French Consul
see study*

RE: [REDACTED]

Please advise the following message to Sally Meyer,
27, 2011, Rue H. A. Dore of the American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee:

Sally Meyer Milvohof Berna Canton requesting
aid for Italian political refugees residing here
and other friends. For your personal confidential
information she daughter of Arturo Spaccuini.
Please contact her for such help as possible would
appreciate report. Understand Switzerland received
assurance from United States Government that
American visas will be available for up to four
thousand children entering Switzerland since Janu-
ary 1, 1944.

cc: Miss Chawncay (for the Sec'y), Messrs. Abrahamson, Akin,
Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston,
Miss Godel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Leaser, Mr. Lutzford, Mr. Hanna,
Mrs. Keenan, Messrs. Marks, McGorrick, Murphy, Paul, Fehle, Pella,
Taine, Bergoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Wiles

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000666

*War Refugee Bd.
JMS:KLL*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON
TO: AMLEGATION BERN
DATED: MARCH 31, 1944
NUMBER: 1089

CONTROL COPY

Feb

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR MINISTER HARRISON.

With reference to Department's Cable No. 891 of March 18 please immediately inform Reigner, Sternbuch, Saly Meyer and other representatives in Switzerland of American welfare agencies of availability of American visas for 4000 refugee children. They should be advised that this information must be treated as extremely confidential.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000667

March 29, 1944

11:30 A.M.

To: Mr. Warren
From: J. W. Pehle

It will be appreciated if you will have
the attached cable to Bern despatched at once.

J.W.P.

BAkzin:jp 3/29/44

000668

March 29, 1944
11:30 A.M.

Draft of cable to Bern for Minister Harrison
from War Refugee Board

With reference to Department's Cable No. 891 of March 18 please immediately inform Reigner, Sternbuch, Saly Meyer and other representatives in Switzerland of American welfare agencies of availability of American visas for 4000 refugee children. They should be advised that this information must be treated as extremely confidential.

BN:VIB:JP

BA L.S.L.
JA

000669

*War Refugee Bd
Inst. Adm.*

Copy

Fle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 31, 1944
NUMBER: 1090
x

CONTROL COPY

Following is from War Refugee Board for Harrison.

We request you to inquire of appropriate Swiss authorities whether they feel that their present negotiations with regard to the immigration, for refuge in Switzerland, of Jewish and other children from France, would be helped by similar approaches by the Eire and Portuguese Governments. If it is believed by the Swiss Government that such approaches by the Eire and Portuguese Governments would aid and not embarrass their own efforts, the wisdom of this Government requesting the Governments of Portugal and Eire to associate themselves with the Swiss approach will be considered by the Board.

Please cable results of your inquiry.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

000670

R 1944
10.5

March 28, 1944

5:15 p.m.

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. W. Pehle

Attention: George Warren

I would appreciate it if the annexed cable were transmitted
to Minister Harrison, Bern, as promptly as possible.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

BAKZLN
LSLesser:als 3/27/44

gro
Personally delivered by Mr. Mann

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PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

Referring to previous cables exchanged concerning the issuance by Vichy of exit permits to Jewish and other children for refuge in Switzerland, you are requested to inquire immediately of appropriate Swiss authorities whether they feel that their negotiations with Vichy would be aided by approaches of governments of Eire and Portugal. If the Swiss consider that such approaches on humanitarian grounds would not embarrass their own efforts and might exercise some beneficial influence either on Berlin or on Vichy, this Government will undertake to approach the governments of Eire and Portugal accordingly.

Please cable results of inquiry.

SK:in
LSLesserials 3/27/44
P.S.L.

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2- War Refugee Board
(Mr. P. P. ... Office)

108

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN
TO: Secretary of State, Washington JUN 24 1944
DATED: March 24, 1944
NUMBER: 1825

CONTROL COPY

1. A note was handed by me to Mr. Pilet-Golat informing him of the substance of your telegram of March 18, 1944, no. 891 which has also been communicated to Zurich Consulate General and other Consulates in accordance with directions.

