

R. MCELLEND'S PILES (SWITZERLAND)

Below:
These are the Registry numbers under
which the McElenlands' piles came to
this country

REG. No. 7522

REG. No. 753

REG. No. 754

Residual McElenland

Bx 56

CONCEP. OF

840.1
Mr. Mclelland's Files
1 Switzerland
JEWIS IN EUROPE

Jews in Europe: February
March and April, 1944

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	INITIALS
1	1/25/44
2	1/25/44
3	1/25/44
4	1/25/44
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19	1/25/44
20	1/25/44

War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland

J E W S I N E U R O P E

February, March & April

1 9 4 4.

Jews in Europe

February 1944

(2 background
maternal)

File. Background - Jews in "Protectorate" of B. M.
-Weltzentrale des Hechaluz
Hechaluz Geneva Office

המרכז העולמי של "החלוץ"
בשרד ז'נבה

Telephone 4 39 24 TATSACHENBERICHT AUS DEM PROTEKTORAT. GENF. ז'נבה
geschrieben am 5. September 1943.

Liebe Chawerim / Freunde/,

Ich übermittle Euch hier einen nicht ausführlichen und auch nur in der Schnelle zusammengestellten Bericht. Bei der nächsten Gelegenheit verspreche ich Euch, ganz ausführlich über alles und Juden zu berichten. Ich bin hier /Bratislava/ eben vor 2 Wochen angekommen und bin noch nicht vollständig eingeordnet. Wenn ich mit mir selber in Ordnung komme, will ich dann einerseits mit unseren Chawerim in meiner bisherigen Heimat, andererseits mit Euch in engeren Kontakt treten, um den Dortgebliebenen zu helfen in der möglichen Form. Also zur Sache:

Transporte: Noch bevor wir überhaupt ahnten über die Transporte, war eine Registration der Juden, die die Zentralstelle /deutschen/ selbst durchführte. Jeder musste persönlich erscheinen. Die Vorladung zum Registrieren kam durch die IKG (Jud. Kultusgemeinde). Angeblich sollten diese Transporte nach dieser Registratur durchgeführt werden. Die Einberufung in die Transporte kam durch die IKG. Es war durch Mitteilungen und Schwellen seitens der jüdischen Stellen eine Atmosphäre geschaffen, die deutete, dass die Transporte die Zentralstelle zusammenstellte und der IKG es übrigbleibt, nur die Vorladungen zu schicken und mit Rat zu helfen. Es war aber doch möglich, in einzelnen Fällen zu intervenieren. Jeder bekam eine Nummer, die er auf das Gepäck (50kg) aufkleben musste und auch beim Antreten zum ~~Antz~~ Transport eine solche um den Hals tragen musste. Aus der Wohnung durfte Niemand etwas wegtragen. Die Wohnung wurde beim Verlassen geschlossen und die Schlüssel mit der Transportnummer an der Stelle des Antretens abgegeben. Die Zeit von der Einberufung bis zum Abgang des Transports war verschieden, von 3 - 14 Tagen und in einzelnen Fällen auch nur 2 Stunden. Es kam vor, dass in der Zeit der Registration die Familien nicht zusammenwohnten und nach dem Aufenthaltsort registriert wurden. Sie mussten dann so die Transporte antreten, ohne Rücksicht auf ihre Zugehörigkeit. Kinder fahren ohne Eltern, die wieder ohne Kinder, oder ein Kind

fuhr mit seinen Eltern und die anderen wieder allein. Eine Familie wird vorgerufen zum Antreten. Der Mann ist krank und transportunfähig. Die Frau muss fahren, er bleibt allein zurück. Alte kranke Leute müssen mit ihren Familien mit. Das Antreten ist rücksichtslos. Ein Transport zählte immer 1000 Leute. Sie mussten an bestimmten Tagen sich an der Sammelstelle Mes sepalais melden. Dort blieb der Transport ungefähr 3 Tage, bis alle Formalitäten fertig waren. Dann marschierte der Transport mit Gepäck auf den Bahnhof, wurde einwaggoniert und weggeschickt. Am anderen Tag trat ein neuer Transport an. Die Zahl der Transporte aus einem Ort war verschieden. Aus Prag gingen manchmal vier, manchmal 8 oder 10 Transporte nacheinander ab und dann trat eine Pause ein, da solche aus der Provinz gingen. In der IKG wurden besondere Abteilungen geschaffen, geleitet von Kramer, dem Präsidenten der IKG.

