

Programs with regard to Palestine
Immigrants & Refugees; Other Immigration
Programs

Emigration from Sweden

Folder 1

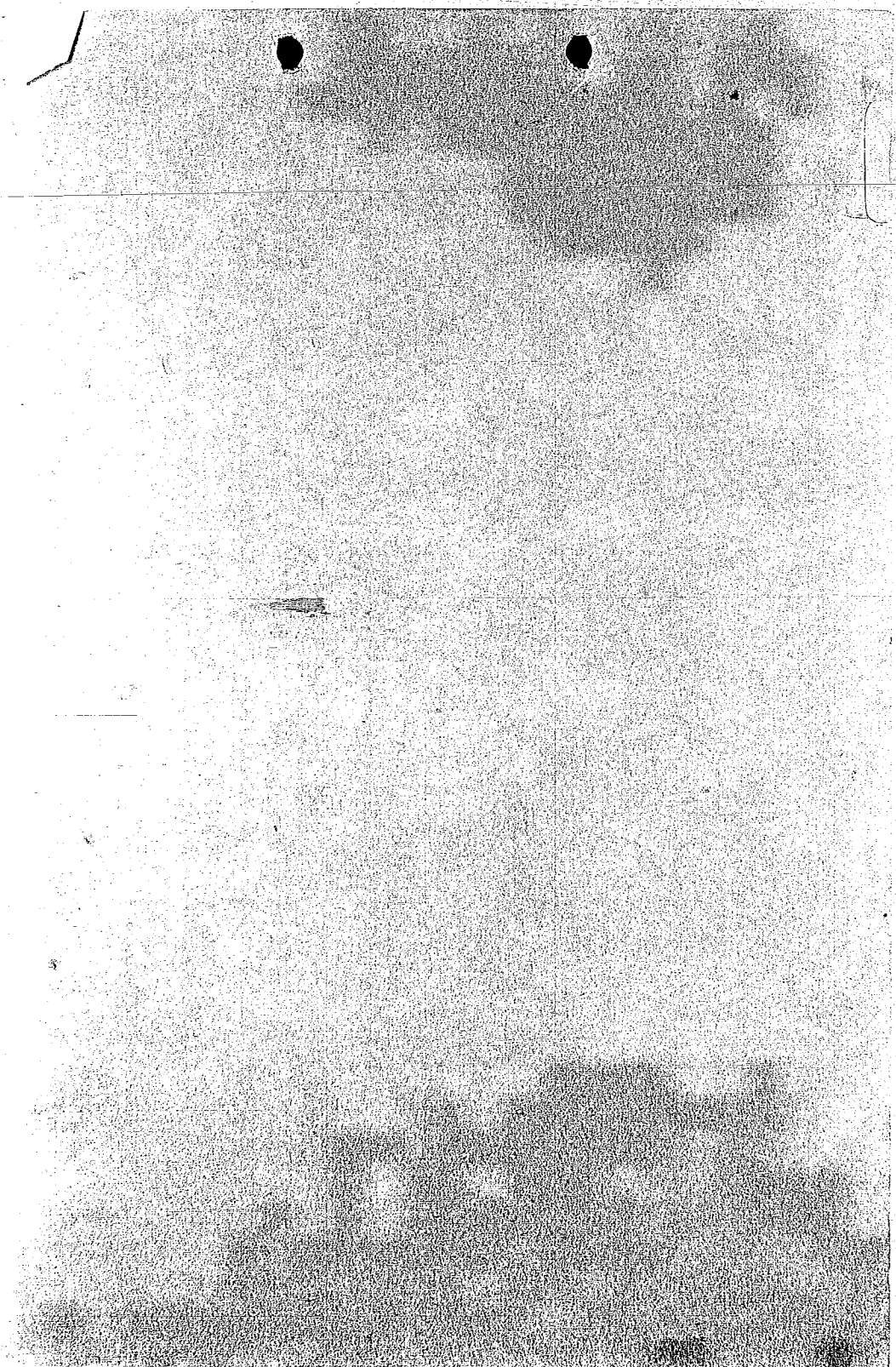
000679

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES; OTHER EVACUATION
PROJECTS (EVACUATIONS TO AND THROUGH SWEDEN)

1. GENERAL
2. BALTIC REFUGEES IN SWEDEN
3. LICENSES ISSUED RE: THIS FILE
 - A. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. -licenses
(Relief to Lithuania and Latvia)
W-2222
 - B. International Rescue and Relief
Committee NY 643831
 - C. Polish War Relief Inc.
Chi. 28350
 - D. World Jewish Congress
NY 635360
 - E. World Jewish Congress (NY 679779)
4. REPORT FROM LAURA L. MARGOLIS OF JDC
5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 - a. General
 - b. Budget

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

000680



000681

AUG 13

Dear Iver:

I thought you would like to have the enclosed ~~photostat~~ of a letter we received from the American Relief for Norway, Inc.

I have wanted to write to you many times during the past months but I have been, as you know, terribly tied up running the Board and, more recently, liquidating. As soon as this is completed I hope to sit down and write to you at more length. Needless to say, recent events have made life in the Treasury Department very interesting. I am planning to go back to the General Counsel's Office when we finish the Board on September 1st.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Florence Hood

Mr. Iver C. Olsen,
Treasury Representative,
American Embassy,
The Hague, Netherlands.

Enclosure.

FH:nd 8/13/45

copy in Olsen's personal file

000682



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICC/MEI

Stockholm, Sweden
June 7, 1945

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

There was recently being shown here some very interesting newsreels of refugees arriving in Sweden from German concentration camps. On the assumption that these pictures would be of considerable value for War Refugee Board records, I purchased copies of them and they are being shipped to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Iver C. Olsen".

Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

000683

848/ICO/MET

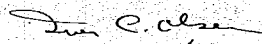
Stockholm, Sweden
June 7, 1945

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Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

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Sincerely yours,


Iver C. Olsen ✓
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

000684

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DSH-77

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

Stockholm

Dated May 3, 1945

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

CONTROL COPY

1667, May 3, 8 p.m.

Report below received April 30 from Amcross repre-
sentative, Whisler who visited Malmo in order to investi-
gate condition of 7,000 refugees, majority of whom are
women from Ravensbruech Concentration Camp with small
number of men from Neuengamme and other concentration
camps released and evacuated to Sweden via Denmark
through intervention of Count Bernadotte, head of Swedish
Red Cross expedition (Legation's 14121, April 17, 2 p.m.).
Refugees were transported from camps by trucks, buses and
ambulances to Copenhagen and with help of Danish Red
Cross placed on ferries.

*not in files
5/11/45
reconsolidated
in files
5/11/45*

Breakdown of total 7,000 refugees, an additional
15,000 of which are expected dependent on Swedish Red
Cross ability to continue transportation, is as follows:

2,000 Swedish Germans or German Swedes; 1,000 Poles,
men and women; 800 French women; 20 British; 29 Dutch
women;

000685

-2- #1667, May 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm
women; 59 Belgians; 7 women claiming American citizenship;
remainder Danish and Norwegian men and women.

Following are claimants to American citizenship:

Mrs. Sumner W. Jackson, last address 11 Avenue Foch,
Paris (16), wife of Dr. Sumner W. Jackson who was head of
American Hospital, Paris.

Mrs. Max M. Dixon, last address, 1 Rue de General,
Largéau, Paris; sister of Frank M. Dixon, former Governor
of Alabama.

Mrs. Gabriel Powell Tritz, last addresses, 22 Rue
Riffault, Partiers, France and 33 Rue Madam, Paris (6).

Miss Elsie Ragusyn (aged 22) last lived in Rome but
cannot remember street address; has two brothers in
American Army.

Mrs. Oliver who was in hospital and could not be
interviewed for further information.

Mrs. Anna Bolyos, last address 108 Kiralyi, Budapest.

Miss Berthe Madalaine Du Mont, last address Berlin
where she had lived for several years.

Foregoing women extremely nervous and underweight but
responding to care and treatment. Mrs. Oliver and Mrs.
Jackson are hospitalized for exhaustion and draining ears
and ulcerated sores respectively. Morale of women good
considering hardships endured. Temporary clothing issued
by Swedes to replace their filthy rags which were burned
and their owners given necessary baths and disinfected.

None of refugees possessed identity cards or papers
for establishing

000686

-3- #1667, May 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm

for establishing citizenship claims. Appropriate action this purpose undertaken by American Consul, Malmo. Citizenship of 4 women appears doubtful. Necessary information to contact relatives, friends through Amcross channels and to secure funds obtained. Small articles of comfort such as cigarettes, toilet articles, candy and cakes as well as fifty Swedish crowns were distributed 9 women immediately with additional articles to be shipped from Stockholm to supplement basic requirements of clothing and food donated by Swedes.

Staff of Aliens Commission of Swedish Government in charge of refugees is being assisted by hundreds of volunteers from various organizations in city of Malmo. All schools are closed and are being turned into temporary hospitals in order to supplement overcrowded hospitals. Refugees given three meals daily with special diets provided for sick and undernourished. Volunteers act as orderlies to aid nurses and doctors and extra supplies are being sent from all over Sweden. Swedes are kindly and sympathetic and have done excellent job of organization. Malmo is serving as quarantine and receiving center. When patients are strong enough they will be moved to other camps.

Concerning alleged attacks by Allied aircraft,
reports

000687

-5- #1667, May 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm

being actually Germans in masquerade.

Swedish Army Captain attached to expedition is returning to Fodborg and has promised to obtain evidence from competent military observers and prepare report to be filed with Swedish Legation, Copenhagen from thence to be forwarded to the American Minister, Stockholm.

Following details concerning life at Ravensbruck confirmed by reports of American, British French and Polish refugees.

Roll was called at three o'clock every morning and the women were compelled to stand for two hours in all weather. Clothing consisted of only thin dress without underwear. Breakfast consisted of coffee; lunch and dinner were soup. One kilo of bread was allotted for eight persons per day.

Working day twelve hours duration consisted either of building roads, digging ditches, construction work or making condensers in Siemens factory.

Medical care rudimentary, practically no medicines available. No sanitary measures were taken. At certain periods to relieve overcrowded hospital, patients were arbitrarily selected without regard for their condition and were taken out to be shot, gassed or cremated. Their ashes were used for fertilizers. Punishments ranged from

suspension

000689

-6- #1667, May 3, 8 p.m., from Stockholm

suspension of bread rations, standing on German village street corners to be jeered at by civilians, to head shavings, beatings and solitary confinement. According to refugees, only persons in best physical condition released from Ravensbruck. Doctors state average patient coming to them was at half her normal weight. Evidently those remaining in worse condition than evacuees.

Report being forwarded by pouch,

International Red Cross ships MAGDALENA and LILLIE MATHIESSEN left Luebeck April 30 with 1,000 more refugees who will be unloaded at Malmo.

JOHNSON

DJ
WCE

000690

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MS

PLAIN

Amn Rep Bd.

19 MAR 27 PM 2 30

March 26, 1946

O Sluzyn

RELEGATION

CONTROL COPY

STOCKHOLM

~~558~~, Twenty-sixth

THE cable below for Olsen is WRB 337.

Please deliver the following message to Hillel
Storch, Postbox 7306, Stockholm, from Arish Tartakover
of world Jewish Congress:

NOTE: Understand Swedish Redcross approached
by Interredcross concerning sending Swedish boat to
Luebeck for evacuation civilians in northern areas
Germany please intervene immediately with them cable
results. UNQUOTE

GREW
(Acting)
(GLW)

..RB:HV:DM
3/24/46

HOE

MAR 27 1946
TELEGRAPH SECTION
RECEIVED

000691

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM, FOR OISEN FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Please deliver the following message to Hillel Storch, Postbox 7306,
Stockholm, from Arieh Tartakower of World Jewish Congress:

QUOTE UNDERSTAND SWEDISH REDCROSS APPROACHED BY INTERREDCROSS
CONCERNING SENDING SWEDISH BOAT TO LUBERCK FOR EVACUATION
CIVILIANS IN NORTHERN AREAS GERMANY PLEASE INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY
WITH THEM CABLE RESULTS. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM NO. 337

Copy sent to WJC 3/23

5:15 p.m.
March 22, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison,
McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

RH:EBH: 3/22/45

000692

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979- 2024-9C

JERUSALEM
Vaad Lemmi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

In reply refer to:
No. 367

March 20, 1945

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

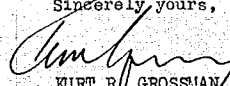
Please be good enough to have the following message
transmitted through the facilities of the Department
of State:

"To: Hillel Storch, Postbox 7306, Stockholm
From: Arieh Tartakower

Understand Swedish Redcross approached by Inter-
redcross concerning sending Swedish boat to Lue-
beck for evacuation civilians in Northern areas
Germany please intervene immediately with them cable
results."

Thank you for giving this matter your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,


KURT R. GROSSMAN
Rescue Department

KRG:bm

000693

January 31, 1945

Dear Mr. Leavitt:

The following message for you from Harold Trobe was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of January 29, 1945:

"JDC 153. Laura Margolis confirms unfeasibility rescuing Jews from Baltic to Stockholm and advises Soviet authorities and Olsen agree. Because Hiele Storch pressure Gottfarb has been asked investigate further and will advise conclusion. Margolis thinks Stockholm unrequiring money for rescue work present time. Advised Paris."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. M. A. Leavitt, Secretary,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

RD
RDrury 1/31/45

000694

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

DD-1139

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PLAIN

Lisbon

Quar Ref. 7/20/45

1945 JAN 30 AM 9 50

Dated January 29, 1945

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Rec'd 6:44 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

*Sent 1/31/45
RS*
CONTROL COPY

210, Twenty-ninth.

WRB 295, JDC 153, FOR LEAVITT FROM HAROLD TROBE.

Laura Margolis confirms unfeasibility rescuing
Jews from Baltic to Stockholm and advises Soviet author-
ities and Olsen agree. Because Hillel Storch pressure
Gottfarb has been asked investigate further and will
advise conclusion. Margolis thinks Stockholm unrequir-
ing money for rescue work present time. Advised Paris.

CROCKER

JT

000695

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*Rec'd Ref 24
11/16*

1944 DEC 8 PM 5 03

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

LFC-304
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████ W)

Stockholm
Dated December 7, 1944
Rec'd 10:45 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

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

5025, December 7, 10 p.m.

FOR IVER OLSEN FROM THORSON

Minister Kucera today requested transfer of funds
amounting to 10,000 kronor to Arbets Forening Portjack
Calc Vahrensborn. He advised arrangements had been
made with you for this transfer about a month ago.
This is our No. 109 for WRD. Kindly instruct me
procedure to follow.

JOHNSON

WLD

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

000696

November 15, 1944
11 P.M., Nov. 21

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

1300, November 15

FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Reference is made to a communication dated July 10 to Department, repeated to London on 11/14/44.

CONTROL COPY

The following reply has been received by the U.S. from the London Delegation of the International Red Cross in response to a request for information concerning the proposal to evacuate children from German occupied Europe to Sweden:

They refer to a conversation Colonel de Lattreille and I had with you in the month of August.

You asked me whether the International Red Cross Committee had received from Sweden a proposal to hospitalize in that country children residing in occupied countries.

I transmitted this enquiry to Geneva, and have received the following answer:

Through the United States Legation in Berno and the British Consulate in Geneva, both the United States and the British Governments in memoranda dated respectively 6th and 10th July 1944, have communicated to the Committee that the Swedish Government have expressed their will to receive in their country a certain number of children - irrespective of their race - from Norway and other occupied territories.

As soon as the Committee were notified of this decision, they communicated it to the German Government and several neutral countries. Following the wish expressed by the American and British representatives, the International Committee themselves pretended to be the instigators of this request. They based themselves on the memorandum addressed to the belligerent Governments, dated 15th March 1944, dealing with the sanitary zones and localities, security zones and localities.

The/

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

000697

- 2 -
1968, November 15.

The Committee has, so far, received no answer to these various messages. For the moment the situation remains unchanged; all further developments will be communicated to you as soon as received by us.

I am sorry that this answer has been so much delayed, but this is due to the irregularity of our mail to and from Geneva during the last months.

CARRERAN

~~SECRET~~
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM

MO:JA
Hectographed by: JH

000698

Rec'd. to the Swedish

HM-485
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (b)(7)

Stockholm
Dated October 14, 1944
Rec'd. 9:36 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
OUTLOOK
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

4187, October 14, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO) Stockholm 9c

RECEIVED
OCT 15 1944

Storch has informed us that Kleist (see last paragraph our 854 WRB) during his recent visit to Stockholm made the following statements: (1) It is impossible to buy release of Jews in Germany with money. (2) His real mission here was to negotiate release of the 100,000 Estonians on Ogel and to arrange for their entry into Sweden. (3) He was to take up on his return to Berlin general subject of release of Jews. He claims Swedes had put pressure on him to do something for the Jews and he expected to have some measure of success in Berlin as he wished to do the Swedes a favor.

(4) He claimed that in a recent Berlin meeting on the general subject of treatment of Jews following points were discussed: A. All Jews should be treated kindly now and endeavor made to prove to the world that they had never been abused, the idea being that

surviving

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

000699

-2-, #4187, October 14, 10 a.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO) from
Stockholm

surviving Jews who would be treated kindly would speak
up for the Germans after the war. B. Remaining Jews
should all be killed. This point was turned down.
C. ~~As the~~ Germans cannot expect the Allies to treat
them any better than they themselves have treated the
Jews or the inhabitants of occupied countries the Germans
must work out some plan other than A or B above, hence
they are now considering the use of Jews as hostages.
He claimed in this connection the Germans have not
killed remaining Lithuanian Jews.

JOHNSON

JMS
WIB

000700

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

HM-469
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (██████████W)

Stockholm
Dated October 14, 1944
Rec'd. 7:55 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

4187, October 14, 10 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

THIS IS WAR R-FUGEE BOARD CABLE NO. 90

as was once intended but have taken them to work on East
Prussian fortifications and are reserving them for
possible use as hostages.