It was pointed out by Mr. Pilet, after reading my note and stating that he would make reply, that entry into Switzerland was allowed for refugee children. Mr. Pilet also recalled the Swiss continuing desire to receive children for purposes of rehabilitation. Reference was made by him to the proposal of Dinglefoot that an asylum be given to 100,000 children as well as International Government Committee for Refugees' request on behalf of British and United States Governments that attempts be made by the Swiss to obtain from Vichy permission for exit permits for 5000 children and/or for permission for them to come to Switzerland. This matter had been taken up by Minister Tucki and upon his return here in a few days he would report the results of his efforts. It was indicated by past experience that German opposition has to be expected. With respect to financial aid, Mr. Pilet believed that there would be no need for this. There might be a need for wool, cotton, et cetera, for clothing except shoes.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

2. It is

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2. It is stated by a reliable authority in welfare organization familiar with general problem of child refugees in Switzerland that he estimates that less than 100 refugee children have arrived in Switzerland from France from January 1 to date. This is subject to confirmation.

Furthermore, there is some doubt whether there will be a possibility of filling more than ^{lesser} ~~last year's~~ percentage of quota allotted for present quota year unless facilities for clandestine movements in France can be improved.

HARRISON

000674

*Hon. Refugee Board
Mr. Pehle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Consul, Zurich
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: March 22, 1944
NUMBER: 36
x

CONTROL COPY

With reference to immigration visas for refugee children from France, the Consulate General has been provided by the Legation with a copy of Department's message number 891 dated March 18, 1944. The necessary steps are being taken by this office to have all consulates in Switzerland issue such visas and further developments will be reported.

WOODS

DCR:MPL
3/24/44

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

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*War Refugee Bd
Mr. Peble*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM BENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: March 18, 1944
NUMBER: 891
x

CONTROL COPY

Pursuant to Part 58.55(a) (16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended concerning aliens entering the United States, the following special instructions relating to the issuance of visas to refugee children are issued in an attempt to cause the Government of Sweden to give refuge to additional refugee children from France:

Authorization is given to Consular officers in Switzerland to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to 4000 immigration visas to refugee children who shall have arrived in Switzerland from France on or after January 1 of this year and before July 1 of this year. Specific instructions from the Department may extend this latter date. The visas are to be issued without regard to religion; nationality or stateless status and without regard to the question of availability of means of transportation to the United States. The children which this instruction covers shall be under 16 years of age at the time the visas are issued and of course are subject to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1917 except that they may be considered to meet the public charge requirements since the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements for their support

have been made
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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have been made.

With respect to the determination of questions under Section 58.47 of the Regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended, concerning aliens entering the United States, no consideration shall be given to the existence of the relationships described in Section 58.48 thereof. During the same quota year replace visas may be issued to those children who are still qualified therefor under this instruction and who are still under 16 years of age at the date when such replace visas are issued. It is the intention of the Department, subject to the quota laws, to assign numbers from the quota for next year to cover visas issued pursuant to this instruction under the quota for this year and to repeat this process each year until at least 6 months after the present hostilities between Germany and the United States have ceased. Thus it is intended that children to whom visas are issued in accordance with this instruction, except children who in the interim reach 16 years of age, will continue to hold visas until transportation is available to the United States. Furthermore, the foregoing assumes no pertinent adverse change in the present quota laws. You should report to the Department for further instructions the cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim desiring to obtain new visas or replace old ones. There is no need to register and fingerprint children under 14 years of age.

The Zurich Consulate General will be the supervisory and control

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control office for the assignment of quota numbers to offices in Switzerland equipped for issuing immigration visas or to which Zurich can furnish equipment. The following inclusive non-preference quota numbers are allotted to Zurich for this purpose: 65 to 234 Belgian; 265 to 514 Czechoslovak; 145 to 444 French; 1031 to 3430 German; 157 to 466 Netherland; and 1084 to 1683 Polish quotas.

These visas may be issued at the rate of 25% of each allotment monthly. At the end of each month Zurich should submit by cable consolidated quota reports, returning any unused numbers and giving name of child, quota number, and date and place of issuance. A request should be made by cable if additional quota numbers of the countries mentioned or of any other country are desired. An estimate of quota numbers needed for the fiscal year 1944-1945 should be submitted by cable before June 1. Consular officers in Switzerland should be informed. You should advise the appropriate Swiss authorities concerning this instruction and state that this Government earnestly hopes that the Government of Switzerland will promptly take such action, direct or indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children to Switzerland from France. Furthermore, you may advise the Government of Switzerland that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be needed to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in that country.

It is requested that you report the reaction of the
Swiss

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Swiss and that developments in this matter which may be of interest be sent to the Department.

HULL

MAR 22 1944

000679

Feb 26 1944

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. F. Leahy

Attached is the text of a cable which I strongly urge be sent to Minister Harrison at Paris with all possible dispatch.