Unsere Stellung zu den Transporten: Ein junger Mensch hat das Recht, die alte Generation zu verlassen nur im Namen einer neuen Schaffung. In der Zeit der Judenregistrationen waren die Chawerim /Mitglieder/ des Hechaluz in Plugoth /Abteilungen/ und dort registrierten sie sich zusammen. Sie hofften, sie werden die Transporte im Kollektiv antreten. Wir haben diese Tendenz unterstützt. Natürlich kämpften die Eltern um ihre Kinder und wollten mit ihnen zusammen gehen. Die allgemeine Stimmung der jüd. Stellen war, die Transporte so zu unterstützen, dass die reibungslos vor sich gingen. Sie wurden dadurch, den Betroffenen zu helfen, in einen Notzustand geführt. Und sie haben dadurch ungewollt nur geschadet, weil sie den Eindruck bei den Deportierten erweckten, die Deportation wäre nicht lebensgefährlich. Wenn die leitenden Stellen nicht in so grossem Ausmass behilflich gewesen wären, hätten sie durch ihre passive Resistenz auch das Misstrauen der Deportierten erweckt und dadurch sie indirekt zum letzten Versuch um die Lebensrettung aufgefordert. Die Transporte wurden in einer beispiellosen Ordnung unter jüd. Assistenz abgewickelt. Sogar die Chawerim des Hechaluz wurden so durch ihre gutgemeinten Ordnungsdienste zu Henkersknechten. Dies alles hat aber die Atmosphäre gemacht und deshalb wurde auch kein Widerwille geweckt. Es war nur bei Einzelnen die Bemühung, sich vor den Transporten zu drücken und zwar durch eine Anstellung bei der IKG

oder in verschiedenen anderen Funktionen. Erst später, als aus dem Gerusch /Deportationen/ grausame Nachrichten kamen, die über Hunger, schlechte Behandlung und Hilflosigkeit berichteten, fing unsere Stellung zu den Transporten zu wackeln an. Es waren unsere Chawerim die Ersten, die die Transporte nicht angetreten haben und verlangten auch von den anderen dort verbliebenen Chawerim dasselbe Handeln. Was bedeute es, diese Transporte nicht anzutreten? Erstens sich verstecken. Problem aber, bei wem? Juden oder Nichtjuden? Juden sind willig, aber ihre Existenz ist unsicher. Nichtjuden waren wenige, die bereit waren, in der Sache zu helfen. Man muss bedenken, dass dort ein schrecklicher Terror ist, so z.B. erschiesst man seit der Heidrich-Affaire Jeden, den man unangemeldet versteckt und auch den Eigentümer der Wohnung. Zweitens die Legalisierung der Chawerim als Nozrim /Christen/ Arbeitslager vonerat 100, dann es sag die Arbeit in den Kohlengruben arbeiteten. Im Herbst 1942 hat auch eine Gruppe in Kriklad in Waldern gearbeitet. Ich persönlich habe in Kriklad und in Oslavany, es geht nicht mehr so streng bewacht sind, da sie nicht mehr so streng bewacht sind, nur Ausserwelt finden, wodurch sie sich auch in den Bedingungen schaffen können. Kontakt mit der Ausserwelt auch in Oslavany, wo wir auch durch dieses Lager den Kontakt gehabt, mit welchem sonst in Oslavany keine Gruppe in Oslavany kennt es nicht, aber es besser als in Kladno, arbeiten in den Baracken mit einem wenig Platz, haben keine Bewegung der Arbeit sind sie in der Bewegung ganz aber da sie den Lohn einzeln ausgehört, Anschauungen im Rahmen ihrer Landesorganisation zu unterstützen. Konkrete Form ihrer Sympathie und Solidarität gegenüber unseren Chawerim war ihr Angebot, sie werden unseren wichtigen Chawerim schützen und rieten vom Antreten der Transporte ab. Sie haben uns den Kescher /Verbindung/ zu Nejaroth /Papiere/ gegeben, deruns dann ermöglicht hat, unseren Aufenthalt zu legalisieren und nochmehr: Sie betrachteten unsere blasse