Five. Kleist is expected back here any day and
hopes to have concrete plans to present before a
conference consisting of Count Bernardotte, Professor
Ehren Preis, Storch and Austrian representative.

Storch feels Kleist wants to convey impression
at least he tried to do the Jews a favor so he may
gain favor in Allied eyes. Storch wishes Iver Olson
in London to get in touch with Mr. Easterman or some
other official of the World Jewish Congress there as
he feels that organization is not clearly informed of
the negotiations taking place here regarding the Jews.

(END OF MESSAGE.)

WMB

JOHNSON

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

000701

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

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

September 15, 1944
6 p.m.

7. War Ref
Bell
Pehle

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

War Refugee Board

AMLEGATION,

STOCKHOLM

1841

The following for Olsen is WRB SO.

CONTROL COPY

1. WRB understands that Adler Rudel proceeds shortly from England to Sweden on behalf of Jewish Agency for Palestine in connection with rescue projects for Hungarian Jews. You may extend to him all appropriate assistance.

2. Reference your 3199 of August 19, your 754 to WRB. In view of military situation and personal considerations indicated by you to Pehle under date of August 10, it is the considered judgment here that at appropriate time you should dispose of vessels rather than continue them in present status. Disposition to groups who would undertake sea-borne evacuation from Norway would be entirely acceptable here. The Board would appreciate more detailed information concerning Baltic evacuees and particularly a break-down

into
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000702

- 2 -

#1841, September 18, 6 p.m., to Stockholm
into the various categories in which such refugees
fall, such as Allied sympathizers and Jews. We
assume that you are continuing to take every pre-
caution to see to it that your Baltic operations
do not (repeat not) benefit persons other than
victims of enemy persecution.

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG
9/2/44

NOE

EE

SWP

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

000703

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

1. The President's War Relief Control Board requests WRB's advice on whether it would be appropriate for Latvian Relief, Inc., to seek to provide \$10,000 for recent arrivals from Latvia to Sweden in which case Latvian Relief, Inc., might be certified as participating agency in the National War Fund. The original request for funds came from Svensk Lettiska Hjalpskmitten, Kungsgatan 70, to the Latvian Minister in Washington who transmitted it to Latvian Relief, Inc. It is understood that Hjalpskmitten has also cabled for assistance to former Latvian Minister in London.

In the light of your A-721 of August 14, 3275 of August 24, your advice is requested.

Particular attention should be given to the question whether the persons concerned come within the category of persons intended to be aided under the Executive Order establishing the Board.

2. WRB understands that Adler Rudel proceeds shortly from England to Sweden on behalf of Jewish Agency for Palestine in connection with rescue projects for Hungarian Jews. You may extend to him all appropriate assistance.

3. Reference your 3199 of August 19, your 754 to WRB. In view of military situation and personal considerations indicated by you to Pehle under date of August 10, it is the considered judgment here that at appropriate time you should dispose of vessels rather than continue them in present status. Disposition to groups who would undertake sea-borne evacuation from Norway would be entirely acceptable here. The Board would appreciate more detailed information concerning Baltic evacuees and particularly a break-down into the various categories in which such refugees fall, such as Allied sympathizers and Jews. We assume that you are continuing to take every precaution to see to it that your Baltic operations do not (repeat not) benefit persons other than victims of enemy persecution.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 80 .

10:15 a.m.
September 2, 1944

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

BAKzin: L.S.L. JH
LSLesser:tmh 8-31-44

000704

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. ()

August 17, 1944
9 p.m.

War Refugee Board
For security reasons the transmission must be closed.
STOCKHOLM.

8/20/44
5. War Ref
Bd (m.
Pehle)

CONTROL COPY

1646

The following for Olsen form WRE 76 and is from

Pehle.

I regret sincerely the tragic news conveyed in your 3046 of August 11, No. 70 to WRE. I hope and trust that the report received by you proves to have been erroneous, and that Vokietaitis will be rescued. I want also to take this occasion to congratulate you on the imaginative and effective work you are doing despite the most forbidding difficulties. We all appreciate keenly the initiative and ingenuity that you have displayed, as well as the tireless effort to which your accomplishments testify.

HULL
(GLW)

WAB:MMV:KG
8/17/44

NOE S/CR

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

000705

CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM FOR OLSEN

PERSONAL FROM WZELM

I regret sincerely the tragic news conveyed in your 3046 of August 11, No. 70 to WEB. I hope and trust that the report received by you ~~proves~~ to have been erroneous, and that Vokietaitis will be rescued. I want also to take this occasion to congratulate you on the imaginative and effective work you are doing despite the most forbidding difficulties. We all appreciate keenly the initiative and ingenuity that you have displayed, as well as the tireless effort to which your accomplishments testify.

THIS IS WEB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 76

11:45 a.m.
August 17, 1944

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

LSLesser:tmh 8-16-44 X.S.L.

000706

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

MAE-663 Stockholm
Distribution of ~~1944~~ AUG 15 AM 9 16
reading only by special Dated August 11, 1944
arrangement. ~~(W)~~ d 1:40 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3046, August 11, 2 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM OLSEN

No. 70

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

Ré regret and am shocked in most personal way to in-
form you, according to newly-arrived Lithuanian EVACUEES,
Vokiétaitis was caught and executed by Germans. In hope
report inaccurate, everything possible being done to
rescue him.

JOHNSON

WTD

LMS

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

000707

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
SWP 840.48 Refugees/7-1144

July 15, 1944

My dear Miss Hodel:

The Department has been informed by the American Legation at Bern that on July 10 the American and British Ministers jointly approached the International Committee of the Red Cross, as instructed by their respective Governments, suggesting that the Committee inform the German Government that the Swedish Government had indicated a willingness to receive and care for children from the occupied countries of Europe. The International Committee of the Red Cross has taken this matter under consideration and will make a reply at an early date. Reference is made in this connection to the Department's telegram no. 2351 to the Legation at Bern dated July 8, a copy of which in paraphrase is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred D. Kuppinger
Eldred D. Kuppinger
Assistant Chief
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

No. 2351 to Bern,
July 8, 1944.

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

000708

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

To: Bern
From: Secretary of State
Dated: July 8, 1944
Number: 2351

A copy of MEM telegram to the British Minister at Bern No. 2270, July 1, has been furnished the Department regarding a joint approach to the International Red Cross by the Governments of the United States and Great Britain suggesting that the former communicate to the German Government the Swedish Government's willingness to receive an unspecified number of Jewish children from any part of German-controlled Europe and children from Norway and other occupied countries.

A request to concert with you in this matter has been sent to the British Minister. You are requested to join with the British Minister in an approach to the International Red Cross as proposed in the MEM telegram under reference, to which the Department fully subscribes.

000709

*2- War Refugees
in public*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 11, 1944
NUMBER: 4421

CONTROL COPY

The following message refers to the Department's July 8 cable No. 2351 and London's July 1 cable No. 198.

On July 10 subject was jointly presented in concert with my British colleague to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has taken it under consideration and given promise of reply in the near future.

The foregoing message has been repeated to London for the information of our Embassy there.

HARRISON

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

000710

*2- war refugees.
m. Pelli*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

CONTROL COPY

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Bern
DATED: July 8, 1944
NUMBER: 2351

~~Copy~~ of MEM cable Number 2270 of July 1 to the British Minister at Bern, with reference to united approach by the Governments of Great Britain and United States to International Red Cross with the suggestion that the readiness of the Swedish Government to accept Jewish children from any portion of German-controlled Europe and an unspecified number of children from Norway and other occupied countries be communicated to the German Government by the International Red Cross, has been given to the Department.

Cooperation with you in this matter has been requested from the British Minister. The MEM cable referred to is completely subscribed to by the Department. As suggested in that telegram, we ask that you concert with the British Minister in approaching the International Red Cross.

HULL

DCR/SP
efw
7-12-44

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

*m. Pelli copy
in files*

000711

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Ad. Kasser*
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
Miss Hoodell
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

*Spoke to we will
Brenner - he hear from
will call Creech about
back this
Call this
USC.*

From: *FH* (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

000712

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RECT-694
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Stockholm

Dated June 21, 1944

Rec'd 1:59 a.m., 22nd.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2239, June 21, 9 p.m.

This is our number 36 for War Refugee Board.

We have had some discussions with Dr. Vladimir Kucera, non-recognized Czechoslovak Minister here, concerning his difficulties in taking adequate care of the approximately 800 Czechoslovak refugees in Sweden. Only limited funds have been made available by the Czech Exile Government in London, which apparently has limited resources itself, and it therefore has been almost impossible to render essential assistance to certain severe hardship cases. Virtually all the Czech refugees came here without any means whatsoever, and although a large proportion found employment, there was, of course, a residual group comprising unemployables and children which requires assistance. Among this group are perhaps twenty Czech boys of Jewish origin who came here from Denmark last fall and who are at the age when provisions for their educational training and necessary maintenance

during

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

000713

-2-#2239, June 21, 9 p.m., from Stockholm

during that period are considerations of great importance and urgency. Other groups are more or less straight welfare cases.

Czech relief activities here are centralized mostly in an organization in Stockholm called "Arbets Foreningen for Czechoslovariens Barn". If the War Refugee Board could arrange the transfer of \$2500 dollars to this organization, we can assure that this small amount will tremendously assist the organization in carrying on its work. We strongly recommend it as a most worthy project.

JOHNSON

VTD
LMS

000714

June 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

By his cables of May 10 and May 22 (Nos. 1738 and 1820) Olsen advised the Board that prospects seemed fair to effect the rescue of 500 or 700 intellectual, racial and political refugees each from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Olsen stated that these operations were known to and were being facilitated by the Swedish Foreign Office. He stated that \$50,000 was necessary for each project.

After canvassing the situation, it became clear that private Jewish organizations were not prepared at this time to put up substantial funds for these projects for the reason that they did not feel justified in putting up money for work in untried fields in the light of the heavy demands arising from the situation in Hungary. Furthermore, it appeared that no organization of Lithuanians, Latvians or Estonians exists in this country able to finance these projects. Consequently, it became necessary for the War Refugee Board to make funds available to Olsen for these projects if a test was to be made of their workability. In view of Olsen's appraisal of the worth of these projects, it was decided to put \$50,000 at his disposal to try them out. The JDC has agreed to make an additional \$15,000 available and the Vaad Hahatzala is making arrangements to supply a further \$5,000.

LSLesser:als 6/14/44

000715

War Refugee Board

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Stockholm
DATED: June 5, 1944
NUMBER: 1114

CONTROL COPY

Please deliver following message to Minister Johnson, Stockholm, for Olsen, War Refugee Board Special Attache, from J. W. Pehle.

We are transferring ten thousand dollars to you for your confidential use as needed in War Refugee Board operations. These funds are not subject to usual government disbursing requirements and you are responsible to me alone for their expenditure but you should keep careful record and obtain receipts where possible. These funds may be used at your discretion but should not be used for routine administrative expenses.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 23

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1944

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

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

000716

CABLE TO STOCKHOLM

Please deliver following message to Minister Johnson, Stockholm, for
Olson, War Refugee Board Special Attache, from J. W. Pehle.

We are transferring ten thousand dollars to you for your
confidential use as needed in War Refugee Board operations. These
funds are not subject to usual government disbursing requirements
and you are responsible to me alone for their expenditure but you
should keep careful record and obtain receipts where possible. These
funds may be used at your discretion but should not (repeat not) be
used for routine administrative expenses.

THIS IS WRE STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 23

June 2, 1944
5:10 p.m.

cc:Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuPois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,
Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

JK
WStewart; pdk 6/2/44

000717

RECEIVED
FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: June 1, 1944
NUMBER: 1952

John R. Bell
CONTROL COPY

Following is in reply to SE message No. 15
(Department's May 24 telegram No. 984) and is our No. 83
for attention of War Refugee Board.

It has been our objective to discover responsible
local organizations through which positive and effective
results in carrying out European relief operations could
be obtained. Upon finding such organizations we have
explored with them the possibilities of operational
expansion. Although some of these operations can presumably
be carried out from immediately adjacent areas more
readily, this has not appeared to be a controlling fact.
Urgent needs seemingly cannot be met even with everything
possible being done from everywhere, and any organization
in any neutral country which is able to help anywhere should
be encouraged and urged to do all it can. As regards the
case under discussion, negotiations are being carried on
by us with what is reputedly most effective and influential
organization in Sweden working in these fields. We have
held extensive discussions, and results are considered
promising, however, it would be most difficult to avoid
loss of prestige with Swedish Foreign Office, which is

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

000718

familiar with these discussions and ready to cooperate, as well as with affiliated organizations involved, if we should fail to follow through. With a view to making available an amount of money to test effectiveness of program we urge that matter be considered again. Also, since other proposed programs are involved it would be appreciated if further clarification of Board's policy in this matter would be forwarded to us. It is expected for example, that we shall soon outline ~~seen~~ the operations of Swedish organization called Island Help at Malmo, which according to report has been most effective and which with adequate financial support could probably do considerably more.

This information is for the Board. Our understanding is that except for the most skillfully organized type of underground operations (such as those presented to you previously) the Baltic countries are now virtually sealed to everything. Apparently Habbis Wolbe and Bränpreis do not know what can be done in those countries, nor are they in a position to effect a program if they had one so far as the Legation has been able to ascertain. The rescue of those in hiding is the only possibility that Legation knows of as of the present time. For those in ghettos and concentration camps matters are so critical that allegedly a thousand would be slaughtered for each person helped.

JOHNSON

000719

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM BUREAU

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Legation, Stockholm
DATED: MAY 23, 1944
NUMBER: 984

Re Johnson Per Olsson From War Refugee Board

Reference your No. 1622 May 8 concerning request for funds for two Swedish committees with which Rabbi Ehrenpreis has been working. The matter has been discussed with several American organizations. Feeling here is that relief and rescue activities with respect to refugees in Rumania, Slovakia, Hungary and southern France can most effectively be handled from Switzerland to which large sums are being remitted regularly from the United States for such purposes. Would appreciate your views on this subject. In the meantime American organizations very interested possibilities accelerated rescue and relief work from Sweden in Poland and Baltic area and funds will be available for that purpose. Please discuss again with Ehrenpreis and report possibilities and amount needed.

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO STOCKHOLM NO. 15.

KULL

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

got Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gosten, Hede, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Maanen, Marks, McCormack, Sargey, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files

000720

TRANSLATION

NYA DAGLIGT ALLEHANDA
Stockholm, Sweden,
February 15, 1944.

WIDELY SPREAD CLANDESTINE TRADE WITH REFUGEE GOLD

Copenhagen man leader of central in Stockholm.
80,000 kronor in the lump - while others are
starving.

According to official statements, there are now almost
50,000 refugees in Sweden. During 1943 alone 20,000
refugees arrived in Sweden and the events in Denmark are,
of course, chiefly responsible for this high figure.

It can be estimated that out of these 50,000 refugees
12,000 are living in Stockholm. Spread over the whole country,
there are, according to the calculations, 21,000
Norwegians, 13,000 Danes, some 6,000 without a passport,
3,500 Finlanders (the children not counted) and nearly
2,000 Poles. To this must be added small groups among
which the ex-German citizens hold a prominent position.
The Jews form, of course, a large percentage of the Refu-
gees.

Common to them all is the uncertainty as to the future.
The possibilities of the refugees of making a living of
their own in this country, which has given them a temporary
asylum, has, of course, turned out quite differently. On
the whole, it can, however, be said that they have found
their way in a satisfying manner, and the government does
all it can to help them with money and work.

5,000 are working in the woods.

It can be estimated that 5,000 refugees are now work-
ing in the woods, most of them Norwegians, who have the
best qualifications to find their way in our woods, we
are told by The Refugee Committee and The Ministry for
Social Welfare.

Furthermore, a great number has been absorbed by
industry which has suffered from shortage of man-power
but found clever and interested assistance from the refu-
gees of our neighbouring countries. As early as last
autumn many refugees got such jobs, and since then a grow-
ing number has been put on similar jobs. The training to
metal workers has been done to a large extent, and in most
cases the result has been satisfying. Quite a large
number of Danes has become shop assistants.

Difficult

000721

Difficult for the artists.

In some cases it is, of course, impossible to fit in the refugees into new labor structure, but this is more due to the personal considerations than lack of good intentions. For example, it has been most difficult for the practisers of free professions and many of them live on the verge of starvation, in spite of the fact that people have begun to realize their difficulties and try to help them by giving direct support to their production, for instance that of the artists.

Musicians are also in an awkward position. You cannot send a violinist to the woods, where his hands would be spoilt.

Among other measures taken to help the refugees it may be mentioned that a shop has been opened at Grevturegatan in Stockholm, to which handy refugees can deliver their products for sale. Needle work and carved work represent the biggest part, but repairs of fountain pens and China are also being done there. This business has proved to be a brilliant idea, and no complaints can be made against the determination of the refugees to make their own living so far as this is possible.

On the verge of starvation.

The pleasant fact that many refugees, to some extent, have succeeded in settling down and obtaining a tolerable income does not, however, conceal the fact that the situation is almost intolerable to those who are forced to live on the support given by national institutions alone. They get about 110 Kr. monthly, just as much as the Swedish parochial relief and it needs almost a wizard to be able to live on this amount.

If they do not get any more money, in form of contributions from private friends or their own refugee committees, for instance, their condition can be called one of real misery. They are living on the verge of starvation and many tragedies occur in secrecy. The pawn shops offer a way out but, in general, the refugees do not possess many things to bring there. And, furthermore, the solution is only a temporary one.

Increased police work.

There is thus nothing astonishing in the fact that the police in Stockholm has got a lot of additional work

because

000722

because of the invasion of the refugees. Embezzlements and swindles on a small scale occur now and then, but, on the whole, the policy is of the opinion that the foreigners are decent people. Among so many people there must always, apart from the general conditions, be those who are not 100 percent blameless, the police points out.

Illegal gold trade.