It has been reliably reported that there are many thousands of Jewish children, stateless and of a variety of nationalities, in hiding in France who are subject to deportation to Poland. The parents of these children have already been deported or are being detained pending deportation. This Government has already assured the Swiss Government, through the Intergovernmental Committee, that it is prepared to receive five thousand of these children if the Swiss Government can arrange with Vichy for their release from France. (Airgram 213288 from London, January 19, 1944, and enclosure). It would seem, however, that the Intergovernmental Committee considers the question of Asylum in Switzerland for these children as "complementary to the main issue," i.e., an approach by the Swiss to Vichy. It would further appear that no action is contemplated pending a determination by the Swiss whether to make such an approach, and if such an approach should be made, its outcome. Past experience with approaches of this kind would indicate the probability of interminable delays while Vichy consults with Berlin.

In the meantime, a number of these children are arriving in Switzerland by their own efforts and without the aid of Vichy exit-permits. It is our understanding that although the Swiss are not turning back any refugee children that reach their borders, no organized effort to bring these children into Switzerland in large numbers is feasible unless the Swiss have some assurance that the children will be evacuated after the war. The intention of the attached cable is to extend such an assurance, at least with respect to not more than five thousand children entering Switzerland from France between January 1, 1944 and four months after the cable is sent.

As matters now stand, visas may be issued to children arriving in Switzerland from France (No. 107 to London, January 6, 1944) but in view of Switzerland's geographical position, the issuance of such visas would not constitute the assurance that Switzerland requires, unless

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- 11 -

There is also some commitment to renew or replace such visas as they expire until at least such time as egress from Switzerland is possible and practicable. Of course, the commitment contained in the attached cable is subject to the applicable immigration laws of the United States and any amendments thereto that the Congress may enact. I have no doubt that the Swiss will so understand it, and I am nevertheless confident that this will not detract from its adequacy.

The attached cable would make the advisory opinion procedure unnecessary in connection with the issuance of these visas. It is our view that this would go a long way toward expediting their issuance and consequently toward saving the lives of a large number of children.

In view of the imminence of the forthcoming economic negotiations with the Swiss at which the reception of child-refugees by Switzerland will be discussed (No. 327 from London, January 13, 1944), I urge that the attached cable be transmitted immediately.

(Signed) J. P. Mohr

63Lesserials 2/24/44

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PROTECTIVE ORDER TO ASSIST THE HARBORING OF REFUGEE

The following special instructions are issued pursuant to Part 80.86(16) of the Regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended, regarding aliens entering, and shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically revoked: You and all other permit-issuing authorities in Switzerland are hereby instructed to issue in the aggregate, without regard to the availability of means of transportation to the United States, up to five thousand immigration visas to refugee children from France who have arrived in Switzerland since January 1, 1944 or who shall arrive in Switzerland within four months after the date of these instructions. Such children may be of any nationality or stateless, but no such child shall have reached six or her seventeenth birthday. You are further instructed at appropriate times to renew each immigration visa issued pursuant to these instructions and to issue new immigration visas to all aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions, it being the intention of these instructions that each alien to whom an immigration visa is issued pursuant to these instructions shall hold an unexpired immigration visa at all times until at least six months after the termination of the present hostilities between the United States and Germany. New immigration visas shall be issued to aliens to whom immigration visas have been issued pursuant to these instructions and immigration visas issued pursuant to these instructions shall be renewed without regard to the age of the alien at the time of such renewal or the issuance of the new visa.

Please advise the appropriate Swiss authorities of the contents of these instructions and inform them that it is this Government's earnest hope that the Swiss government will promptly take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children from France to Switzerland. You may also inform the Swiss government that the War Refugee Board will undertake to arrange for any financing that may be necessary to provide maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression arriving in Switzerland. Please report Swiss reaction and any developments that may be of interest.

W310000000 2/26/44

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*W. R. Rogers et al.
(M. P. Kelly)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: February 28, 1944
NUMBER: 1183
X

Given below is the substance of a message received from the Legation's telegram February 10, No. 824, in reply to representations in Legation's note to Political Department, dated February 9:

As His Majesty's Legation was informed by the Political Department, if Switzerland does not relieve children war victims on a larger scale, it is not because it hesitates to sacrifice part of its resources; but because on one hand convoys of children no longer arrive in Switzerland, on other hand because of limited effect and complications of local distribution of relief, Switzerland could take tens of thousands of children at a time using supplies from its own stocks. Switzerland would gladly do so. As it is known, the Swiss people are again impatient to receive children. Federal authorities having the same desire have unceasingly tried to overcome difficulties which prevented convoys of children from coming to Switzerland for more than a year.