Juridische Lage für genügende Mitarbeit mit den progressiven Elementen. Dann kehrten sie wieder nach Theresienstadt zurück. Der Verbindungsmann zwischen ihnen und uns war unser Chawer Benzion Feuerstein. (Nach Heidrichs Tode wurde auch er verhaftet. Nach zwei Monaten kam aus der Festung Theresienstadt die amtliche Mitteilung, dass er aus "Herzschwäche" gestorben sei).

Man kann sagen, dass die Lage der Juden im Protektorat stabilisiert ist. In Theresienstadt sind 50.000 Juden, obzwar von Zeit zu Zeit von dort Transporte gehen. Sonst gibt es im Protektorat nur wenige Juden. In Prag nur Mischehen (ca. 4.000), unter ihnen Franta Friedmann. In Brunn gibt es noch zwei Lager: Oslavany bei Brunn mit 90 Arbeitern und im Heidrichsgut 100 Arbeiter. Beide Lager gehören aber zu Theresienstadt. Die erste Gruppe, die aus Theresienstadt wegkam, war ein Arbeitslager von erst 100, dann 50 Jugendlichen in Kladno, die in den Kohlengruben arbeiteten. Im Herbst 1942 hat auch eine Gruppe von Mädchen in Krivklad in Wäldern gearbeitet. Ich besuchte persönlich die Lager in Kladno und in Oslavany, es geht ihnen verhältnismässig gut, da sie nicht mehr so streng bewacht sind und immer eine Möglichkeit zur Aussenwelt finden, wodurch sie sich etwas Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen schaffen können. Dadurch konnten diese Chawerim auch den Kontakt mit der Aussenwelt auch brieflich aufrechterhalten. So haben wir auch durch diese Lager den ständigen Kontakt mit Theresienstadt gehabt, mit welchem sonst kein brieflicher Verkehr besteht. Die zweite Gruppe in Oslavany zählt 90 Mann, im Alter von 17-80 Jahren. Sie haben es besser als in Kladno, arbeiten auch in einer Kohlengrube, wohnen in Baracken mit ziemlich wenig Platz, haben keine Bewachung und nach der Arbeit sind sie in der Bewegung ganz frei. Die Kost ist schlecht, aber da sie den Lohn einzeln ausgezahlt bekommen, haben sie eine Möglichkeit, in der Umgebung sich alles zu verschaffen. In der Arbeit sind sie einem Aschkenasi /Deutschen/ untergeordnet, der sich angeblich sehr anständig benimmt. Sie wünschen sich nichts anderes, als dort den ganzen Krieg zu verbleiben. Die Gruppe der Mädchen, die im Herbst 1942 in Krivolklad gearbeitet hat, war sehr schlecht daran. Sie hatten einen Weg von 2 Stunden und den ganzen Tag kein Essen, nur abends, wenn sie