In striking contrast to the above mentioned facts stands, however, the trade with refugee jewelry and refugee gold, which, according to reports in well informed circles, is flourishing at the expense of those who managed to escape with their fortunes. It is well known that, among others, a lot of Danes arrived here in a far from destituted condition. They represent, relatively, a small percent and have later on been very helpful to their compatriots, but they have got into the clutches of ruthless individuals who have not hesitated to profit by the situation.

We are thus told that a Copenhagen man here in Sweden has associated himself with an unscrupulous jeweller and set up a "firm" for the purchase of refugee gold at cut prices. These transactions are now conducted all over the country and those who practise them are said to make a good profit. The central is to be found in Stockholm. The jeweller's shops in Sweden have, however, with a few exceptions, dissociated themselves from this kind of trade. It may happen, it is true, that refugees turn to them and offer them to buy jewelry, but then the refugees know that they will be treated in an irreproachable way.

Transactions amounting to 80,000 kr.

One of the biggest transactions of this kind that has probably been carried out in Sweden, was concluded by a large firm in Stockholm. This firm bought a parcel of ornaments and jewelry from a refugee at a price of between 70,000 and 80,000 kr. These ornaments had, however, not been smuggled into this country but had been deposited in a bank here before the crisis had become acute in order to put the property of the person in question in safety. No complaints can be made against this transaction, but it illustrates another side of the refugee problem than that of starvation and misery.

* * * * *

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 19, 1943
NUMBER: 1610

Memorandum has been sent to me by the British Minister in which he states that he discussed with Adler-Rudel before he (Adler-Rudel) left and later with Boheman the question of finding asylum in Sweden for approximately 20,000 Jewish children to be evacuated from enemy-occupied territories. (See references mentioned in Legation's no. 1235 of April 17 and 1281 of April 20, midnight). It was indicated by Boheman that it would be of great assistance to the Swedish Government in their proceeding with this problem if they could have assurances from the Governments of Great Britain and the United States that arrangements would be made as soon as possible after the war to remove the children in question from Sweden. Mallet was told by Adler-Rudel that if the British and American Governments could permit additional foodstuffs to enter into Sweden through Goteborg to aid in the maintenance of these children it would be of assistance to the Swedish Government. Reference was also made by Adler-Rudel to the fact that the Government of Sweden was not in a position to undertake the entire financial responsibility involved. Mention is made by Mallet of decisions arrived at at the Bermuda Conference which in principle recommend that a joint undertaking should be given to neutral governments by the British, American and other Allied Governments that a guarantee

000724

guarantee would be given that the refugees wouldn't be maintained and eventually moved. However, it was called to his attention that the Allied Governments were not in a position to assure the removal of these children to places outside of Europe since such a guarantee would practically be an acquiescence in the Juden Reich policy of the German Government. Accordingly, Mallet is directed to confidentially inform Boheman that the British Government considers the decision of the Government of Sweden to approach the German Government concerning asylum for these 20,000 Jewish children to be a human gesture which is greatly appreciated by the Government of Great Britain; that sympathetic consideration will be given by the British Government to the question of permitting additional foodstuffs to support these children to be brought through Goteborg. However, with reference to the matter of giving assurances concerning the removal of the children after the war, the British Minister cannot commit himself further than to say that this question will, no doubt, be part of the international problem after the war and that the Government of Great Britain cannot at this time commit itself to a definite ultimate destination outside or inside of Europe for these children. I was informed by the British Minister that he desires me to have a complete understanding of the situation before he makes a confidential memorandum to Boheman along the lines above indicated. He also stated that at the time he makes this communication he will endeavor to find out

why

Ultimate destination
overall policy

Food

Cooperation
Procurement

000725

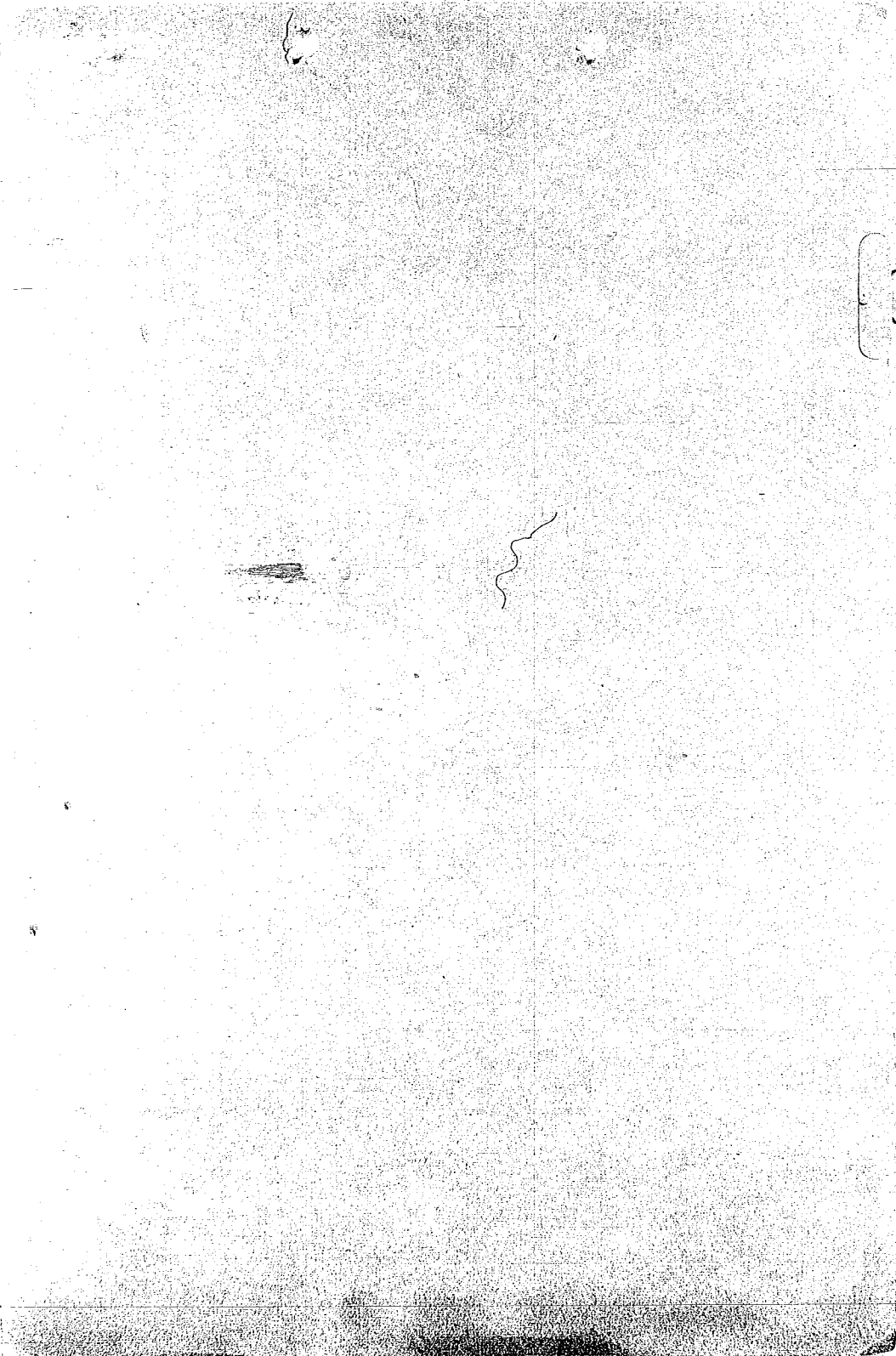
why Government of Sweden which in the past has indicated such a generous attitude to refugees now appears to be concerned with the financial responsibility involved in the particular plan under reference. The memorandum prepared by Mallet also made reference to the decision at the conference held at Bermuda.

*by this speaker
at the ...*

JOHNSON

WRB:MCC:kg

000726



2.

000727

DEC 15 1944

Dear Mr. Brunot:

I have received your letter of December 9, 1944, concerning relief to Lithuanian refugees now in Sweden.

The Board has no information later than that contained in the cable of October 14th referred to in your letter concerning the financial requirements for supplying assistance to Lithuanian refugees in Sweden.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. James Brunot,
Executive Director,
The President's War Relief
Control Board,
Washington Building,
Washington 5, D. C.

FH:hd 12/14/44

000728

THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD

WASHINGTON BUILDING

WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

December 9, 1944

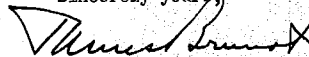
Dear Mr. Pehle:

Last month the Board received a paraphrase of a telegram received by the State Department from the American Legation at Stockholm. We understand that this telegram was for the War Refugee Board no. 98 in reply to WRB no. 109 transmitted on October 14 as the Department's no. 2069.

The telegram from the Legation in Stockholm referred to the financial requirements for supplying assistance to 325 Lithuanian refugees now in Sweden.

We shall appreciate any recent information available to you which would affect assistance to this group.

Sincerely yours,



James Brunot
Executive Director

Mr. John Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

000729

AIRGRAM

Files
CONTROL COPY

FROM

STOCKHOLM

Dated: December 1, 1944.

Rec'd 2 p.m., 14th

UNRESTRICTED.

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-997, December 1, 9 a.m. Baltic Refugees.

GÖTEBORGS HANDELS-OCH SJÖFARTSTIDNING November 19th. About 100 of the 20,000 Baltic refugees who have arrived in Sweden were separated from the rest as suspicious cases. They were immediately taken to a special camp in Västmanland for special examination. Twenty of them are notorious criminals and it is hoped that it will be possible to throw some light on the previous life of the others. Dr. Wendt, former Minister of Finance and member of Dr. Mäe's puppet government, is in Stockholm. He is at a camp together with a number of Estonians who closely cooperated with the Germans. In Estonian quarters he is considered as an opportunist who changed more and more of late and made great efforts not only to get away himself but also helped others to escape from both the Russians and the Germans. Saar, Minister of Agriculture, was another member of Mäe's government. He is also in Sweden.

SVENSKA DAGBLADET November 24th. It is reported from Gotska Sandön that the great stream of refugees from the Baltic States has now stopped. Altogether 1,042 people arrived there. They were fed, lodged and even supplied with clothes by the Sandön inhabitants.

SVENSKA

000730

Stockholm A-997

-2- A-997. December 1, 1944, 9 a.m. from Stockholm.

SVENSKA DAGBLADET November 26th. Another large contingent of refugees from the Baltic States arrived at Oxelösund's harbor in one of the Navy's auxiliary ~~gunners~~ ~~gunners~~. This contingent consisted of 300 people including 240 Latvians and 60 Estonians.

EXPRESSEN November 27th. Thirty Latvians arrived at Gotland besides the 162 reported this morning. They had been on the way for 44 hours, suffering many hardships.

NY DAG (Communist) November 30th writes in a notice headed "The Importation of Balts Continues": On Wednesday morning (November 29th) a motorboat containing about 130 refugees, mostly Balts, landed near Hüdiksvall. Just before reaching the coastal waters the boat had run out of motor fuel. A tugboat was sent out to tow the refugee boat to land.

JOHNSON

HJC/GD/ar.

000731

*2 Incl Ref [unclear]
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 20, 1944
NUMBER: 4743
X

CONTROL COPY

Reference Legation's 4455, November 1 and related correspondence; Legation's 4506, November 3 and related correspondence; and Legation's 3683, September 25.

I have been questioned by the American Red Cross representative here, Glen Wisler, whether it would be advisable for him to discuss with the Swedish Red Cross at this time a letter he has received from the American Red Cross in Washington concerning stockpiling of clothing and other relief supplies in Sweden for present and post-war use in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Finland and Norway, in view of the apparent attitude of the Soviets toward what Americans are doing and what they might do concerning Baltic peoples, particularly with respect to ARB activities here. The American Red Cross, it seems, has issued a requisition for 750,000 cheaper produced garments calculated at approximately \$1,400,000 to be transmitted to Sweden for this purpose and applications are being transmitted for shipping permits to FDA.

The Legation stated in a letter dated September 12 to Mr. Wisler in reply to his request for an expression

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

000732

of opinion in principle from the JSC Allied members on the shipment to Sweden by the American Red Cross of relief articles for stockpiling in Sweden and eventual postwar shipment to liberated nations, that the American members of the JSC have no objection to this proposal provided it is understood that any shipment from the United States would be subjected to existing exportation controls and that individual relief cargoes from Sweden would be subject to review of Swedish officials in addition to JSC. In this letter it was added that the JSC British members agreed in this opinion.

Although the Legation has adopted this stand concerning stockpiling relief supplies in Sweden for present and postwar use in Finland and Norway, the Legation is not able to advise Mr. Wisler, without policy guidance from the Department, concerning the course of action he should take with respect to such supplies for Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, as relief work would seem to involve important political implications in the case of the Baltic nations. The Legation would be grateful if the Department will supply this policy guidance by cable, in particular with respect to any indication of the attitude of the Soviets toward relief work for the people in the Baltic countries.

In this connection the American Red Cross representative has made inquiry concerning the status of

the proposed

000733

the proposed sending of 10,000 to refugees of Latvia.

JOHNSON

11/19
DCH:LEED:MEM
11/22/44

000734

November 14, 1944

Mr. Parke

S. Church

Subject: Applications relative to:

- I. Remittances through Sweden for relief of persons in the Baltic States;
- II. ~~Remittances~~ Remittances to Sweden for relief of Baltic refugees in Sweden.

Reference is made to Mr. Pehle's memorandum referred to this Office relative to two communications received from the American Legation at Stockholm (cables No. 4395, October 28, 1944, and No. 4455, November 1, 1944), concerning relief for Baltic refugees. On behalf of Miss Hodel you requested me to make a chart showing applications of the subject types upon which Units 400 and 401 have taken action since June 1, 1944.

- I. Only two licenses have been issued by this Department authorizing certain remittances through Sweden for relief of persons in the Baltic States. Both of these licenses were issued pursuant to the recommendation of the War Refugee Board. As you will note, the two licenses were issued in June of this year, and none of this type has been issued since that time.
 - A. License No. NY 631855, dated June 7, 1944, authorizes the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, New York City, to remit \$10,000 to Rabbi Wilhem S. Wölbe and/or Hans Lehman, Stockholm, for rescue work in the Baltic States. The license provides that the funds in question will be utilized only as authorized by Iver Olsén, the representative of the War Refugee Board at Stockholm. The license period is six months.
 - B. License No. NY 635350, was issued June 26, 1944, to the World Jewish Congress, New York City, to authorize a remittance of \$10,000 to Chief Rabbi Ehrenpreis, Stockholm, for relief activities in the Baltic States. Subject license also contained the provision that the funds be utilized only as authorized by the War Refugee Board representative at Stockholm. This license expired July 25, 1944.
- II. Several licenses have been issued since June 1, 1944 to authorize remittances to Sweden for the aid of refugees who have fled to Sweden. The licenses which authorize the expenditure of funds specifically for

000735

the aid of persons from the Baltic countries are summarized below.

A. Latvia

To date there have been no licenses authorizing remittances to Sweden for the aid of Latvian refugees in Sweden.

We have received a request from the American Red Cross for authorization to transmit the sum of \$10,000 to the Swedish Red Cross, Stockholm, for relief work among Latvian refugees in Sweden. License No. W-2329, which would authorize the American Red Cross to effect the payment in question, is being held in the Unit awaiting clearance from the War Refugee Board. The funds under reference were paid to the American Red Cross by the Latvian Legation, Washington, D.C., under license No. W-2297.

B. Lithuania

Four licenses have been issued to authorize remittances to Sweden for the aid of Lithuanian refugees now in that country. These licenses are summarized on the attached chart.

It may be noted that in addition to these remittances, the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America has transferred funds to Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Switzerland for the relief of Lithuanian refugees in those countries.

C. Estonia

On August 29, 1944, license No. NY 645569 was issued to the Marine Midland Trust Company of New York, authorizing it to remit, on behalf of the Estonian Relief Committee, the sum of \$1,000 to August Rei, Stockholm, for relief of Estonian refugees in Sweden.

There is now pending in Unit 401 application No. NY 657972, in which the Marine Midland Trust Company requests a license to transfer \$2,000 to August Rei for the same purpose as License No. NY 645569.

There is attached to application No. NY 657972 a photostatic copy of a letter written by the Consulate General of Estonia to the Estonian Relief Committee, dated October 23, 1944. It is stated in this letter that there are now about 20,000 Estonian refugees in Sweden who are "in great need of assistance".

It may be of significant interest that in another letter attached to the application, addressed to the Marine Midland Trust Company, Mrs. Salem Kaiv, President of the Estonian Relief Committee, states that the maximum amount that each refugee in Sweden will receive

will not exceed \$50. Mrs. Kaiv gives the additional information that there is an Estonian Relief Distribution Committee in Stockholm, through which the money will be disbursed. Since it is unknown whether such Committee is incorporated, the transfer is addressed to Mr. August Rei who is a former President of Estonia and is connected with the Committee. A cable dated July 24, 1944, from Mr. Rei states that the Estonian refugees are women, children and men "unfit to bear arms".

SChurch:bn 11-14-44

000737

Licenses which authorize remittances
to Sweden for relief of Lithuanian
refugees in Sweden.

<u>Date</u>	<u>License No.</u>	<u>Licensee</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount and License Period</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
7/7/44	Rich. 8780	Riggs National Bank on behalf of P. Zadeikis, Minister of Lithuania at Washington.	Mr. Vytantas Gylys, Lithu- anian Minis- ter in Stock- holm.	\$1,000 - 1 mo.	Funds for aid to <u>Lithuanian diplomats</u> and their fami- lies in Sweden. Approved provided funds are provided from private donations and not from blocked Government funds.
9/5/44	NY 647409	United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America	Mr. Vytantas Gylys	\$2,000 - 1 mo.	
10/28/44	NY 655389	United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America	Mr. Vytantas Gylys	\$15,000 3 months.	
11/9/44	Rich. 9372	Riggs National Bank, Washington.	Mr. Vytantas Gylys	\$5,000 - 1 mo.	Riggs authorized to debit account on its books in name of Latvian Legation in amount of \$5,000 and remit such sum to Vytantas Gylys. The Riggs was ad- vised by phone on Novem- ber 8, 1944, to hold this payment until further no- tice.