The Political Department is happy to note that

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972 British and

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British and American Governments would be disposed to grant facilities for additional imports of clothing and foodstuffs and thus ease part of the burden if Switzerland were in a position to take more children than its means afford.

The Political Department also hastens to add that the Swiss delegation which has just arrived for economic negotiations in London will not fail to probe with competent British authorities into different aspects of question dealt with in Legation's note of February 9 in order to take up under conditions most favorable to success the high humanitarian endeavor which everyone wishes to bring to a good end.

(The foregoing message has also been repeated by British Legation which has telegraphed summary to London for their information.)

HARRISON

000684

CONTROL COPY

MJB-362

FLAIN

London

Dated February 21, 1944

Rec'd 1:02 p.m.

*2 - War Refugees
Bd. Mr.
Pehle
file*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1439, Twenty-first.

Reference last sentence Department's telegram
626, January 25.

Foreign Office has replied to our letter in the
matter as follows:

"His Majesty's Government welcome the proposal
that a representative of the Inter-Governmental
Committee should be attached to MERRA and if the
latter is merged in UNRRA then it would appear that there
would be scope for cooperation between the latter and
the Inter-Governmental Committee to be extended to
that territory in accordance with the general agree-
ment recently reached regarding the relations between
UNRRA and the Inter-Governmental Committee. If you
agree we can jointly inform Emerson accordingly so
that he can proceed with necessary arrangements in
Cairo."

Please inform us when Cairo is instructed.

WINANT

REF

000685

2/15/44

Copies to:

Secretary (Miss Chauncey)

Mr. Paul

Mr. Gaston

Mr. White

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Luxford

Mr. DuBois

Mr. E. M. Bernstein

Mr. Stewart

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Friedman

Mr. Pollak

Miss Hodel

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Official File Copy

*3-6 w Refugee
Board Mr. Little
Juss FFC*

FEB 11 1944

DH - 132

PLAIN

London

Dated February 7, 1944

Rec'd 3:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington:

1044, Seventh.

Reference Department's 858, February 3.

Bern informed, February 4.

WILMANT

EJH

Re reception of children in Switzerland

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CONTROL COPY

BJR - 103

PLAIN

London

Dated April 15, 1944

Rec'd 11:30 a.m.

*2 - War Refugee
Board
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Red W*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

3081, Fifteenth

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
APR 15 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FROM KULLMANN FOR EMERSON CARE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

"Swiss Government regrets to inform us that despite repeated interventions with Vichy Government negative reply was received regarding exit facilities for children threatened with deportation. Bern makes formal request that no publicity whatsoever be given here or in United States concerning intervention itself or Vichy refusal. It is emphasized that discretion is more than ever essential if Swiss Government are to pursue effort on our behalf".

WINANT

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Jue* *Rep il. v. v. v.*

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

W.H.L.
Controlled
Field
W.H.L.
W.H.L.
W.H.L.

London, March 11, 1944

No. 14393

Subject: Palestine Immigration Numbers.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Upon receipt of the Department's airgram A-83, 7:20 p.m., January 19, 1944 the Embassy immediately discussed with the appropriate British officials the matter of immigration into Palestine and expressed the hope of the United States Government that the British authorities might reconsider their position and authorize numbers to be allocated permitting children to enter Palestine within the total allowable under the White Paper.

The view expressed by the Foreign Office was that, although there is no intention on the part of the British Government to close immigration into Palestine after March 31, 1944, (the time limit originally expressed in the 1939 White Paper for the immigration quota established therein) it is nevertheless undesirable to freeze any substantial number of certificates for cases that may never arise. By way of confirming the views expressed in that discussion the Foreign Office addressed to us a letter dated February 18, 1944. A copy is enclosed.

It will be observed that the Foreign Office assumes that the aspect of the matter which gives concern to the Department is the effect upon Switzerland of British refusal to issue to refugee children to whom Switzerland may be considering giving temporary asylum quota numbers assured to be valid for immigration into Palestine after the war. To that presumed basis of the Department's inquiry the Foreign Office addresses its answer, pointing out that, so far as it is aware, the Swiss Government has made no representations either to the Intergovernmental Committee nor to the British Government regarding conditions on which Switzerland would be willing to receive refugee children. It should particularly be noted that the Foreign Office holds open appropriate consideration of the matter if and when the Swiss Government approaches the Intergovernmental Committee for concrete assurances. The position stated is that the British Government does not wish, on a hypothetical basis, to complicate its administering of the immigration quota into Palestine.