heimkehrten. Glücklicherweise dauerte diese Zeit nur wenige Monate und dann kehrten sie wieder nach Theresienstadt zurück. Auf Heidrichgut arbeiten 100 Arbeiter. Ueber diese sind wir sehr wenig unterrichtet, angeblich geht es ihnen sehr gut, sie sind gut behandelt und auch ausreichend beköstigt. *Den Juden, auch die deutschen Stellen haben ihn oft zur* Die Lage in Theresienstadt war sehr verschieden und hängt vom allgemeinen politischen Kurs gegen die Juden überhaupt ab. Am Anfang waren die Verhältnisse sehr wild. Es waren dort sehr viele Leute, sie hatten kein Platz zu schlafen, die Zimmer waren nicht eingerichtet. Die Lage hat sich aber allmählich gebessert in dieser Hinsicht. Heute ist die ganze Stadt ein Ghetto. Sie haben eigenes Geld, Kino, Theater, Kaffeehäuser und Geschäfte. Das Ghetto verwalten 344 Männer mit Hilfe von 100 tschechischen Gendarmen. Die Kost ist schwach und unzureichlich. Es ist dort eine sehr hohe Sterblichkeit, - in einer Zeit erreichte die tägliche Sterblichkeit die Zahl von 30. Fast ein Jeder machte eine epidemische Krankheit durch. Einige Familien wohnen heute schon zusammen, aber nicht alle. Im allgemeinen kann man sagen, dass die Judenfrage im Protektorat liquidiert ist. Nach H's-Affaire wurde auch in Theresienstadt das Standrecht erklärt und man hat einige von den Verhafteten aufgehängt. Sie waren wegen ganz kleiner Delikte verhaftet, z.B. weil sie geraucht hatten, bei den eigenen Frauen waren usw. *am schwarzen Markt sind ungeheuer hoch* Die Transporte von jüdischer Seite leitete eine Transportleitung. Der Vorsteher dieser Leitung war der unangenehmste und gefürchtetste Mann der jüdischen Oeffentlichkeit, Mandler, der vorher ein eigenes Transportbüro hatte, Er zeichnete sich als der rücksichtsloseste Durchführer der Verordnungen der Aschkenasim /Deutschen/ aus, und wurde schon vorher zu dieser traurigen Aufgabe, die er mit voller Lust und Energie leitete, ausgewählt. Er war allgemein verhasst - nun ist er auch in Theresienstadt. Dort herrscht eine zionistische Aera. Alle Aemter leiten zion. Chawerim. Interessant ist zu bemerken, dass der allgemeine Gruss Schalom /Friede/ ist. Die IKG war von grösster Zahl von tschechischen Assimilanten repräsentiert, aber in der jüd. Oeffentlichkeit war eine allgemeine Anschauung, dort herrsche keine Gerechtigkeit. So wurden z.B. die höchsten

Stellen von der breiten Verwandtschaft von Dr. Weidmann besetzt. Ein ganz anderes Bild bot die Beamtenschaft und die Atmosphäre wie auch die Leitung des später aufgelösten Palästina-Amtes. Leider hat es nicht die Möglichkeit und die Mittel gehabt, wie die IKG. Edelstein war beliebt und geehrt von allen Juden, auch die deutschen Stellen haben ihn oft zur Beratung zugezogen. Später wurde er zum Stellvertreter des Präsidenten der IKG ernannt und im allgemeinen hat man ihn als den Repräsentanten der IKG anerkannt. Jetzt ist Edelstein in Theresienstadt, wo er lange Zeit an der Spitze des Ghettos stand, bis die Reichsvertretung aus Berlin auch dorthin übersiedeln musste und die Leitung vollständig in die Hände von Eppstein übergegangen ist. Jankew E. ist wieder der Zweite, man schrieb aber von dort, dass er dennochder einzig beliebte und anerkannte Mann ist.

Etwas über die allgemeine Lage: Seit der totalen Mobilmachung im Reich sind hier nur wenige Waren frei. Lebensmittel und Kleider gibt es auf Karten. Seit der Uebersiedlung der Einwohner aus den bombardierten Reichsgebieten wurden hier die Kleiderkarten eingezogen. Lebensmittel: für einen Monat erhält man: 1. kg Fleisch, 1.200 gr. Zucker, 70 dk Marmelade, 20 dk. Weissmehl und 12 kg Kartoffeln. Zigaretten sehr wenig. Juden bekomme keine. Wenn eine Familie nur von der Zuteilung leben soll, dann hungert sie sehr. Die Preise am schwarzen Markt sind ungeheuer hoch und das Handeln wie auch Einkaufen ist mit der Gefahr der Todesstrafe verbunden.