* This Office informed Riggs on November 14, 1944 that the transfer
may now be effected.

000738

NOV 8 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Schmidt

FROM: Mr. Pehle

In view of the statements made in the attached cable from Stockholm, it is requested that all applications received by Foreign Funds Control concerning relief to Baltic refugees in and through Sweden be cleared with the War Refugee Board before action is taken.

(Signed) J. W. [unclear]

Attachment.

cc: O'Flaherty, Parke

JW
FH:hd 11/8/44

000739

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: November 1, 1944
NUMBER: 4455

Advice has been received from Boheman that Madame Kollontay has informed him privately that her government is concerned as to what Americans are doing and might do with regard to Baltic peoples, with particular reference here to WRB activities.

We assumed, in reference to current messages concerning American Red Cross Latvian refugee project, as mentioned in our 4395 of October 23, and WRB interest in Lithuanian refugee relief (Department's 2069, October 14) that Treasury license will not be issued without clear agreement on political implications and that close attention is being given to the policy considerations involved. In this connection we refer to Moscow's 4020, October 21 and our 42, October 23, to Moscow, transmitted to the Department as our 4314, of October 23.

An investigation of the refugee situation here gives ground for the belief that there is some anti-Soviet agitation there among Estonians and anti-Soviet feeling is common. It is not open to doubt that within the Latvian refugee group there are Nazi sympathizers and collaborators.

JOHNSON

DCR:MAS:EFR 11/4/44

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

000740

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 28, 1944
NUMBER: 4395

Following is for Amcross Nicholson from Amcross
Whisler.

It is suggested by us, having in mind implications of press attack commented on in Legation's cable of October 23, No. 42, to Moscow, repeated as our 4314 to the Department, that the Department may want to have Amcross withhold action on proposed \$10,000 transfer for Latvian refugees which was mentioned in Legation's cable of the 26th, No. 4365, and Department's message of the 25th, No. 2144, pending information which we are looking for now and we will cable the Department with respect to persons whom the transfer would benefit.

JOHNSON

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000741

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 3, 1944
NUMBER: 4506
X

Please see the last sentence of my 4395 dated October 28; also please see my message dated November 1, No. 4455.

With regard to investigation as to which Latvians the transfer of money would benefit, this investigation indicates that in seven work centers in Sweden there are 2800 Latvian refugees and that the funds proposed would be used for practically all of them, for food and clothing in particular. Also for medicine for those who need it the funds would be used. Practically all Latvian refugees are in real need of support it is reported. The chairman of the Latvian committee through which the Swedish Red Cross would dispense the money is the former Latvian Minister to Sweden, who as a refugee remained here. Only those who are already in Sweden would benefit and there would be no use of these funds for the further escape of Latvians to Sweden from Latvia, the Swedish Red Cross states.

There exist varying gradations of political opinion among the Latvian refugees but it is true of course that they have a common antipathy for the USSR which is strong enough to have been their primary motive for leaving Latvia, in most cases. The Russians look upon

practically

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

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- 2 -

practically all of them as being people who are Latvian Soviet citizens
and for this reason it is inevitable that there is political complication
over the issue.

JOHNSON

DCR:LCW:MLM 11-7-44

000743

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

*Juan Refugee Bd.
Pepke*

CMK-299
Distribution of
true reading
only by special
arrangement (U)

Stockholm
Dated November 2, 1944
Rec'd 12:40 p.m.

Files

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 3 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

4463, November 2, 1944.

We have discussed with former Lithuanian
Minister to Sweden (Gylis) his financial requirements
of supplying necessary assistance to the 325 Lithuanian
refugees presently in Sweden. This is our 98 for WRB
in reply to WRB 109 (Department's 2069 of October 14,
midnight). Please consult in this connection Legation's
4455, November 1, 8 p.m.

For the time being it would appear that \$7500
monthly should be ample to take care of the current
needs of this group. This amount may be decreased
as the refugees get settled down and find employment,
but may be increased if more find their way to Sweden,
which is extremely improbable. With the exception of
36 Lithuanians who were held by the Germans in Finland
for forced labor and who escaped on foot to Sweden
in September, and two Lithuanians who escaped from a
German labor camp in Norway, no Lithuanians have been

able to escape

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

CONTROL COPY

000744

-2- #4400, November 2, 11 P.M., from Stockholm.

able to escape to Sweden in past 2 or 3 years other than those brought over through Olsen's arrangements. As previously reported, these operations were stopped in September, largely as a result of the physical impossibility of getting a boat any where near the Lithuanian coast.

JOHNSON

MMB

000745

Went to

...

000746

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: November 1, 1944
NUMBER: 4455

Advice has been received from Bohemen that Madame Kollontay has informed ~~him~~ privately that her government is concerned as to what Americans are doing and might do with regard to Baltic peoples, with particular reference here to WSB activities.

We assumed, in reference to current messages concerning American Red Cross Latvian refugee project, as mentioned in our 4395 of October 28, and WSB interest in Lithuanian refugee relief (Department's 2069, October 14) that Treasury license will not be issued without clear agreement on political implications and that close attention is being given to the policy considerations involved. In this connection we refer to Moscow's 4020, October 21 and our 42, October 23, to Moscow, transmitted to the Department as our 4314, of October 23.

An investigation of the refugee situation here gives ground for the belief that there is some anti-Soviet agitation there among Estonians and anti-Soviet feeling is common. It is not open to doubt that within the Latvian refugee group there are Nazi sympathizers and collaborators.

JOHNSON

DCR:MAS:EPH 11/4/44

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

000747

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 28, 1944
NUMBER: 4395

[REDACTED]
Following is for Amerss Nicholson from Amcross

Whisler.

It is suggested by us, having in mind implications of press attack commented on in Legation's cable of October 23, No. 42, to Moscow, repeated as our 4314 to the Department, that the Department may want to have Amcross withhold action on proposed \$10,000 transfer for Latvian refugees which was mentioned in Legation's cable of the 26th, No. 4365, and Department's message of the 25th, No. 2144, pending information which we are looking for now and we will cable the Department with respect to persons whom the transfer would benefit.

JOHNSON

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

000748

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 28, 1944
NUMBER: 4395
X

Following is for Amcross Nicholson from Amcross
Whisler.

It is suggested by us, having in mind implications
of press attack commented on in Legation's cable of October 23,
No. 42, to Moscow, repeated as our 4314 to the Department, that
the Department may want to have Amcross withhold action on
proposed \$10,000 transfer for Latvian refugees which was men-
tioned in Legation's cable of the 26th, No. 4365, and Depart-
ment's message of the 25th, No. 2144, pending information which
we are looking for now and we will cable the Department with
respect to persons whom the transfer would benefit.

JOHNSON

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury,
DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle,
Files

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

000749

No. 4369
X

Stockholm, Sweden,
October 25, 1944.

Subject: The Flight of Estonians
to Sweden.

~~REDACTED~~ - Final paragraph marked "Confidential"

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

~~REDACTED~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sir:

I have the honor to invite the attention of the
1/ Department to the enclosed memorandum entitled "The
Flight of Estonians to Sweden" which has been prepared
in the Legation's Foreign Countries Division. The
information contained in the memorandum has been ob-
tained chiefly from Estonian circles in Stockholm.
The data thus received have, however, been discussed
with several contacts at the Legation interested in
Baltic affairs and it is believed that the account
given in the memorandum of the Baltic evacuation and
rescue operations which took place in the late summer
of 1944 is reasonably accurate.

It will be noted that the memorandum is largely
devoted to a description of the activities of the
four principal organizations in Sweden which partici-
pated in the work of evacuating and rescuing the
thousands of Estonians who desired to flee from their
country. The memorandum indicates furthermore that
the rescue actions were of two kinds: first, the
"legal" action for the evacuation of Estonian-Swedes
which took place with the knowledge and consent of the
German as well as the Swedish authorities; and, second,
the "illegal" rescue operations which were carried out
against the wishes of the Germans in Estonia, but with
the knowledge and the tacit approval of the Swedish
authorities. The names of these organizations are
listed below:

- (1) The "legal" evacuation action
 - (a) The Rådg Committee - subsequently known
as the National Committee for the
Estonian-Swedes.
- (2) The "illegal" rescue operations
 - (a) The Estonian Aid Organization
(Estniska Hjälp Organisationen)
 - (b) The Estonian Committee
 - (c) The Estonian Society

A

CONTROL COPY

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

000750

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A great many of the Estonian refugees, however, who arrived in Sweden came without the help of the foregoing organizations, with the use of means which they provided for themselves.

It may be of interest to point out that the Estonian refugees came to Sweden in two different ways. The greater part came directly across the Baltic Sea while others took the route via Finland.

The number of Estonians included in the evacuation and rescue operations described in the memorandum is estimated to be in the neighborhood of 23,000. These refugees fall into the following categories:

1. The Estonian-Swedish Evacuation Action	About 6,000
2. Estonians who fled via Finland	" 5,000
3. Estonians who fled directly to Sweden in September/October 1944	
A. With the aid of the rescue organizations, and	
B. With the use of means of their own	" 10,000
4. Estonians who arrived in Sweden at an earlier date	" 2,000
Total	About 23,000

In the account of the activities of the Estonian-Swedish evacuation committee mention is made of the fact that many Estonians with no Swedish ancestry were supplied with false documents enabling them to be included in the "legal" evacuations of Estonian-Swedes to Sweden. As of possible interest photostat copies are attached hereto of original documents which were used in this connection. The nature of the falsification is explained in the pencil notes added later on the documents themselves by persons fully acquainted with all the facts.

Respectfully yours,

Herschel V. Johnson

Enclosures:

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 19 1972**

000751

Enclosures:

1/ memorandum.

2/ Photostat copies of false
identification documents.
(with original and file
copies of despatch only.)

Original and hectograph copies to the Department.
Copy to American Embassy, London (Political Division).
File copy.

File no. 607
H.C:emb

Measure no. 1 to despatch no. 4369 dated October 25, 1944 entitled "The Flight of Estonians to Sweden" from the American Legation, Stockholm, Sweden.

IN CLAUSE

THE FLIGHT OF ESTONIANS TO SWEDEN

Table of Contents

- I. Object of the Evacuation and Rescue Movement.
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 - 2. The "Illegal" Rescue Operations.
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 - B. The Rescue Activities of the "Estonian Committee".
 - C. The "Estonian Society" in Sweden.
 - D. Other Rescue Measures.
- III. Summary.

I. Object of the Evacuation and Rescue Movement.

The flight of Estonians to Sweden and Finland on a large scale began as far back as the beginning of 1943. Large numbers of Estonians, to whom the German occupation had become an unbearable burden sought means of escape to other countries. When the Germans instituted their notorious forced "mobilization" actions, thousands of young Estonian men crossed the sea in small boats, mainly to Finland and partly to Sweden. These were patriots who were faithful to the principles of democracy and to whom the idea of fighting by the side of the Germans was loathsome. This movement took place at the time when the power and military prestige of Germany were at their height and when Germany was able to offer young men who entered its service prospects for a "brilliant career".

By July 1944 about 5,000 Estonians had managed to flee to Finland. Of these about 3,000 young men entered the Finnish military service. In the same period about 2,000 Estonians had crossed over to Sweden, all of whom are said to be individuals who are sympathetic to the cause of the United Nations and who have remained faithful to the principles of democracy.

Commencing

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Commencing in August 1944, there was an increase in the number of the Estonian refugees to Sweden. This time the motive for flight was fear of the approaching Soviet armies. As soon as the Estonian people heard the rumors of the terroristic acts committed by the Red soldiers, of the massacre of Estonians and of the forced evacuation by the NKVD of Estonians to the Soviet Union, many of them rushed to the coasts of Western Estonia and to the Estonian islands in order to seek an opportunity to cross over to Sweden. Thousands of refugees gathered in Tallinn where they hoped to be able to obtain steamer accommodations to Finland through legal channels. On September 2, 1944, a steamer which had arrived in Tallinn in order to take refugees on board was forced to depart empty because of the breaking of diplomatic relations between Germany and Finland.

Thereupon the stream of refugees turned in the direction of Haapsalu and the neighboring islands. Since the Germans had already confiscated craft of all kinds from the Estonians, the thousands of refugees who suddenly appeared along the Estonian coast had difficulty in finding means to cross the Baltic Sea.

II. Committees Organized in Sweden for the Aid of Estonian Refugees.

In order to come to the relief of their fleeing compatriots, the Estonian refugees already in Sweden, decided to place means of escape at the disposal of these individuals. There is given below a short description of the activities of the four principal groups of individuals who participated in this work. The first of these groups, known as the Lågs Committee, operated "legally", that is, with the knowledge and the assistance of the German authorities in Estonia and of the Swedish Government. The other three groups, usually referred to as (1) Estniska Hjälp Organisation, (2) The Estonian Committee and (3) The Estonian Society, carried on their activities "illegally", that is, without the permission of the Germans in Estonia, but with the knowledge of the Swedish authorities. Such Estonian refugees as reached the shores of Sweden "illegally" were admitted into Sweden freely and accepted and treated as political refugees. Many of the refugees, however, who arrived in Sweden came without the help of the foregoing organizations, with the use of means which they provided for themselves.

1. The "Legal" Evacuation Action.

According to an agreement entered into between Sweden and Germany in January 1944, the Swedish Government proceeded to evacuate the 6,000 Estonian-Swedes living along the coasts of the Baltic Sea in the vicinity of Haapsalu and the island of Luhu. However, the Germans only

000754

only permitted the evacuation of women, children, and men over 40 years of age. The younger men were supposed to remain and to fight for the Germans; their evacuation was categorically prohibited. The Germans also refused to permit the use of Swedish boats for the evacuation action. Only Estonian boats requisitioned by the Germans could be used for this purpose.

Under the agreement, the evacuation proceedings in Estonia were controlled by the German Sicherheits-Dienst (SD). When they arrived in Sweden the Estonian-Swedish refugees were received by the so-called Rådgö-Committee.¹⁾ A former Estonian vessel, the JUHAN, which had been taken over by the Organization Tott was set apart for the evacuation transports. It had accommodations for 350 persons.

Even before the evacuation action was started a great many Estonians had provided themselves with documents setting forth their status as Estonian-Swedes; on the basis of these documents they hoped to be able to escape from Estonia. In Tallinn an office was opened and placed under the direction of Ojalmar Pöhl, an Estonian-Swedish Lutheran clergyman who had worked among the Swedes in Estonia. His assistant was Dr. Markus. A German official by the name of Dr. Lienhardt was placed in charge of the evacuation operations. The real controller of the evacuation documents was a German Sicherheits-Dienst (SD) official by the name of Alfred Latson.

After the evacuation action was in progress it appeared that on each trip of the JUHAN there were quite a number of Estonians on board who, practically speaking, were stowaways; they had been brought on the ship at Haapsalu or Paldiski with the aid of the Estonian crew of the vessel. In addition thereto there were on each trip other Estonians for whom false documents stating them to be "Estonian-Swedes" had been arranged. Papers of this kind were obtainable at fixed prices from Pastor Pöhl, as well as from Dr. Lienhardt. It is asserted that their usual compensation was between Sw. Kr. 1,000 to Sw. Kr. 1,500 in each individual case. Within a short time these two individuals, who are believed to be living in Stockholm at the present time with their families, earned a considerable amount of money on the basis of operations concerning which the German authorities in Tallinn were fully aware. It is also said that these German authorities were financially interested in the transactions in forged documents and that on this account there was no fear of intervention on the part of the Germans.

A

1) The Committee was originally known as the RÅGÖ Kommitte. This name was later changed, however, to "Rådgökommitte för Estland-svenskarna" (National Committee for the Estonian-Swedes). Its address is: Tunnelgatan 23, Stockholm.

000755

- 4 -

A total of about 5,000 Estonian-Swedes were thus "legally" evacuated to Sweden. On the last trips of the JUMMA there were more Estonians on board than "Estonian-Swedes". When the JUMMA made its fourth and last trip in this operation it had on board 1,300 passengers instead of the normal number of 350, which shows the tremendous nature of the flight to Sweden. On this trip of the JUMMA there were more than 600 Estonians on board, the remainder being Estonian-Swedes. About 3,000 Estonians who had all their papers "in order" to proceed to Sweden were not able to make use thereof because the JUMMA did not return to Estonia.

There remain in Estonia about 500 Estonian-Swedes, some of whom, it is believed, have since been able to cross over to Finland. Later on all German restrictions for the departure of Estonians from their country were lifted.

2. The "Illegal" Rescue Operations.

A. The Rescue Action of the "Estniska Hjälp Organisation".

There were large numbers of Estonian intellectuals who had very poor means of escaping from Estonia. It was to assist them that the "Estniska Hjälp Organisation" started a rescue action. Mr. Klaus Scheel, a former Estonian banker who has been a refugee in Sweden since 1941 and who is a member of the "Estniska Hjälp Organisation", was the chief organizer of this action.

The organization made numerous requests to the Swedish Red Cross for assistance. At the outset these requests were made in vain because the Swedish Government withheld its approval. The greatest assistance was received from Swedish religious organizations which displayed much interest in this project for the rescue of the fleeing Estonians. Special interest was shown by Pastor A. V. Lager of the Nordiska Mission as well as by Pastor Ylander of the Svenska Kyrkans Sjömansvårdsstyrelsen (Seamen's Welfare Board of the Swedish Church). A total of Sw. Kr. 29,000 was donated for this Estonian rescue action by the Swedish religious organizations. In addition Mr. Klaus Scheel procured donations from business connections in the amount of about Sw. Kr. 50,000.