The Embassy has taken the occasion, by way of obtaining expressions of view of possible use to the Department

in/

EMO:AS REFUGEE/5272

PC/TF

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in weighing the tenability of the British reply as above, to consult representatives here of several concerned organizations with regard to present practice in issuing quota numbers for immigration into Palestine. There is general agreement among them that, for reasons of political equilibrium in Palestine and the Arab area while the war continues, the British Government is seeking to keep the total of immigration into Palestine well within the number previously announced, in spite of lengthening the period of time to which it is to apply. On the other hand there is also general agreement that difficulties of travel and exit from enemy-occupied territory are the actual determining limitations under present conditions rather than lack of availability of numbers.

The 1939 White Paper (Cmd. 6019, May 1939, entitled PALESTINE, Statement of Policy; enclosed with despatch 2679, May 18, 1939) laid down certain conditions (page 10 and 11), including Palestine's economic absorptive capacity, to govern the admission of some 75,000 Jewish immigrants into Palestine in the five year period from April 1, 1939 to March 31, 1944. In the House of Commons on November 10, 1943 (Parliamentary Debates, vol. 393, No. 120, column 1152; enclosed with despatch 12278, November 17, 1943) the Secretary of State for the Colonies reported that up to the end of September 1943 the number of Jews who entered Palestine against the total of 75,000 to be admitted under the existing quota system was 43,922, leaving a balance of 31,078 concerning which he made the following carefully-worded statement:

".....There are thus 31,078 who, it may be fairly assumed, would have reached it before 31st March, 1944, but for the exigencies of the war. His Majesty's Government have been considering this position, and have reached the conclusion that it would be inequitable to close the doors of Palestine to these persons on account of the time factor. No effort will be lacking on the part of His Majesty's Government to facilitate their arrival, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity.

The unused balance of 31,078 as of the end of September 1943 has been reduced at the present to approximately 26,000 according to statements informally made to us at the Foreign Office.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:


W. J. Gallman
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: 1/1

1/ Copy of letter (W 1586/134/48) of
January 18, 1944 from A.W.G. Randall
of the British Foreign Office.

CC/LZ/PB

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COPY.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
(Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's,
S.W.1.

No. W 1586/134/48.

18th February, 1944.

Dear Bucknell,

Your letter of 29th January about the Swiss application to Germany at the request of the Inter-governmental Committee to allow Jewish children to leave France.

Before replying I thought it best to explain our position at greater length to Coville, and I should now like to confirm this as follows:-

Our understanding is that the Swiss Government has been requested to try to obtain exit permits for Jewish children from France. If these are given the children will receive hospitality in the United States (5,000), in Canada and elsewhere, and there will be negotiations with the Spanish and Portuguese Governments to get the children in question through those countries in order that they may proceed overseas. The Swiss Government will be asked to grant temporary asylum to some of the children, but it seems more practicable, in view of the number of visas offered elsewhere, that the children should be directed through Spain and Portugal.

So far the Swiss Government has not obtained any promise of exit permits. They have also made, so far as I am aware, no representations to the Inter-governmental Committee or to us regarding conditions on which they would receive children in their own territory. The question of the children going eventually to Palestine is therefore entirely hypothetical, and the feeling of our authorities is that in these circumstances it would be undesirable to freeze any substantial number of certificates for cases which may never arise, as this would reduce the stock available for the regular allocations which are made in agreement with the Jewish Agency. Of course, if the German Government agreed to give exit permits and if asylum offered in countries other than Switzerland proved insufficient or it proved impracticable to transport the children to those

Mr. Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
United States Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square,
W.1.

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countries, and if the Swiss Government then agreed to take a certain number of children themselves only on the condition that the children in question were received elsewhere at the end of the war, it would be open to the Swiss Government then to go to the Intergovernmental Committee, which would have the duty of seeing how far the Swiss Government's condition could be met. In this concrete case, the British Government could be approached in respect of Palestine or other territories for which it is responsible in exactly the same way as other members of the Committee could be approached. The mere existence of the Intergovernmental Committee and the fact that Switzerland is a member of it would appear to be a sufficient assurance to the Swiss Government that they will not have to shoulder the present or future burden of refugees in Swiss territory with no prospect of international assistance, but the assurances your Government and mine have given the Swiss Government of sympathetic consideration over any obstacles to a continuance of the Swiss Government's humanitarian action surely makes all apprehensions rather unreal.

In the light of the above, I hope you will agree that our reluctance to freeze Palestine permits in a purely hypothetical case where no concrete action or objection has been raised by the Swiss Government should, if properly understood, prove no hindrance to the efforts which are now being made by the Intergovernmental Committee and the Swiss Government to persuade the German Authorities to allow children to depart, and I should be grateful if this explanation could be conveyed to the State Department. We are very anxious that the balance of immigration permissible into Palestine should be used as far as possible for refugees from Nazi terror; our concern is to secure that it is used to the best advantage and that permits should not be frozen for people who may not be able to use them.

Yours sincerely,

A.W.G.Randall

P.S. Since writing the above I have heard that the Swiss Government have undertaken to receive 1500 children from France if they can reach the frontier, and no conditions so far as I know have been attached to this offer.

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COPY

Enclosure to Despatch #13011

December 30, 1943,
from London.

MEMORANDUM
REFUGEE CHILDREN IN FRANCE

1. The Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America have referred to the Intergovernmental Committee the question of Jewish refugee children in France. The reference has arisen out of representations by the Joint Distribution Committee of New York to the effect that an order has been given by the German authorities to register all such children, and it is feared that this is preliminary to deportation to Poland. Some 3,000 children are with Christian families, and it is hoped that they may escape detection. The rest are in great danger. The Joint Distribution Committee has already made representations to the Swiss Government which is reported to have asked, first, for a guarantee of maintenance of any children they may take, and second, for an assurance that all the children will be removed after the war. The Joint Distribution Committee is prepared to give a guarantee of maintenance, but cannot give any assurance about re-emigration.

2. Previous attempts have been made on behalf of some of these children. During the summer and autumn of 1942 measures were taken by the Vichy authorities against refugees of German and Austrian origin in their territory. Many of the adults, both men and women, were deported to Germany, and there were harassing accounts of what was happening to the children. Efforts were made to persuade the Vichy authorities to give permits enabling the children to leave France. At the same time, approaches were made to various Governments to give asylum to them, and the statement attached (Annexure I) gives particulars of the offers then made. Ultimately the Vichy authorities agreed to the issue of 500 exit permits, and preparations were in train to get them out of France and transported via Portugal to the United States of America when, as a consequence of the allied invasion of North Africa, the Germans marched into Vichy France, the exit permits were then withdrawn. Since then several approaches have been made to the Vichy authorities, but none directly by the Intergovernmental Committee. These have, so far, proved unsuccessful.

3. Within the past few weeks the Intergovernmental Committee has had information which indicates that the Eire Government may be prepared to approach the Vichy and German authorities on its own behalf, and to give asylum to a group of 500 children, among whom, it is hoped, will be included some of the Jewish refugee children now in danger. The Intergovernmental Committee is being kept informed of these developments, of which the chances of success will probably be greater if the action of the Eire Government is kept independent of the efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee, the latter giving such advice and assistance as the Eire Government may wish.

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4. It will be seen from the above account that a preliminary to success is an approach to the German and Vichy authorities to grant exit permits to the children in question. An approach to both is necessary since some of the children are outside Vichy France.

5. If the grant of exit permits is authorized, there will then remain the finding of asylum for the children. This can be pursued along two lines, first, getting the children out of France into Portugal and thence to the countries of asylum, and second, persuading the Swiss Government to give asylum to some of the children. There seems to be no reason why both lines should not be pursued simultaneously. With regard to the first method, preliminary steps have been taken by the Director to ascertain from the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America:-

- (a) Whether the previous offers still hold good, and
- (b) whether they will include children in the whole of France and not merely children in Vichy France, to which several of them primarily related.

These three Governments have also been asked whether they would extend the offers to children to whom the Swiss Government was willing to give asylum if, before the end of the hostilities, it was possible, and necessary, to remove them from Switzerland, and if so, whether the appropriate age limits would have effect from the time of their removal from France or from Switzerland. Enquiry is also being made from the Jewish Agency in Palestine regarding the certificates that might be available for that country and the conditions attaching to them.

6. It is, therefore, suggested that the Executive Committee should give the following authority to the Director:-

- (a) To move the Swiss Government to approach the Vichy and German authorities for the grant of exit permits.
- (b) To negotiate with the Swiss Government for the grant of temporary asylum to some of the children.
- (c) To continue the discussions with the Governments of the Argentine, the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America, and also with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with the object of arranging for the asylum of the children.

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(d) To carry on negotiations with the Portuguese Government if, and when, there is a definite prospect of getting the children into Portugal; also with the Spanish Government in regard to transit facilities.