The first object of the rescue action of the "Estniska Hjälp Organisation" was that of making preparations for the evacuation of Estonian intellectuals, among whom priority consideration was given to clergymen. To this end a special courier was sent to Estonia to make all necessary arrangements there. The first evacuation center to be established was at Haapsalu.

Organizers

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Organizers were thereupon sent to the islands of Osel and Dagö for the same purpose. Two men were stationed at Slite on the Swedish island of Gotland with instructions to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the refugees as they arrived in the rescue boats, for the transportation of the refugees to the refugee camps set up by the Swedish authorities, and for the return of the boats to Estonia. Such assistance was rendered in this matter by the Life Saving Station at Gotland, by the local Landshövding (Provincial Governor) and by the Swedish Customs officials.

In order to establish regular communications between Sweden and the Estonian islands and the west coast of Estonia, two motor boats were bought. In addition thereto contracts were entered into with the owners of about twenty motor boats for the transportation of refugees from Estonia. The boats were provided with gasoline, oil, compasses, marine charts, telescopes, et cetera. The necessary permits for the sending out of the boats as well as customs permits were obtained from the Swedish authorities. The Swedish police, customs authorities and marine institutions of all kinds showed an extraordinary degree of willingness and readiness to be of service. The boats and their crews were equipped with everything that was necessary for making the trips and everyone connected with the action was prohibited from taking any payment from the people who were to be evacuated. Nevertheless, instances are known in which members of the crew accepted payment in the form of gratuities. Fricuity was granted to inhabitants from Tallinn and Tartu. About thirty trips were made by the boats engaged by this organization. The number of people brought by the boats was well over 600.

6. The Rescue Activities of the "Estonian Committee".

A long list of Estonian intellectuals and their families was drawn up in the beginning of August 1944, by a second rescue organization known as the "Estonian Committee". The principle on which this group based its activities was that purely patriotic people were to be brought over, i.e. no persons with Nazi or Communistic leanings.

A representative of the committee went to Finland in the middle of August 1944 with the foregoing list. Through illegal channels he sent an individual over to Estonia who established contacts there with certain people. The latter, in turn, created a central organization in Estonia for the carrying of this evacuation scheme into effect. Subsequently people were sent from Sweden to certain points on the western coast of Estonia and the Estonian islands to keep in touch on the one hand

with

000757

Enclosure 1.

- 6 -

with the representatives of the central organization in Estonia and, on the other hand, with the Rescue Commission of the Estonia Committee in Stockholm.

The Rescue Commission of the Estonian Committee was comprised of four members of the Estonian Committee, these being: E. A. Ronimois, Jr. Otu, M. Tunisson and A. Lindhorst. Mr. Ronimois had the task of collecting money for this action. Mr. Otu was charged with the work of keeping in contact with the operations in Estonia. Mr. Tunisson supervised the boat service and controlled the crews, while Mr. Lindhorst was assigned the duty of keeping in touch with the Swedish authorities and of providing the boats with oil and other requisites and with the permits to sail. Two representatives were sent to alite on the island of Gotland to organize the despatching of the boats from there.

The Estonian Committee succeeded in collecting about \$66,000. As the committee at the same time also had to arrange for the removal of Estonians from Finland, it could not pay all the expenses in connection with the operation of the boats. All it could do was to provide enough money to cover actual operation costs, excluding payments to the crews. The crews, on the other hand, had the right to take payment from the refugees up to a certain fixed amount, which was strictly limited.

Up to the first week in October 1944 the Estonian Committee had procured the services of 20 different boats which were sent to Estonia from the mainland of Sweden, many of which made several trips. This number does not include the boats which have been sent out by the Estonian Committee from Gotland.

Beginning on October 5, 1944 the Swedish authorities created certain difficulties; nevertheless means were still found to keep a few boats running.

It is not possible to state the number of persons who have come to Sweden from Estonia on the boats financed by the Estonian Committee, as there is no way as yet to gain a complete picture of the whole action. It is estimated that from 1,000 to 2,000 persons have been included in the action. The plans of the committee to bring out certain classes of Estonians could not be carried out because of the unexpectedly sudden advance of the Russians. In general, the action of the central organization in Tallinn succeeded in giving the alava and people prepared themselves earlier to get away than they would have done had the rescue center not been in Tallinn.

The evacuation of Estonians from Finland was a complete success. More than 5,000 Estonians came to Sweden

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Sweden from Finland, partly by ships sent out from Sweden by the Estonian Committee and partly by ships arranged for by the commission in Finland which cooperated with the committee in Stockholm.

The Estonian Committee paid the complete expenses of the following boats from Finland:

1. Five trips of a boat known as AK26 which took about 130 persons on each trip.
2. Two trips of the S/S GULNAV with 231 and 206 persons, respectively.
3. One trip of the S/S VEGA with 651 passengers.
4. One trip of the S/S LITARTUS with 170 persons on board.

Thus over 2,000 people were brought over from Finland on boats sent from Sweden. The remainder came by boats organized from the other side. The Finnish authorities did not give official permission for the evacuation action, but the Estonians were helped by a few official persons who themselves later on escaped to Sweden on these ships. When the Russians suddenly advanced into Estonia about 3,000 Estonians still managed to escape to Finland, despite the changed conditions there. A large number of these persons have already managed to come to Sweden.

C. The "Estonian Society" in Sweden.

The "Estonian Society" founded its action more or less in agreement with the German authorities. This group intended to evacuate only the members of families and relatives (men over 45 years of age, women and children) of Estonians already domiciled in Sweden. The plan was to carry out this rescue action in the same way as the evacuation of the Estonian-Swedes had taken place, for which purpose the society hoped to be able to use the old organization.

For every person who was to be brought over to Sweden from Estonia the sum of Sw. Kr. 220 was to be paid to the Estonian Society by their relatives, et cetera, in Sweden. Sw. Kr. 20 was to cover the expenses connected with locating the prospective evacuees in Estonia. The sum of Sw. Kr. 200 was to be paid upon the arrival of the evacuee in Sweden.

Many Estonians domiciled in Sweden made use of this possibility of bringing people from Estonia. In a very few days the names of about 800 individuals were registered at the offices of the Estonian Society in Stockholm and the prescribed fees had to be paid.

It

It was intended that the rescue action was to be carried out by Dr. Lienhardt. The lists were handed over to him and he is said to have taken the lists with him to Estonia and to have started looking for the individuals named therein. For this rescue action Dr. Lienhardt was to use the S/S JUHAN which had been employed in the evacuation of the Estonian-Swedes, and also the S/S TANIENBAUM.

But the whole action of the Estonian Society turned out to be a complete fiasco. In fact it was almost a swindle. The society did absolutely nothing, but it collected at least 800 times Sw. Kr. 20, i.e., Sw. Kr. 16,000. Moreover, many persons made payments of Sw. Kr. 200 to the society which they are said to be having great difficulty in getting back.

The crew of the S/S JUHAN refused to make further trips to Estonia. The S/S TANIENBAUM was requisitioned by the Germans at the last moment in Tallinn for use in bringing to Germany a number of German soldiers and Estonians who had expressed a desire to go to that country. After the S/S TANIENBAUM left Tallinn the boat changed its course and proceeded to Sweden in accordance with the original agreement made by the Captain and the crew, but it had on board an entirely different group of persons than those which the Estonian Society had expected it would bring to this country.

D. Other rescue measures.

An overwhelming majority of Estonian refugees who fled to Sweden came, however, via means which they had provided for themselves. Boats - from steamers down to rowboats - arrived every day at various points along the Swedish coast while the rescue action was in progress. Although the Germans had confiscated most of the Estonian small craft, many boats were well hidden by the Estonians in preparation for the flight. Some of them were simply taken from the Germans by force.

III. SUMMARY.

A preliminary estimate of the number of persons evacuated or rescued from Estonia to Sweden up to the early part of October 1944, is represented by the following figures:

1. The "Estonian-Swedes" Evacuation Action About 6,000
2. Estonians who fled via Finland 5,000
3. Estonians who fled directly to Sweden during September/October 1944 17,000
 - A. with the aid of the rescue organizations
 - B. with the use of means of their own
4. Estonians who arrived in Sweden at an earlier date 2,000

Total About 23,000
In

000760

- 9 -

In spite of the considerable efforts which were put forth, it was possible to remove only a small part of the Estonians who wished to leave the country. The entire rescue action was carried out under very tragic circumstances. Seamen on the rescue boats described upon their return to Sweden the heart-rending scenes which they had witnessed as the boats departed from Tallinn, Haapsalu and other places along the coasts of the Baltic Sea. People had to be pushed away from the boats by force. Thousands of unhappy women and children were left behind all along the Estonian coast.

Both the "Estonian Relief Organisation" and the "Estonian Committee" had to face great difficulties in carrying out the rescue actions. The risks for the crews manning the boats sent over to Estonia from Sweden were very great. The action was carried out just at the time that the Germans were retreating in panic from Estonia. German patrol boats and demoralized German soldiers were very aggressive toward the boats carrying women and children away from Estonia. The boats were frequently attacked. The trip between Estonia and the Swedish island of Gotland was particularly dangerous. Small open boats with refugees on board were frequently hunted down by German patrol and other vessels. Even in the final phase of the rescue action when the Germans were permitting the Estonians to leave the country legally, German patrol boats hindered the rescue action as much as possible. It was remarkable that, toward the end of the rescue action, when the Germans were officially permitting the Estonians to leave the country by their own means, they were still attacking the boats coming to the Estonian shores from Sweden, while the actual departure of the boats from Estonia was interfered with much less.

It must be added that most of the refugees who eventually reached Sweden directly or via Finland had the chance of being evacuated to Germany. The German authorities offered the Estonians an opportunity to be evacuated to the Reich in August 1944, but there was only a handful of persons who availed themselves of this possibility. The evacuation ships sent to Tallinn to transport the Estonians to Germany had to go back to Germany practically empty. Yet there were masses of people who were willing to risk their lives in an attempt to cross the Baltic Sea to Sweden in small boats exposed to very rough autumn weather, as well as to run the risk of being captured or sunk by the Germans. Several hundreds of persons are said to have perished in the attempt to reach Sweden.

In the last few days before Estonia was totally occupied by the Red Army, thousands of Estonians who had finally lost all hope of escaping to Sweden across

the

000761

Stockholm/Despatch 4369
Enclosure 1a

- 10 -

the Baltic Sea accepted the last opportunity of escaping to Germany. No data are yet available as to the number of evacuees who left Estonia for Germany in September - October 1944, but a rough estimate places the figure in the neighborhood of 100,000.

MEC:emb

000762

Enclosure no. 2 to despatch no. 4594 dated October 25,
1943 entitled "The flight of submarines to Sweden" from
the Admiral's office, Stockholm, Sweden.

Delivered to London Circles
in Stockholm.

ENCLOSURE NO. 2

Articles raised identification documents
used in the "Lindbergh Swedish"
investigation document.

(With original and 11th copies
of despatch only.)

18001043

000763

~~SECRET~~

AIRMAIL

FROM

Stockholm

Dated October 24, 1944

Received November 18, 6p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

A-912, October 24, 1 p.m.

Political Investigation
of Baltic Refugees in
Sweden.

The Legation has been advised by Mr. Henry Larctei, former Estonian Minister to Sweden, that under instructions issued by the Swedish Government all Baltic refugee camps in Sweden have been closed for the time being. This means that until further notice none of the refugees in the camps is to be discharged from the camps. Furthermore, the inmates of the camps may not receive visitors except in very exceptional cases. The period of the closing of the camps may be as long as six weeks.

According to Mr. Larctei, the Swedish authorities have taken the foregoing action in order to enable them to undertake a political investigation of all individuals still in the camps. An effort is thus being made to segregate those individuals who may be classified as quislings. The latter will, Mr. Larctei stated, be sent to the special quisling camps which have been set up for this purpose.

Mr. Larctei's remarks appear to be substantiated in an editorial appearing in the Stockholm daily newspaper, DAGENS NYHETER of October 22, 1944. The pertinent sections of this editorial are cited below:

"What the leading persons in the refugee

committees

000764

Stockholm/A-912

-2- A-912, October 24, 1 p.m. from Stockholm

committees have been concerned with has most certainly not been to bring German agents or anti-Russian agitators to Sweden. Above all else ~~the~~ committees have striven to give a more secure existence to the manifestly non-political Estonians. This appears also to have been largely successful. The task has not yet been completed, however....

"It is also necessary to obtain a reliable survey of the composition of the Estonian refugee groups who have come to this country without thorough control on the part of the Swedish authorities. Most of these refugees are certainly trustworthy people -- but there are also exceptions to the rule. It would be desirable to know, however, just how suspicious refugees, who should have made their way to Germany and not here (to Sweden), are treated."

JOHNSON

HEC/gd

000765

O'Holbert, needs a
copy of this cable
Special

copy sent
to O'Holbert
1/20

000766

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: October 23, 1944
NUMBER: 4314

See your 4020, October 21, to Department re-
peated to Stockholm as No. 3 and your clear
unnumbered wire of the same date.
The message given below has been transmitted to
Moscow as 42, dated 23rd of October.

Attention Kennan:

The following is for your personal information:
Between the seventh of June and the twenty-fifth of September
under the auspices of the War Refugee Board certain rescue
operations in the Baltic were carried on. After that time opera-
tions ceased because position of Germans in the Baltic had be-
come so hopeless that the representative of the War Refugee
Board desired to protect himself against the possibility of tak-
ing part in the rescue of individuals who might be collaborators
with the Nazis. Individuals who contrived to escape to Sweden
from the Baltic countries through the facilities of the War
Refugee Board were refugees from German persecution although
there may have been anti-Russian persons among them. The total
of the entire operations affecting the three Baltic countries
was only 200,000 kroner most of which went for transportation
purposes. The NYDAG article which was reproduced is
untrue, speculative and provocative. No connection with the
so-called Estonian Government is had by any employee of the Le-
gation.

I have been informed by Madar Kollontay with whom
I have had a complete discussion of the matter, that a correction
to Moscow has been sent by her. The NYDAG article appears to
disturb her very much and she informs me that she has ad-
ministered a strong reprimand to the editor. Our belief here is
that the article was not inspired from Russian sources but is
largely tied up in a tangle of internal Swedish politics arising
from the efforts of the Swedes to bring Estonian Swedes here
concerning which you were informed by Swedish Minister. To
NYDAG article I have made no answer and I do not anticipate
making any comment or answer to it.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972 See my 4231, October 18, 1944.

JOHNSON

10-26-44 DCR:EIS
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Jesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files

000767

*I had, Pigeon Board
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow via Army
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: October 21, 1964
NUMBER: 4320
X

This morning I received a visit from the Swedish Minister with respect to the Teas report regarding Estonian emigre activity in Sweden which was the subject of my cable immediately preceding.

The Swedish Minister explained, by way of background to the appearance of this item, that for a long time the Government of Sweden had been making attempts to arrange for the removal from Estonia to Sweden of all Swedish speaking elements in order to eliminate a possible source of conflict with the Soviets. Last summer there had been an exchange of correspondence between the Soviet Government and the Government of Sweden concerning one shipload of these people who had come to Visby and representations about the fact that the ship was permitted to return to Estonia were made to the Swedish Government by the Soviet Government.

Certain Estonian refugees in Stockholm had called a press conference somewhat later in the summer intending to announce that an Estonian National Government was being established to achieve the restoration of the independence of Estonia. Advanced information on this had been received by the Government of Sweden which strongly warned them that activity of this type would not be tolerated on Swedish territory. The Swedish Government had spontaneously taken this action without any

suggestion

CONTROL COPY

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

000768

suggestion from the Soviet Government. The warning had sufficed to put a stop to this activity and nothing further had been heard of it, although it had not prevented the appearance at the time of one or two press reports on the subject.

A total of about 25,000 people had come to Sweden from Estonia and other Baltic countries, principally from Estonia, in connection with recent German military defeats in that area. 8,000 of these had been Baltic Swedes and the remainder mostly Estonians, although some Lithuanians and one or two thousand Letts were included.

No information was possessed by the Minister on the specific matters which the IZVESTIA despatch discussed. The Minister was inclined to believe that the Soviet Government meant the publishing of the item to be a warning that it was paying close attention to these recent refugees in Sweden and that irredentist or anti-Soviet activities by them would not be passed over in silence, and would be keenly resented here. I am in agreement with this view and I believe it probable, in view of our unwillingness to recognize the incorporation of the Baltic states into the Soviet Union, that the mention of our Legation is meant to be a hint to us that they would view with particular suspicion any connections with Baltic nationalist groups on our part. For my own background I would be glad to have an explanation for whatever substance there may be for the obviously distorted and misleading report which Tass quoted in the event the matter is raised in conversation.

The foregoing message is repeated as No. 3 to Stockholm.

JMB
ECR:JMB:MLB 11-9-44

KENNAN

000769

kk
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM

2069

The following for Olsen is WRB 109.

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. is
desirous of being of assistance to such Lithuanian refugees
in Sweden as may need help. Please advise the Board of the
number of such Lithuanians and the amount per month that
you believe would be necessary to sustain them.

HULL
(GEW)

WRB:MLV:OMH
10/14/44

NCE

EE

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Dury, DuBois,
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Parks, Pannon, McCormack, Pehle, Files

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

By K. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000770

①

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Mr. L...* 7030
 (1) (Room) (Bldg.)
Mr. Petle
 (2) (Room) (Bldg.)
Mr. F...
 (3) (Room) (Bldg.)

*Have you
seen this?
LSD*

Yes, thank you

From: *F. Hod...* 10/3
 (Date)
 (Room) (Bldg.)

000771

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
CONTROL COPY

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CORRECTED COPY

MB-774
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (S) (W)

Stockholm

Dated September 29, 1944

Rec'd 6:20 p.m.

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

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
3955, September 29, 5 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF T70)

Every effort will be made to enter into any
practicable arrangements that will mitigate circumstances
described in WRB 86 (Department's 1883, September 20,
6 p.m.). Following may assist Board in obtaining insight
into problems as we have encountered it here. This is
our 87 for WRB.