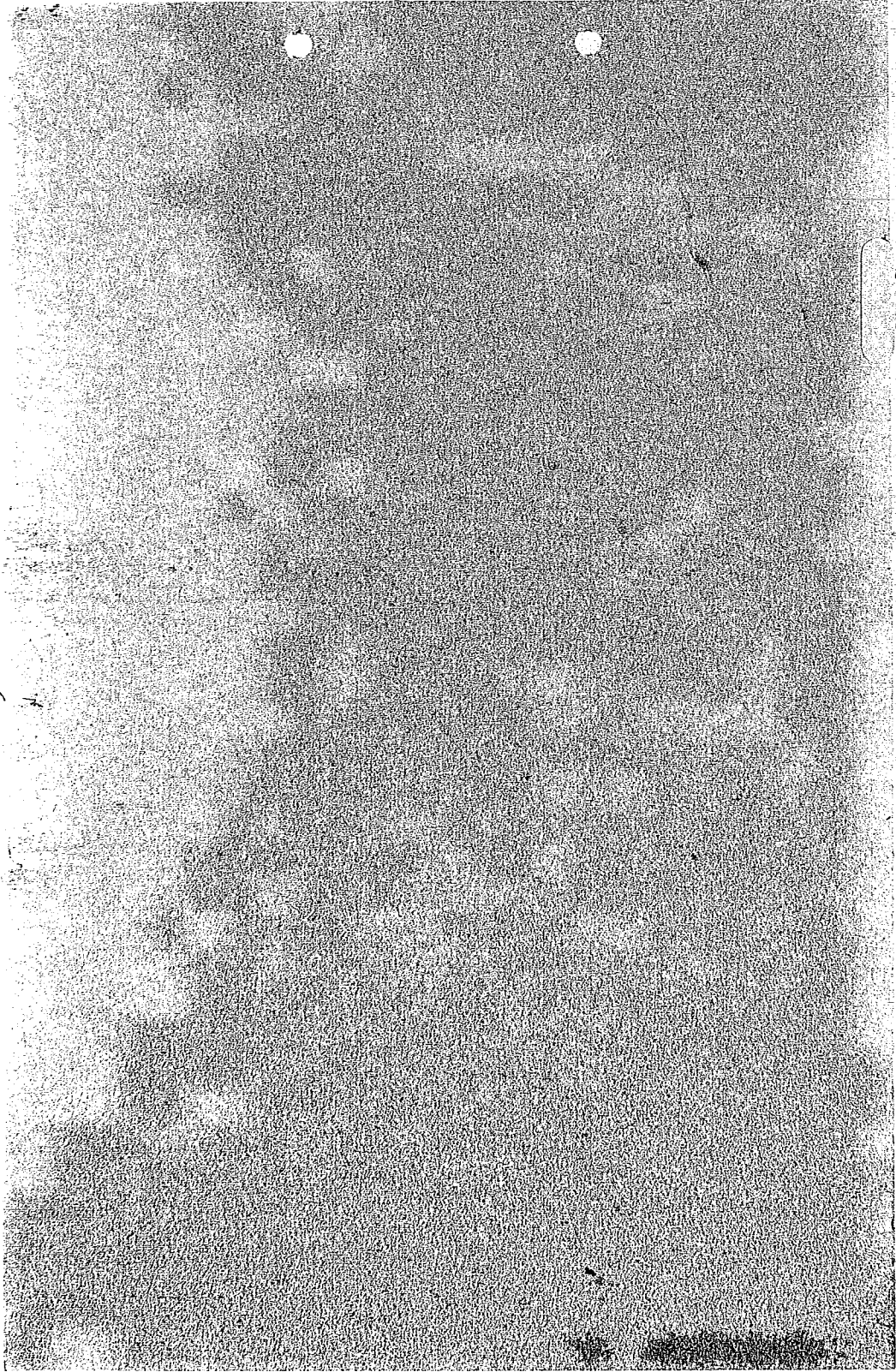
(e) To carry on negotiations with the Joint Distribution Committee or other organizations in regard to the maintenance and transport of the children.

(f) Failing other arrangements for the cost of maintenance and transport, to submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

H. W. EMERSON

Director.

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

April 12, 1944

4 p.m.

AMLEGATION,

CANBERRA

40 X

FOR THE MINISTER FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your airmail A-6 February 24, 1944.