Tremendous difficulties and hazards of taking any
helpful action in Lithuania perhaps is best suggested
by fact that in course of Olsen's rescue operation which
have brought less than 150 Lithuanians here, 4 boats
and almost 250 lives were lost. These operations have
recently become so dangorous and appropriated
communication with other side so erratic that it was
decided to stop operations this week. Not a single Jew
has been rescued. Lithuanian refugees arriving here
say Jews are too terrified to move from present
hideouts, either because they fear German trap,

are afraid

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

000772

-2- #3955, September 29, 5 p.m., (SECTION ONE OF TWO)
from Stockholm

are afraid of almost certainty of being spotted by Gestapo and shot or are very much afraid of undertaking the dangerous escape. A Lithuanian Catholic Priest, one of the refugees brought here through these rescue operations, states quite a large number of Jews were able to get into Lithuanian territory occupied by the Russians and are said to be treated extremely well. Many others in some cases entire families, are being hidden by Lithuanian farmers. He states many Jews have been given false birth certificates by Catholic Priests. According to him, were only about 500 Jews in Krotingen on July 1 of this year and he does not believe there are any more than that now unless there has been heavy demand for conscript labor in that area.

Operations in Estonia and Latvia were also stopped this week and the boats ordered to be delivered to Olsen here.

JOHNSON

This was originally stencilled as a complete message instead of Section One.

MJF

000773

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1944 SEP 31 AM 11 20

Stockholm

FMH-773

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

Dated September 29, 1944

Rec'd 6:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

3955, September 29, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

was due in part to the military situation in that area as well as to the difficulties of controlling the types of people who were to be brought out. There are literally hundreds of thousands of people on the Baltic coastal areas, of all political followings, making every panic stricken effort to escape. The last boat sent to Estonia was almost capsized by scores of people swimming around in the sea trying to climb aboard. Somewhat over three hundred were rescued from Latvia and approximately 250 from Estonia. Here again, however, it was not possible to bring out a single Jew. A full report of all these rescue operations will be forwarded in the near future.

All available channels will, as they have in the past, be used to forestall further massacres in east Prussia and Poland, although we are extremely pessimistic

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

000774

-2- #3957 SEPTEMBER 29, 5 p.m. (SECTION TWO) from
Stockholm

that much can be accomplished since the contacts we have had in the past are not able to exert any influence upon the severe military control presently being maintained by the Germans over such matters. Threats of reprisals are meaningless to this group and it may be assumed that should any proposals ultimately be forthcoming through Kleist or other intermediaries for the Germans, such proposals will undoubtedly involve totally unacceptable military implications. We are pushing these negotiations as strongly as possible nevertheless, simply to stall for time.

END OF MESSAGE.

JOHNSON

JMS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

000775

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

copy
FROM: American Embassy, Stockholm
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: September 26, 1944
NUMBER: 3883

At recent meetings here which were attended by Norwegian and Swedish members of Donors' Committee, Mr. Whisler of American Red Cross, Count Bernadotte for Swedish Red Cross, and members of this Legation, the chief representative of Donors' Committee in Oslo reviewed relief distribution in Norway.

It is the belief of this Legation, based on reports considered at two meetings, that there is less danger in accumulation of relief stores in Norway than have been supposed previously and this Legation is persuaded that our ceilings should be raised on some relief supplies and as soon as possible supplies themselves should be shipped.

Committee's representative states that Germans do not interfere in any (way?) with distribution and transport of relief supplies which seem to be of Swedish origin and which are distributed through Donors' Committee. Distribution is so well in hand that since the beginning of the year the Committee has not only been able to dispose of foodstuffs to regular recipients but in addition has sent out 45 tons of secret supplies to fugitives from labor service, German underground groups, and to three concentration camps surreptitiously. The claim is made that this distribution to secret consignees has been going on steadily and can be increased. It is estimated that there are 16 thousand potential secret consumers hiding in the woods. According to estimate by Committee's representatives a minimum of 150 tons of foodstuffs for the remainder of the year, above monthly ceiling of 500 tons, should be made available to help meet regular and secret requirements. We are sending you via airmail a detailed table of secret and regular food distribution not previously reported.

Figures were presented by the Oslo representative showing that there are 80 thousand Norwegian children under 15 years of age who are in dire need especially with regard to clothing and shoes. It is possible to obtain insufficient quantities in Sweden and far more than 150 tons of clothing and 75 thousand pairs of shoes will be needed. It is the desire of the Committee that additional supplies be made available by us to Sweden for early transmission to Norway and that rapid clearance be given to supplies collected already in Sweden which as the winter approaches are urgently needed. The statement is made that plans have been made by the Committee to safeguard supplies

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

000776

-2- #3883 from American Embassy, Stockholm, September 26, 1944

held in stock against confiscation by the Germans through establishing a series of storing places removed from German areas, and arrangements have also been made to disperse goods to any one of these centers as soon as Germans have laid hands on one of them.

In the opinion of the Legation the Committee is able, with a minimum risk of German interference, to distribute stores and Legation recommends that with regard to licensing and despatch of shipments for both distribution and storage that a more liberal policy be pursued. The Legation should like to have discretionary authority to approve the forwarding of reserves in Sweden at the present time at a rhythm which, while insuring their being useful will not concentrate too much under the Germans' noses.

In addition the Legation recommends that more shoes and clothing supplies for (?) the U. S., especially the items which Mr. Whisler recommended and some foodstuffs should be forwarded as soon as possible from the United States. After the conclusion of hostilities any supplies that should remain in Sweden would be available for distribution in Norway or other parts of Europe, either by some designated agency or by UNRRA.

We respectfully request instructions from FEA and the Department.

The above message has been repeated to London as my September 26 cable No. 1151.

JOHNSON

DCR:EBH:EFR 9/27/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Lesser, Marks, Mannon, McCormack, Pehlo, Files.

000777

DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Distribution of this
reading only by special
arrangement, (W)

September 20, 1944

Copy

AMLEGATION

STOCKHOLM
1883 X

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

The following for Olsen is WRB 88.

Several thousand Lithuanian Jews are reported held in camp
Krotingen, in Lithuanian-East Prussian border region. Seventy-
five hundred are said to have been deported from Kaunas to East
Prussia. Great anxiety is felt here for their lives. Please
urgently endeavor to extend to the Krotingen inmates and any
Jewish deportees from Baltic states in East Prussia the measures
indicated by you in your 8683 of September 11 as now being
applied to Jews remaining in Baltic countries.

It is reported that many Jews, perhaps 60,000 persons,
survive in Lodz, Poland. It is feared that they may be mas-
sacred as a prelude to German retreat. Please use whatever
means are at your command and take such measures as may be
feasible to avert any such tragedy.

With reference to persistent reports of renewed or impend-
ing deportation of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia by order of
German authorities, you are requested unofficially to convey to
appropriate individual German officials through all channels
that may be available to you the strongest possible representa-
tions against these deportations. You should make clear this
Government's unflinching determination to see to it that all

persons

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

000778

-2- #1883, September 20, 6 p.m., to Stockholm
persons participating in any form whatsoever in these deportations or in any other form of persecution are apprehended and punished. Wallenberg's contacts as well as your own may be used in this connection.

The Germans are removing from civilian internment camps Polish and other Jews holding documents issued in the names of American Republics. As a result of Board's efforts, the United States and other American Republics have informed the German Government through their protecting powers that such documents must be deemed valid and that such persons must be treated in the same manner as unquestioned nationals of these countries. Nevertheless, removals continue, presumably to extermination centers. Please endeavor through any unofficial channels that may be available to you to convey the sense of the following to appropriate German officials: Foreign Office and other officials who bear any responsibility for the consignment of persons to whom documents have been issued in the name of an American Republic to extermination or other forms of persecution must expect personally to bear the consequences. If American republics, horrified by the bestiality and brutality of Nazi mass-slaughter accord to some persons the protection of their passports or other documents, individual officials of the German and satellite foreign offices and foreign police ought

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

000779

-3- #1863, September 20, 6 p.m., to Stockholm

ought to be anxious to avail themselves of such or any other opportunity to save innocent lives. If, instead, they indulge in fine reasoning and take action which is tantamount to sentencing such persons to persecution or death, they thereby assume the responsibility and invite the consequences therefor. Furthermore, their failure to seize every available opportunity to save lives will be considered as strong evidence of their concurrence with the policy of mass-slaughters of Jews and other civilian populations and their participation in such crimes, the consequences for which formed the subject of President Roosevelt's statement of March 24.

HULL
(MMV)

KRB:MMV:KG
9/19/44

NOE

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

000780

2
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
No. 4136
x

Stockholm, Sweden,
September 15, 1944.

Subject: Conditions in Lithuania as
Described by Lithuanian
Refugees in Sweden.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (One paragraph marked "Confidential")

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's despatch
no. 3962 dated August 25, 1944 entitled "Present Condi-
tions in Lithuania as Revealed by Interviews with Lithu-
anian Refugees in Sweden" and to attach hereto a similar
report also based on information received from Lithuanian
refugees in Sweden.

The following subjects are reviewed in the enclosed
memorandum: (1) Internal Political Conditions in Lithu-
ania, (2) The Military Situation, (3) Russian Conduct in
Lithuania, (4) Conditions at the Baltic Refugee Camp at
Kumelnäs, Sweden, and (5) Crossing the Baltic Sea.

Respectfully yours,

Herschel V. Johnson

Enclosure:

1/ Memorandum.

Original and hectograph copies to the Department.
Copy to American Embassy, London (Political Division).
File copy.

File no. 800
llc:emb

000781

Enclosure no. 1 to despatch no. 4106 dated September 15, 1944 entitled "Conditions in Lithuania as described by Lithuanian Refugees in Sweden" from the American Legation, Stockholm, Sweden.

Source: Lithuanian Refugees
in Sweden.

REF. ALBUM

Title: Present Conditions in Lithuania as
Revealed by Interviews with Lithuanian
Refugees in Sweden.

(1) Internal Political Conditions in Lithuania.

The political situation, as many other things, is in a state of chaos. The German authorities issue contradictory orders and are in a constant state of panic. It is sufficient in any small town to fire a few rounds from a rifle and the result usually is a general flight of the Germans remaining there. Any political activity on the part of the Germans vis-a-vis the Lithuanians and the furtherance of the German occupation of Lithuania has vanished. Every German is trying to collect as much booty as possible and make good his escape to Germany. It is actually a case of every German for himself. The most recent organized German action of some importance has been the seizure of all livestock and driving that livestock to collection cages for transportation to Germany. This action has not been an unqualified success. After a group of Germans departed with all the livestock on the farm, instances are known where the farmer followed and calmly collected his cattle from the cages and drove them home the next day. Nevertheless a large number of cattle has been removed from Lithuania to Germany. It is also reported that a very large proportion of the population in the Memel Territory has been evacuated to the Reich. Cattle there are roaming all over the fields without any attention. In the frontier areas of East Prussia a similar situation exists. All Eastern Prussia, especially the frontier areas, is in a state of panic. The Germans have lost their heads completely and are fleeing with whatever they are able to take along with them.

Nothing is known of the present activities of the Supreme Council for the Liberation of Lithuania as communications broke down completely after the German retreat and the Russian break-through into Lithuania. The only means of communication is by messenger. Couriers are sent from one locality to another on motorcycles and in automobiles. (Everything can be bought for gold Tsarist rubles and food from the Germans, and the underground movement has sufficient automotive vehicles and gasoline.)

Strictly

000782

Enclosure 1.

- 2 -

Mr. Steponas Kairys, former leader of the Lithuanian Social Democrat Party, was the President of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania. He was ordered by the Committee to proceed to Sweden accompanied by Dr. Algirdas Vokietaitis. They were known to have left the Lithuanian coast in a motorboat bound for Sweden. According to reports their engine broke down and they were finally captured by a German patrol. The boat was towed to Liban and there two of the men escaped. It is hoped that the two were Messrs. Vokietaitis and Kairys as the identity of the two who escaped is not known. The Lithuanian underground movement has been instructed to make a very careful search and to find out if the two have not been sent to some prison or concentration camp. Results are expected within the next week.

(2) The General Military Situation.

Some organization and unity is now appearing in the German Army in Lithuania. After the German collapse at Minsk, the Russians could have swept the Germans into the sea had they had sufficient strength to continue their advance. According to reports the Russian forces in the Baltic States, especially in Lithuania, are weak. A well-coordinated attack by the Germans could result in the complete expulsion of the Russians from Lithuania. As soon as a certain amount of order has been restored among the German forces, the Russian advance was checked immediately. The Russians are weak and the Germans are not strong enough to launch a powerful counter-attack.

Some German reinforcements arrived from Germany, all well-equipped. No shortage of weapons is apparent. What is most striking is that the Germans are using horses where only machines were used before. Horses are now being used for hauling guns, even heavy guns, ammunition and other supplies. The use of gasoline has been cut to a minimum.

The organization of Lithuanian armed forces continues. A third infantry regiment is already being formed. The Germans are in dire need of infantry. The organization of these units is proceeding under the tacit agreement of the local commanding officers of the Wehrmacht. The Germans have sufficient tanks and other equipment but lack infantry. Here Lithuanians are employed. Arms and equipment are furnished by the Wehrmacht, although the German Civil Administration has announced the passing of the death penalty on all Lithuanians who possess weapons and who are not members of the Waffen SS or the Wehrmacht. This is one of the instances where the Wehrmacht is acting contrary to the orders of the Party.

Simultaneously

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Dec 14, 1972
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000783

Simultaneously with the organization of Lithuanian military units, there are considerable numbers of Lithuanian partisan groups that are acting independently. Many of them consist of members of the Lithuanian Local Units organized by Plechavicius and later disbanded with considerable bloodshed by the Germans. It has been verified that General Plechavicius has now been released by the Germans and is at liberty in Lithuania. It is the general opinion that General Plechavicius acted as a true patriot and when he refused to make any further concessions to the Germans, the Nazis measures against him and his armed forces were extremely severe. His reputation has been greatly enhanced among Lithuanians and he is considered as having done the right thing in the situation that arose.

Lithuanian partisan activities are restricted by two factors. They cannot make too strong an attack on the Germans in the defense of the population as this might result in another Russian break-through on the very brittle German front, bearing in mind the present nervous state of the German soldiers, and with a further consequent result in loss of Lithuanian territory to the Russians. The reasons for this fear will be described in the next section regarding Russian conduct in the Lithuanian areas they have occupied. The second factor is that they are conserving their forces for an emergency in the event the Russians launch another attack of serious proportions. The latest order given to the partisans is to slip through the Russians' lines to the rear and to seek to prevent the mass deportation of the Lithuanian population which the Russians are now endeavoring to carry out.

(3) Russian Conduct in Lithuania.

Certain towns and villages have been recaptured from the Russians by German troops and Lithuanian partisans. It is reported that all the villages and towns thus recaptured have been found absolutely devoid of any living human beings. Many bodies of shot and tortured inhabitants have been found (including bodies nailed to walls), but no living person. Survivors have all been forcibly deported. The district town of Vilkaviskia was recaptured by the Germans in a counter-attack from the East Prussian frontier. When the German troops entered the town, not a single living soul could be found. In pre-war times Vilkaviskis had a population of about 30,000.

It is an established fact that soon after the occupation of any locality by the Russians, the people are told to take with them not more than five kilograms of food and to proceed on foot to the rear and then on to Russia - on foot. Air reconnaissance has revealed that roads are filled with people tramping eastward on foot. The Germans have taken air photographs of these columns of marching people and intend to publish them.

As

- 4 -

As already reported, the Russians place the local people in four categories destined for: (1) service in the Red Army, (2) forced labor, (3) deportation, and (4) execution. All Lithuanians destined for deportation, after the men have been forced into the Red Army or sent to forced labor or executed, must leave everything they have, take but five kilograms of food with them and leave their homes on foot en route to the depths of Russia (a favorite method of the Tsarist regime for sending criminals to Siberia). The farms are then taken over by the hundreds of thousands of Russians that fled before the Soviet advance from Orel, Pskov and other Russian areas or who were evacuated by the Germans from these areas and later abandoned by the Germans in the Baltic States. These Russians are now being placed in the deserted farms by the Soviets as ready-made colonists. Here the Germans did a great service to the Soviets at tremendous cost and effort. Most of these "colonists" fled voluntarily from the Soviet form of government and its consequences, many being as anti-Bolshevik as they could be after their experiences of many years under Soviet rule. To them the Nazi rule appeared the area of liberty, but now that they are receiving well-developed farms for nothing from the Soviets, they all declare that they were forcibly turned out from their homes in Russia by the Germans and that they were always true Bolsheviks. It is significant that none of these alleged deportees is anxious to return to his previous home. They are more than willing to remain where they are in the expectation that in Lithuania they will enjoy far more freedom than they ever had near Moscow.

(4) Conditions at the Baltic Refugee Camp at
Kumelnäs, Sweden.

On September 2, 1944 twenty-two more Lithuanian refugees arrived in Stockholm from Gotland. Of these, eighteen were adults and four were minor children. They have all been stationed temporarily in the refugee camp at Kumelnäs, about 20 kilometers from Stockholm.

The camp at Kumelnäs is crowded with Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian refugees. By far the greatest number of them are Estonians, as the latter have more boats available for maintaining the ferry service across the Baltic. Living conditions at the camp at present defy criticism. A room of two by three meters has two tiers of beds, six beds in all. Two persons sleep in many of the beds. There is one wash bowl in the room with cold running water. Many rooms which serve as dining rooms during the daytime are used as sleeping quarters at night. The beds in these cases consist of a straw mattress and a straw pillow with one blanket for cover. The toilet rooms in the building are in a filthy condition and the smell from them pervades the whole building. The toilet rooms are most primitive and do not have flush bowls. In general the sanitary conditions

do

000785

do not even approach the most elementary conception of sanitary requirements. The Lithuanian male refugees were given the mattresses and blankets used by some refugees that had already been sent away from the camp. Upon inspection, the mattresses and blankets were found to be full of vermin. The men refused the mattresses and blankets and took to the open fields near by the camp and there they stayed all night, against the strong protests of the administration. The Lithuanian refugees are not making any protests against the conditions of the camp as they are aware that they will remain there only for a short time - perhaps only a week or so.