A principal means of assisting in the rescue of victims of enemy oppression and persecution is to offer the neutral nations contiguous to enemy-controlled territory effective and concrete guarantees that such refugees will not in large numbers remain after the war. By this means such neutrals may be induced to receive at this crucial time increased numbers of refugees. Thus, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and The Netherlands and the French Committee have already agreed in principle that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled to asylums in other countries and to assure such conditions in enemy countries as will permit the return thereto of all persons who have fled therefrom to refuge elsewhere. Obviously, however, it is probable that a number of refugees will not as a practical matter be able or willing for a variety of reasons to return to their former homes. Just how large this number will be is uncertain, but the neutral countries above referred to are aware of this probability and for this reason hesitate freely to admit refugees seeking asylum.

In an effort partially at least to solve this problem the Department has authorized American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to 4,000 visas to refugee children of any nationality and regardless of stateless status arriving in Switzerland from France during the first six months of 1944. The Department has further stated its intention, within the limits of the quota law, to replace such visas as they expire until at least six months after the war. Similar provision is about to be made for the issuance of an additional 1,000 visas to refugee children escaping from France to Spain.

You are requested to advise appropriate officials of the Australian government of the foregoing and to inquire whether the Australian government will take action parallel to our own. In this connection, you may wish to advise such officials that the War Refugee Board is gratified by the recent increase to an aggregate of 300, the number of refugee children that it has been announced Australia will receive.

In this connection, however, it is of interest that it was authoritatively reported here in December 1938 that the Australian government announced that it would receive 15,000 European refugees over a three

year period.

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- 2 - #40, April 12, 4p.m., to Canberra.

year period. It is our understanding that approximately only 6500 refugees were received pursuant to that program. Accordingly, you are requested to inquire as to the present status of such program, and if the same is still operative, to approach appropriate officials of the Australian government with the suggestion that that fact be made known to Switzerland, Spain and Turkey as an inducement to them to receive additional refugees. If you are informed that the program is no longer in operation, please approach appropriate officials of the Australian government in an effort to secure its revival.

The War Refugee Board has been approached in connection with a program to colonize European Jews in Northwestern Australia known as the Kimberley Project. We are advised that on March 31, 1943, E. J. Holloway, Australian Minister for Social Services and Health wrote with respect to this project: QUOTE The West Australian government had agreed and the Federal Government were giving favorable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on one side. UNQUOTE The project is also, from letters made available to the War Refugee Board, to have had the support as recently as a year ago of the Anglican Archbishop of Perth, the Presbyterian Moderator General, the Methodist President General, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Australasian Council of Trade Unions. Please make appropriate inquiries to determine whether anything is being done at the present time to further or to ascertain the feasibility of this project. On October 28, 1943, the War Refugee Board is informed, Prime Minister Curtin wrote concerning it: QUOTE The whole question of immigration into Australia, particularly having regard to the conditions that will exist at the conclusion of hostilities is one that requires to be fully explored from all aspects. Plans are at present in progress to set up a Committee to study the various phases of the general problem and, until recommendations are made by that body, the Government is not in a position to formulate a definite policy. UNQUOTE. Please ascertain and advise the Department whether such a Committee has been constituted and, if so, whether it has made any study of the Kimberley project and its practicability.

The War Refugee Board is of the view that the mere knowledge that a concrete proposal such as the Kimberley project is receiving serious study by an Australian governmental committee on immigration matters might be some aid in further opening neutral borders to refugees from enemy-controlled territories and thus in saving the lives of many. It is with this thought in mind therefore that we suggest you make the inquiry above indicated. You may make this view of the War Refugee Board known in appropriate quarters if the occasion should arise and you deem it advisable to do so. Consideration is being given to the advisability of discussing the Kimberley project and other refugee problems with Prime Minister Curtin during his forthcoming visit to the United States. Please keep the Department advised.

You have

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You have requested clarification of work contemplated by the War Refugee Board and clarification of its connection with IGC and UNRRA.

UNRRA and IGC are both international in character, while the War Refugee Board is an organization of the United States set up to carry out the policies of the United States Government. The War Refugee Board has been created for speedy action and is dedicated to measures to secure withdrawal of victims of oppression from enemy or enemy-occupied territory and where that is not possible, to measures to alleviate their condition. The War Refugee Board is prepared to render every assistance to both UNRRA and IGC in any projects they have undertaken or will undertake with the view to bring about the speedy rescue of victims of enemy oppression.

At the moment Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick M. Malin are in the United States to discuss relationships.

HULL
(GLW)

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S/CR

WRB:GLW:KG
4/8/44

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

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