The food is substantial, well cooked and tasty. The women take turns working in the kitchen and cooking at the tables. Men with children are exempted from this duty.

The men are anxious about obtaining employment, especially in the field in which they are specialists. Among the expert specialists are two physicians, one army lieutenant, one retired major, one Roman Catholic priest, several farmers, etc. etc. What they fear most is that the husbands would be separated from their families and sent out to the forests or to the mines. Otherwise they seem very contented and glad to have escaped from the interior where the going is worst in Lithuania.

(5) Convicts and Sailors

Hundreds and hundreds of Lithuanian refugees are streaming to the Baltic coast in the expectation that by some means or other they will be able to cross to Sweden. There are now thousands of such refugees, comparatively destitute, on the beaches waiting in vain for some means of transportation across the sea.

The Germans have ordered all fishing craft into Libau or Palanga and no fishing is allowed. Bribes induce the local officials to issue permits for some fishermen to sail out of port for fishing on behalf of the Wehrmacht. All boats in the ports are under German guard. Armed with such permits, the fisherman leaves the harbor. At dusk he approaches the coast at a previously designated place, picks up those that are able to pay him gold rubles apiece and sets course for Gotland, Sweden. The boats are very small and are capable of taking not more than twenty passengers. The latest boat brought twenty-two persons, but at the sacrifice of personal treasures in suitcases. These had to be cast overboard as the water was dangerously close to the top of the gunwale. The boat is driven by a small diesel engine which often chokes and stops. The fishermen apparently have only a vague idea of how to restart the engine or to make minor repairs and a dead engine out at sea has occurred in nearly every case since these boats have been in service.

Recently

000786

- 5 -

do not even approach the most elementary conception of sanitary requirements. The Lithuanian male refugees were given the mattresses and blankets used by some refugees that had already been sent away from the camp. Upon inspection, the mattresses and blankets were found to be full of vermin. The men refused the mattresses and blankets and took to the open fields near by the camp and there they stayed all night, against the strong protests of the administration. The Lithuanian refugees are not making any protests against the conditions at the camp as they are aware that they will remain there only for a short time--perhaps only a week or so.

The food is substantial, well cooked and tasty. The women take turns working in the kitchen and serving at the tables. Women with children are exempted from this duty.

All the men are anxious about obtaining employment, especially in the field in which they are specialists. Among the latest arrivals are two physicians, one army lieutenant, one retired major, one Roman Catholic priest, several farmers, et cetera. What they fear most is that the husbands would be separated from their families and sent out to the woods to fell timber. Otherwise they seem very contented and glad to have escaped from the inferno that is raging at present in Lithuania.

(5) Crossing the Baltic Sea.

Hundreds and hundreds of Lithuanian refugees are streaming to the Baltic coast in the expectation that by some means or other they will be able to escape to Sweden. There are now thousands of such refugees, comparatively destitute, on the beaches waiting in vain for some means of transportation across the sea.

The Germans have ordered all fishing craft into Libau or Palanga and no fishing is allowed. Bribes induce the local officials to issue permits for some fishermen to sail out of port for fishing on behalf of the Wehrmacht. All boats in the ports are under German guard. Armed with such permit, the fisherman leaves the harbor. At dusk he approaches the coast at a previously designated place, picks up those that are able to pay thirty gold rubles apiece and sets course for Gotland, Sweden. The boats are very small and are capable of taking not more than twenty passengers. The latest boat brought twenty-two persons, but at the sacrifice of personal treasures in suitcases. These had to be cast overboard as the water was dangerously close to the top of the gunwale. The boat is driven by a small diesel engine which often chokes and stops. The fishermen apparently have only a vague idea of how to restart the engine or to make minor repairs and a dead engine out at sea has occurred in nearly every case since these boats have been in service.

Recently

000787

Stockholm/Despatch 4106
Enclosure 1.

- 6 -

Recently the fishermen were intoxicated, the helmsman was swept off the boat and drowned and the boat was again set on its course by one of the refugees who happened to know how to steer. The sea was very rough and all aboard were constantly drenched by waves sweeping over the tiny boat. Many personal belongings were thus swept away. It is characteristic that these people are now completely apathetic as to the loss of belongings which they once treasured, and they often speak of how little importance is attached to the loss of such belongings under such conditions.

All are willing to return to their country just as they stand and begin all over again, provided independence were restored to the country and the elementary prerequisites of life were assured. The mere fact that these people risked death at the hands of the Germans and ventured out in a stormy sea in an open boat with their small children and babies speaks volumes of the conditions prevailing in Lithuania at the present time.

JM:omb

000788

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEK-523
Distribution of
true reading only by
special arrangement.
W)

Stockholm

Dated September 6, 1944

Rec'd 7:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

3511, September 6, 6 p.m.

This is our No. 77 FOR WRB FROM OLSEN

Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian rescue operations are now moving forward under extremely favorable circumstances and results are good. Approximately 1000 have benefited through organization setup to carry out operations. While it appears that period of future operations is limited, approximately 25,000 are needed to continue program on present scale. Can WRB arrange this financing as urgently as possible?

BB

JOHNSON

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

000789

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

1944 AUG 26 PM 4 24

FMH-873

COMMUNICATIONS
RECORDS
(LONDON)

PLAIN

Stockholm via London

Dated August 24, 1944

Rec'd 5:19 p.m., 25th

Secretary of State,
Washington.

X
3275, 24th

Baltic news:

SYDSVENSKA 23rd: Helsinki 22nd: First reports reached Helsinki today concerning population Russian occupied areas southern Estonia. Refugees arriving daily report cruellest Russian reprisals and women children seized deported Russiaward. Highways crowded exiles moving Pskoward afoot. All men aged 15 to 60 sent labor camps. Several thousand municipal employees who remained posts shot. Report from Estonia's Evangelical Lutheran Church Board states 2 pastors who remained posts been shot.

TIDNINGEN 24th: Helsinki 22nd: Long time interval elapsed during which no information obtainable concerning Paets former Estonian President and General Laidoner former Commander-in-Chief Estonia Army. However letter from them arrived recently via Red Cross which took year

CONTROL COPY

000790

+2- #3275, 24th from Stockholm via London

took year and half reach addresses. Letter reveals that despite extremely difficult conditions they still alive. Paets was sent Ufa city in Ural area and Laidoner to Pensa in Kolga district.

DAGENS 24th: Visby TT: 58 more Baltic refugees chiefly representing upper classes arrived Gotland.

IDEM: Gävle TT: 17 Estonians arrived Uppland coast reportedly from Finland.

JOHNSON

DU MRM

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RECEIVED
SECRETARY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

10 30 PM 20 AUG 1944

AIRGRAM

From

CONTROL COPY

SECRETARY OF STATE Stockholm
AUG 20 1944 Dated: August 14, 1944
AND RECEIVED Rec'd. August 28, 1 pm

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-721, August 14, 1 p.m. Latvia (Present conditions in Latvia as reported by refugees).

Reference is made to the Legation's various telegrams and airgrams (i.e. telegrams no. 2980 and 3049) reporting the arrival in Sweden of considerable numbers of Baltic refugees.

The following is a report received on August 10, 1944 from Baltic refugees in Stockholm:

"In Kalsnava (a rural parish in eastern Latvia) the Soviets murdered all men, women and children on July 12, 1944, who had failed to flee. This is stated by a farmer, Jazeps K. from Kalsnava, who managed to escape, but whose wife and three children were murdered. One person who managed to escape became insane as a result of what he had seen. It is reported that the Soviets pour kerosene on the bodies of the persons they have murdered and burn them in order to leave no traces of their crimes.

"A large-scale evacuation of German citizens is taking place in Latvia. In all ports, fishing crafts and ships are seized for the evacuation of the German civil administration and German civilians.

"The

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

000792

Stockholm/A-721

-2-A/721, August 14, 1 p.m. from Stockholm

"The Germans apply the same methods of torture to arrested Latvian patriots as those used by the Soviets in 1940/1941. This is stated by a person who was liberated. A rubber ring with electric leads was put around his neck. The electric current was turned on causing heavy bleeding through the nose and mouth. The person concerned could not tell the things the Gestapo wanted to know and after a while lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness his fingers were held over the flame of a candle, however, even this time without result. Before he was released he had to sign a statement to the effect that he was not going to tell other people what he had seen and what had been done to him. This incident took place in Riga, in the central office of the Gestapo in Reimerss Street, in the same building where the NKVD torture cellars were located in 1940. When the Soviets left, all torture devices and the entire equipment of the building remained intact and were taken over by the 'Operative Section' of the Gestapo."

An additional refugee report received on August 11, 1944:

"Local Communists, actively supported by Russian prisoners of war and so-called Russian refugees, organized uprisings in certain Latvian cities, such as Tukums and Talsi; these revolts were promptly suppressed by local Latvian police forces, however.

"Russian parachutists which a few weeks ago were landed in Aluksne (Marienburg) and Jaungulbene (Neu-Schwanenburg) have been liquidated jointly by Latvians and Estonians.

"Latvian patriotic forces now center about General Bangerskis and the military leadership of the Latvian Legion.

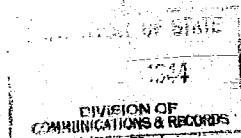
"The so-called Latvian self-government body formed by the Germans has fled to Libau."

JOHNSON

HEC:GD:rc
2 copies to American Embassy, London.

000793

COPY:DCR:AGH



PLAIN

Stockholm via London

Dated August 11, 1944

Rec'd 10:25 a.m., 12th

*(For Refugee
Board
(Pelle))*

Secretary of State,

Washington

3049, eleventh

CONTROL COPY

Baltic news: ALLEHANDA tenth: Helsinki STB: Germans issued strict orders prohibiting everyone resident Estonia to leave country. This applies not only Estonians but also Reich Germans. UUSI SUOMIS: Tallinn correspondent repeats report that Estonian self-government will retire whereafter country will be entirely under military administration. Refugees who managed cross frontier from Latvia to Estonia report extreme ruthlessness on part of Russians in recaptured areas.

TIDNINGEN eleventh: Private: According Tallinn news report violent typhoid fever epidemic raging Estonia. EESTI SOENA states communist saboteurs contribute toward spreading disease. Three Estonian communists convicted and executed for having place typhus infected vermin in hay intended for bedding purposes for German garrison Tallinn.

Stockholm morning press eleventh: thirty Estonian refugees arrived.

JOHNSON

000794

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

MS-783
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. [redacted] W)

Stockholm
Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 10:14 PM

Secretary of State,
Washington.

US URGENT

3006, August 8, 8 p.m.

THIS IS OUR 65 FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

We are informed that approximately 400 Latvians have arrived in Sweden during past 10 days. According to Mr. Sandersen, who has visited Latvian refugee camp here and talked with almost all of the recent arrivals, it appears that Latvian civilian authorities permitted Latvians who had been cooperating or collaborating with them to leave Latvia and go to Danzig, if they had means of getting there. The German Military, however, who assisted Latvians escaping urged them to go to Sweden since there would be no safety in Danzig. Consequently, the boats headed for Sweden. Recent arrivals here have left for port called Mazirbe, near Windau.

The recent arrivals report that German Military

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

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

000795

-2- #3006, August 8, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

have left Riga and are concentrating at Windau, which the recent arrivals think the Germans will defend to the last as the only available port of troop evacuation. It is said that the Gestapo and S. S. were remaining in Riga. It is also stated that all Jews in Riga ghettos were shot by Security Police as well as about 1000 in concentration camp in Dundaga. Greatest confusion is reported to be existing in Latvia, with Germans themselves panic stricken. Russians have allegedly sunk 5 boats endeavoring to evacuate German civilians from Latvia. Security Police are reportedly making house to house searches for Partisans. Women from 15 to 65 are said to have been conscripted to dig trenches. It is also reported that there is great friction between civilian authorities, Military and Security Police. For example, 7 boatloads of people who were permitted by civilian authorities to leave Latvia were said to have been captured and shot by Security Police.

From handful of Lithuanians brought to Sweden through Olsen's Lithuanian operations, it is learned that German civilians administrative staff left
Lithuania.

000796

-3- #3006, August 8, 8 p.m., from Stockholm.

Lithuania on July 8. It was intended that they should establish quarters near the German border but they proceeded on into German. It is stated that all Jews in Vilna and Kaunas have been shot. Olsen's Keyman in the Lithuanian operation, Dr. Vokietais, who personally went over to Lithuania to work out the rescue program has not been heard from for almost 3 weeks despite the fact that a boat has been sent after him twice. It may be assumed that he has been captured by the Germans.

JOHNSON

WMB JII

000797

Copy

War Refugee
Board (able)

PLAIN

Stockholm via London

Dated August 7, 1944

Rec'd 1:03 p.m., 8th

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State
Washington
2980, Seventh

CONTROL COPY

Baltic news SVENSKA third Helsinki STB report states city of Narva nonexistent. Tartu reports that ruin piles are ~~all~~ that remains of city. Deningrad radio reports city captured by Russians a week ago and explosions still occurring.

AFTONTIDNINGEN third private: German press in Baltics apparently considered situation hopeless. DZO gives prominence Sweden's incomprehensible passivity and asserts that Russian occupation Baltic area and Aaland Islands will mean threat to Scandinavia.

SYDSVENSKA fourth reports reaching Stockholm from Baltics state large numbers German women children in Baltics already removed Germanyward however German controlled radio stations particularly Riga exhort Balts to remain calmly in native localities and trust in protection afforded by German army. Many refugees arrived Sweden lately. They report German civil administration left Riga across Baltic sea and entire Baltic area placed under military administration headed by General Braermer.

MORGONTIDNINGEN fifth Moscow reports Hitler dismissed General Lindemann as Baltic commander-in-chief. He's succeeded by General Schoerner military chief in Rumania.

DAGENS fifth Moscow reports Germans initiated large scale transfer of troops in Baltics via Libau and Windau ports. German civilians also being evacuated via these ports.

SVENSKA and DAGENS fifth large numbers Baltic refugees landed eastern shores Gotland Island. This week two hundred representing various social classes arrived in tugs and small fishing boats. Favorable wind conditions contributing factor and influx further large contingents expected.

JOHNSON

CSB

000798

AIRGRAM

CONTROL COPY

JUN 22 1944

FROM

Stockholm

Dated June 8, 1944

Rec'd June 21, 1944

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-539, June 8, 9 a.m.

Estonia (Internal Situation)

AFTONBLADET May 31st. In an article entitled "Events Relating to the Mass Arrests in Estonia", the author, Dr. Adolf Schück, writes as follows. Little information concerning the internal situation in Estonia is available abroad. It is rumored that the recent Russian air raids disabled the Estonian shale oil industry. General Commissar Litzmann's authority is decidedly on the decrease of late while General Lindemann, commander of the Baltic front, together with the chiefs of the "Sicherheitsdienst" are assuming arbitrary powers. The Estonian puppet government has proved extremely convenient for the Germans since the former announces and carries out all the regulations so unpopular among the population. None of the members of the puppet government ever enjoyed the confidence of the population especially since some are German citizens. More weight is carried by Professor Uluots who urged the Estonians to defend their homeland against a Russian invasion. As a result of the Uluots appeal, 90 per cent of the Estonian men responded to the mobilization call and the stream of fugitives to Finland and Sweden petered out. The Estonians in the Finnish Army wished to return home to defend their homeland, but their request was not granted by the Germans.

The firm resistance of the Estonian battalions at

Narva

¹ Dr. Schück is a Privatdocent, secretary of the Baltic Committee in Stockholm and a contributor to the book, "Har De Rätt Att Leva?" (Have They A Right To Live?).

000799

Stockholm/A-539

-2- A-539, June 8, 9 a.m. from Stockholm

Narva gave the Germans, who were demoralized after their reverses on the Leningrad front, breathing space and an opportunity to rush strong reinforcements to the Ostland. The number of Estonian formations on the Narva front would have been more considerable if it had not been for the German unwillingness to complete the Estonian mobilization. Thus, of the 50,000 men called up only 17,000 were supplied with arms. The German aversion to establishing an Estonian national army was soon realized. After the arrival of strong reinforcements to the Baltic countries, the Germans ceased catering for local support. A unique situation arose: mobilized Estonian farmers were loafing around their barracks while German soldiers were working on Estonian farms. The Germans wanted to send the Estonian soldiers out of the country. One thousand men stationed at Tallinn refused to obey the order and were threatened with execution. A police battalion was ordered to leave the country, but 2/3 of the men deserted en route to the Latvian frontier.

The German intention of evacuating the Estonian art treasures to Germany met with vigorous protests, even on the part of pro-German Professor Kant of Tartu University. Eight Finnish professors previously at Tartu University published a protest in Helsinki on April 25, 1944 against the proposed evacuation. The German envoy, von Bluecher, repeatedly insisted that the Finnish authorities should withdraw the protest, but was unsuccessful.

Ever since the outbreak of war in June 1941, the Finnish radio stations have broadcast programs in the Estonian language. The Estonians were forbidden by the Germans to listen to these broadcasts and in the spring of 1943 Finland was forced to stop them. However, the broadcasts were resumed during the winter of 1944. The Finns are sympathetic to the idea of the restoration of Estonian independence and were shocked by the news of the mass arrests in Estonia during May. Patz, chief of the "Sicherheitsdienst" is allegedly responsible for the arrests which were motivated by the discovery of an organization which was considered pro-Anglo-Saxon.

JOHNSON

HEC/GD/gd

Waisfeld ✓
CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

From
Stockholm
Dated: June 5, 1944
Rec'd: June 23, 8am

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-586, June 5, 9 a.m. German Political
Conditions in Poland

The Stockholm newspaper SVENSKA MORNINGBLADET of May 20, 1944, carried an interview with two recently escaped Poles which is of some interest for its description of conditions in Poland, the attitude of the Ukrainians, treatment of the Jews, and the Polish underground movement. In full translation, the article reads as follows:

"Two refugee Poles in an interview with this paper state that the Polish Freedom organization is doing everything to rescue the Jews from the Germans. (These two Poles were deported from Poland in March in order to do labor service for the Germans in the north, but have now succeeded in fleeing to Sweden.) Owing to the constant mass executions of Jews, all the ghettos in Poland are now totally liquidated. The large ghetto in Warsaw is totally in ruins and the few Jews who survived the Germans' action on this field have dug themselves down into the ruins and live like cave people. It is impossible to find them and it is not known what they are living on. Although the entire ghetto is a pile of sand, the 3 meter high wall is still standing, and the German watch on the area is extremely tight. Some of the Jewish population managed even to escape from the inferno which the German

troops

000001

Stockholm/A-526

-A-526, June 5, 9 a.m. from Stockholm

troops with the assistance of Ukrainian and Latvian gendarmes made for them. These Jews were immediately taken care of by Polish patriots who supplied them with all essential identifications. In this way many Jews are still living underground, and the German authorities do not suspect them of being anything else but Poles.

"The greatest and most malignant persecutors of the Jews are undoubtedly the Ukrainians. In the most bestial manner they have exterminated all Jews in the eastern provinces, state the two Poles. Their hatred of the Jews is old and they hate them more than they hate Poles and Russians. The Ukrainians greeted the German troops with great satisfaction and immediately became their hangmen. They believed that they with the assistance of the Germans would be able to establish a free Ukraine. But it is typical that these Ukrainians do not know one word of their mother tongue, but speak only Polish. It is, moreover, regrettable that so many Latvians are engaged in the massacres of the Jews. They are all enrolled in the auxiliary gendarmerie established by the Germans.

"Of course, there has been a certain anti-Semitism in Poland prior to the war, but now it does not exist any longer. Naturally, many Poles dare not help the Jews owing to the threat of reprisals, but the underground organization does all it can. And the Polish London government has issued an order that all Polish citizens in disaster must be assisted. And it is done even if it costs a whole lot of Polish blood. Yes, it even happens that the Germans themselves try to help these people. The assistance consists mostly in the Jews being given new identification papers which certify that they are Poles, and in their being given money. But also others who are in need of assistance get help. It is quite remarkable that there still are so many Jews left in Germany and that they largely do not wear the Jewish star.

"The underground freedom organization is widespread and the Germans are totally powerless in the face of its activity. It is no political organ but may be called

communist

000802

Stockholm/A-526

-3-A-526, June 5, 9 a.m. from Stockholm

communist, in that word's correct meaning. Here all cooperate, whatever political view they may have. The foremost task is to prepare plans for sabotage and partisan activity. The sabotage activity commenced early in the German-occupied areas, but against the Russians there have been no such actions.

"It is not until the last years that the organization has ~~been~~ strong and come under united leadership. What they now are waiting for is the final battle against the Germans, when they hope to be able to contribute towards the shortening of the war. No Pole believes in German victory and all are convinced that the peace will come this year.

"The Poles who have fled to Hungary have been well received there. The Hungarian population has helped them to escape the Germans and made it possible for them to get in touch with Tito's troops, where there are many Poles."

JOHNSON

PL:rc

2 copies to American Embassy, London.

000803



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3-War Refugee
Board (Treas)

No. 3449.

AMERICAN LEGATION
Stockholm, Sweden,
June 2, 1944.

Subject: Baltic Refugees in Sweden.

CONTROL COPY

MICROFILMED AT THE
AMERICAN LEGATION,
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN.
DATE JUN 12 1944

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to attach hereto a copy of a report concerning Baltic refugees in Sweden.

This report was prepared by Dr. Arvo Horn, an Estonian refugee in Sweden, and constitutes primarily an appeal for aid from the United States for the Baltic refugees in Sweden, particularly the intellectuals among them who number approximately 275.

Mr. Horn points out that, although the Swedish authorities are absolutely correct and courteous in their treatment of the Baltic refugees, the labor situation in Sweden is such that appropriate employment cannot be found for these persons. The refugees are given food and shelter in internment camps where, according to Mr. Horn, they soon become extremely restless, especially the intellectuals who would like to continue their studies, complete scientific work already commenced, or be employed in their own or related fields.

The report is being transmitted for possible reference to interested welfare organizations in the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Herschel V. Johnson
Herschel V. Johnson

Enclosure:
1/ Copy of report.

Microfilmed.
Signed confirmation copy by mail.
Copy to American Embassy, London (Political Division)
File copy.
File no. 800
HEC/vn

¹ See the Legation's despatch no. 3090 dated March 30, 1944, entitled "Review of Book about Estonia, entitled 'Estonia Free and Occupied' (Estland frit och ockuperat); Published in Sweden", for review of recent book written by Mr. Horn.

000804

closure no. 1 to despatch no.) dated June 2, 1944,
from the American Legation, Stockholm, Sweden, entitled
"Baltic Refugees in Sweden".

Source: Dr. Arvo Horm, a
Baltic Refugee in
Sweden.

ORIGINAL ENGLISH TEXT.

Title: Baltic Refugees in Sweden.

I.

Among all European states the Baltic States embody the group of nations which is most definitely threatened with complete physical annihilation as an imminent result of the present gigantic struggle of the Great Powers. Caught between two fanatical dictatorships the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have had to suffer more severely than any other European peoples. During the one year of Russian occupation alone, 150,000 men were deported from the Baltic States and dispersed over the immensity of Russia. The German occupation, which followed immediately, brought with it a new wave of deportations, coercive enrollments, arrests, executions and persecutions of all kinds. Estonia, for example, has lost 120,000 men, i.e. one tenth of its population, in the course of these two occupations.

In the final phase of this greatest of all wars the Baltic nations are subjected to increasingly great dangers. Countless innocent women and children are living under the permanent threat of death. Russian planes are ceaselessly dropping bombs on Baltic towns, villages and even on isolated farms. The country up to the present most subjected to damage has been Estonia. 40,000 men have been evacuated from eastern Estonia to western parts of the country. The same holds true of 50,000 inhabitants of the capital of Estonia, who through the last air raid on Tallinn lost their abodes. Tallinn is a city of ruins and the little property the population possessed has been destroyed by fire.

To the great number of suffering women and children thousands of men must be added who, on account of their democratic and patriotic underground activities, are compelled to seek shelter in forests and moors. During the mass arrests which the Germans recently carried out in Estonia, 600 nationally-minded persons belonging to the kernel of the Estonian intelligentsia were arrested; among this group were several scientists, well-known physicians, poets, artists, journalists, leaders of former political parties, et cetera. It is only natural

that

000805

Stockholm/Despatch 3449
Enclosure 1.

- 2 -

that under the present circumstances in the Balticum every one who retains his loyalty to his national and democratic principles must take refuge underground.

For four years waves of annihilation -- Bolshevik or Nazi -- and war, fire, and murder have swept over the Baltic States. In case the Red Army should once more invade the Baltic area, the Baltic nations would face the greatest catastrophe in their history. It should be pointed out that within such Estonian areas as the Russian troops have managed to reoccupy, notably a few villages close to Narva, all men, women and children who had not left their homes beforehand have been massacred. There is not at present a single Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian who nourishes any illusions as regards the possible reoccupation of their countries by Russia.

For the Baltic peoples, in their present martyrdom, the possibilities left to fight for their freedom are: either against the threatening reoccupation by the Red Army, on the external front, or, on the internal front, against German terrorism. There is still a third possibility: to take refuge and keep on fighting for national freedom on foreign soil. This way out is being used increasingly.

II.

The Balticum is one of the few gaps in the steel wall of the Fortress of Europe through which a considerable number of persons have succeeded in slipping through and escaping from the German terror. By far the greatest number of these refugees from Estonia have gone to Finland. Up to May 1, 1944, 8,500 Estonians have arrived in Finland. The state of these refugees is by no means satisfactory. Fascinated by the racial fraternity of the Estonian and Finnish peoples and by the illusory glory of Finnish Democracy, or with the intention to continue the voyage to Sweden, the Estonians had looked forward to Finland rather hopefully, but in reality they passed into the claws of the semi-Nazified state police of Finland. They are segregated in internment camps in Oiti and Jollas and their liberty of movement has been reduced to a minimum. As a rule they are not given permission to work, to settle down or to leave the country for Sweden. With effective insistence the males are forced to join the army. As fighting Bolshevism constitutes an inevitable feature of Estonian patriotism in the present conditions, and as the men had not wanted to fight with the Germans, they did not at first feel it altogether repulsive to enlist, particularly as that was the only mode of existence left them by authorities. The treatment of Estonian volunteers in the Finnish Army has proved extremely unsatisfactory. The Nazi mentality of most of the Finnish officers is radically alien to them. Their conditions of living are worse than those of the Finnish soldiers. After all, these men represent the best of the young

Intelligentsia

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intelligentsia of Estonia.

Because of this inconsiderate, often brutal, treatment many Estonian refugees are leaving Finland for Sweden. Of late the Finnish authorities have been trying to forestall such attempts by every possible means.

The alternative route for the Baltic refugees is over the Baltic Sea direct to Sweden. At the present moment there are 1,500 Estonian, 400 Latvian and 50 Lithuanian refugees in Sweden. Particularly numerous are the refugees from the Estonian Baltic Sea islands: Saaremaa (Osel), Hiiumaa (Dagö), Muhumaa (Moon). On the other hand, leaving either Latvia or Lithuania is comparatively more difficult on account of patrol activity and the open nature of their coastal areas, which explains the small number of refugees from these countries.

The Swedish authorities have acted correctly and courteously toward the refugees who have reached Sweden. For refugees from the Baltic States two special camps have been established in the country, 19 kilometers from Stockholm (Kummelnäs and Wikingshill). All refugees in need have been furnished with clothes and other necessities. Swedish employment agencies have mediated in such a way that in case work was desired in lumbering or road building, it could be obtained. Other work is more difficult to obtain, partly because the local trade unions are practicing a strict policy toward foreign elements, apparently in order to avoid the inflation of the labor market and the lowering of wages.

Socially the Baltic refugees in Sweden belong to various categories. The greatest part of them are from the coastal population and consist of sailors and fishermen. Representatives of agriculture and the various crafts are also numerous. Those with intellectual professions are represented in Sweden as follows: students, about 80; civil servants, 150; others (physicians, artists, journalists, et cetera), 40. The state of the Baltic intelligentsia in Sweden is considerably worse than that of the intelligentsia of other nationalities. So, for example, the interests of Danish or Norwegian refugees are well promoted by the officially acknowledged representatives of the respective countries; moreover, these are in possession of sufficient funds for their national purposes. Furthermore Norwegian and Danish refugees are certain about their future; sooner or later they will return to their homes. Our difficulty is that no such hope exists for the Baltic peoples, and Baltic refugees, when making plans for their future, have to take in account the hopelessness of their situation.

III.

The sincere wish of the Baltic refugees is that they may be enabled to spend their period of exile in Sweden

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in as productive and rational a way as possible. Students want to continue their interrupted studies and the scientists wish to carry their pursuits further. There are a number of young men who have reached the age where definite professional education or training must be started; there are young men who are capable of continuing their studies for the medical profession or engineering, or for learning some special craft. Swedish official resources for this purpose are of little significance, now that the number of applicants is increasing. For its part, Sweden cannot do much more than assure a minimum of the necessities for existence for them. But the authorities of the Swedish universities, institutions and other educational establishments would not exclude Baltic refugees if the economic basis for their studies were provided.

The youth of the Baltic States, having managed to escape from Hitler's terrorism to free and neutral Sweden, are not appealing to the Western Democracies for material and moral support. These young men and women want to be the first to join the post-war peace armada for continental reconstruction. For this purpose they possess all necessary qualifications. In the first place the compressed space of time of one quarter of a century -- the period of their independence -- was a great and unprecedentedly intensive process of construction for the Baltic peoples. The Baltic youth has experienced intimately the making of a happy and well-balanced society; it is the youth which is most animated with social and cultural reconstruction. In the second place, the hard lot of their countries has made them see political realities in a true light. There is scarcely need for a better political or ideological training for these persons who, in the rapid course of two decades, have experienced the four main political practices (not to speak of theories) of our time: (1) the liberal democratic republic, (2) the semi-authoritarian tendencies in their various shades, of the 1930's, (3) Stalin's experiment of Bolshevization, and (4) the Nazi experiment of Germanization. The Baltic youth has come to know the Russians and the Germans personally, their bad and good qualities and their psychological peculiarities. Most of them master the German, English and Russian languages.

Now they want to apply all their knowledge and experiences, learned in the hard vicissitudes of their history, to the construction of a new and better Europe. They are willing to forget the injustices done to them. In case they should have no occasion to return to their native countries as free citizens, then, as representatives of small nations, they desire to carry the ideals of tolerance, humanism and mutual understanding at least to such other parts of Europe as will be most in need thereof, as well as in need of working hands and heads. In case the price of European peace should be the sacrifice of the three small Baltic States to the

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imperialistic appetite of their gigantic neighbor, then the public opinion of the world should be obliged to support by every means at least these few who in exile among foreign peoples are representing the liberal ideas of their countries.

The provisional administration of liberated Europe will doubtlessly need the help and collaboration of the refugees of these small nations, so well qualified by experience. It is unreasonable to let this valuable human material decay in the languor of refugee camps. Every single refugee must be given ample chance to prepare to make his contribution to European reconstruction, according to his ability and inclination. The young Baltic students should be economically enabled to carry on studies in their specialties at Swedish universities; the technicians, sailors, the agriculturally inclined, et cetera, should have an opportunity to complete their professional and vocational training. Cartels of refugee craftsmen should be provided with an economic basis for starting their own workshops, garages, and other forms of economic enterprise -- to invest their labor creatively and skilfully instead of vegetating in camps as heretofore. Hundreds of sailors want training for their future occupations on all the seas of the world, others for meeting the new conditions on the continent. To these refugees the same training should be adapted which, at the present moment, is given to the future administrators of Europe in England and in America. The Baltic refugees do not ask for more than the amount of systematic education and training which, for instance, the German and Italian prisoners of war receive in the United States, Canada and England. Pessimism and lack of activity may induce a permanent form of inefficiency and even moral relaxation. From misery and a lack of concrete tasks, some of these men, at first happy to have escaped Hitler's fortress, may become engaged in the network of the Gestapo.

International aid from the Western Democracies would serve as the basis of the constructive training of the young Baltic refugees for the future peace army. Hardly any place would fit this purpose better than neutral Sweden.

International aid from the Western Democracies ought not to be confined to the refugees already in Sweden. It ought to be extended to the Baltic peoples as a whole. In case the Germans evacuate the Baltic states -- which may happen in the very near future -- there will be thousands of unprotected human beings for whom the only way of escape lies via the Baltic Sea. The only way to render that escape possible is a far-reaching rescue action to be organized from outside. So far, the Swedish authorities have displayed their tacit assent to actions of this kind. But to carry these out on a satisfactory scale, material means such

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as boats, gasoline, equipment, et cetera, are again lacking. It would be considered incredible if the democratic Western Society would refuse its support in saving these unfortunate fellowmen for Western civilization and for the future of Europe. In the history of humanity, the help from the United States will be one of the brightest spots in the dark chapter of the present martyrdom of the Balticum and Europe. The rescued Baltic peoples would never forget such generosity.

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PLAIN

Stockholm via London

Dated March 6, 1944

Rec'd 2 p.m., 7th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

760, sixth.

BALTIC NEWS.

SYDSVENSKA fifth: Helsinki reports German authorities Estonia have agreed consider transfer of Estonian children to Sweden providing Swedish Government expresses such desire.

Idem Swedish permission been requested for transfer to Sweden of children of Estonian refugees in Finland.

AFTONBLADET fifth: Helsinki reports Russian partisans recently ejected from Auvere now roaming nearby forests.

Three Estonian battalions recently returned Estonia after nine months in central sector and now in Narva sector.

Tallinn being evacuated of all children under 16 and their mothers, physically unfit men, men over 65 and women over 60.

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AIRGRAM

FROM

Stockholm

Dated March 6, 1944

Rec'd MW 23-100

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-237, March 6, 3 p.m.

Lithuania (Refugee
Situation)

KAUNASER ZEITUNG January 18th. According to an official announcement, all refugees from the Occupied Eastern Areas at present residing within Kaunas' city limits are required to register with municipal authorities.

ATEITIS January 29th. Administrative authorities have been informed that Lithuanians residing in the Occupied Eastern Areas may be repatriated on approval of the Reich Commissar for the Ostland. This applies mainly to refugees who left Lithuania during World War I.

A January 31st radio broadcast urged persons able to supply information regarding Lithuanians residing in Russia to communicate such information to the Department of Social Welfare as soon as possible. Data submitted should include, if possible, place of residence and number of dependents, as well as letters from relatives or friends living in Russia.

WILNAER ZEITUNG January 30th. Russian refugees at present residing in Vilna District are required to register with municipal authorities.

ATEITIS February 10th. A "Central Commission for Repatriating Lithuanians" has been founded for the purpose

of

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of supervising the repatriation of Lithuanians residing in the Occupied Eastern Areas. Funds will be supplied by the authorities and by public subscription.

~~WILNAER ZEITUNG~~ February 20th. A decree prohibiting the further influx of newcomers into the city of Kaunas has been issued by the Commissar General for Lithuania. The decree provides that newcomers who do not possess special permits may not be accommodated or given ration cards. Visits not lasting longer than 7 days are excepted. Further exceptions may be granted by the Kaunas municipal authorities. The decree does not apply to German military or civilian authorities.

Ateitis Notices appear regularly in this paper requesting information and aid in locating refugee children or other persons separated from their families during the evacuation of Russian areas. The Lithuanian Mutual Aid Organization handles these problems.

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