Die Bauern wollen für Geld nichts verkaufen. Ohnedies ist es vom Lande sehr schwer, etwas herinzubringen, weil in den Zügen ständig Kontrollen sind. Die Ernährungslager ist sehr schlecht und unzzreichend, aber ich muss bemerken, sie ist nicht so schrecklich, dass die Bevölkerung sich auflehnen müsste. Unter der Parole des totalen Kriegseinsatzes wurde eine grosse Konzentration in allen Richtungen durchgeführt. Alle kriegsunwichtigen Unternehmungen, Geschäfte, Betriebe und das ganze Bankwesen wurden aufgelöst und die Beamtenschaft und Angestellten bis auf 70% in die Rüstungsfabriken als Hilfsarbeiter geschickt. Es gibt nur sehr wenige Familien in der tschechischen Bevölkerung, die durch den Krieg nicht

in irgendeiner Weise betroffen wäre, in Konzentrationslagern, Tod, in Fabriken im Reich.

Da ich hergekommen bin und hier eine bedeutend bessere Lage gefunden habe, möchte ich alle meine Kräfte einsetzen, um meinen dort gebliebenen Chawerim zu helfen. Alle Funktionäre der IKG, die auch in Theresienstadt eine Funktion übernehmen konnten, blieben dort.

Es sind unter ihnen: Dr. Weidemann, Langer, Wollneß, Richard Friedmann, Jankew Edelstein, Dr. Franz Kahn und Frau, Ing. Zucker, Dr. Leo Janowitz Fischl, Dr. Munk, Mottek Kohn und Andere.

Aus dem Hechaluz: Die Chawerim arbeiten grösstenteils im Kollektiv, es sind vielleicht einige Hunderte und arbeiten in der Landwirtschaft des Ghettos. Von den Bekannten sind dort: Erich, Oestreicher, Heinz Schuster, Heini Klein, Hans Schimmerling, Sepl Lichtenstein, Anti Feuer, Lazar Moldovan, Gert Körbel, Gonda, Rudi Sachsl, Pizi Weiner, Richard Schindler, Leo Hornung, Lea Demmer, Max Friedmann, Jardena Kohn, Ursula Bloch, Eva Fries, Marta und Hanka Feuerstein.

In Prag sind geblieben aus Nejaroth Nozrioth /arische Papiere/ aus dem Hechaluz: Hede Türk, Jascha Berger, Jani Lebowitz, Awri Grünberger (jetzt im Reich), Jona Farka (jetzt in Breslau), Anni Kruh, Anost Lemberger, Chaja Roth, Narzissenfeld (Wien), Eli Friedmann (Wien), Pali Facher (O/S)
Für heute nur soviel, richtet meinen und den Gruss von allen dort gebliebenen Chawerim an unsere Kibuzim /Siedlungen in Palästina/ aus.
Ich habe hier Eure Briefe und Nachrichten gelesen und sie haben mir heute Hoffnung und Glauben auf eine bessere Zukunft gegeben.

Weltzentrale des Hechaluz

Hechaluz Geneva Office

(Backgrund)

Jews from Slovakia (to Poland)

"החלוק" של העולמי של

משרד זינבה

Telephone 4 39 24

R 14. MAI 1944

GENF.

זינבה

TATSACHENBERICHT EINES AUS DER SLOWAKEI DEPORTIERTEN UND ZURÜCKGEKEHRTEN JUDEN.

Am 21. Mai 1942 ist unser Transport, bestehend aus ca. 1.000 Menschen aus Saboniv über Zilina Cadca direkt nach Polen gesandt worden. An der Grenze wurden wir vom deutschen Sicherheitsdienst (SD) bloß zahlenmässig in der Weise übernommen, dass die Männer am Bahnhof angetreten, die Frauen in den Waggons gezählt wurden. Die Fahrt ging dann weiter, bis wir nach einer Reise von 2-3 Tagen in Rejowiec-Lubelski (Distrikt Lublin) ausgewagoniert wurden. Während der ganzen Reise litten wir unter starkem Wassermangel, da wir während der ganzen Zeit nur zweimal Wasser bekamen. Lebensmittel bekamen wir überhaupt nicht mit, wir hatten aber reichlich Proviant mit.

In Rejowiec wurden wir von dem Inspektor der Wasserwirtschaft in Cholm, Ing. Holzheimer und dem SA-Kreishauptmann empfangen, weiter waren bei unserem Ankommen 9 Mitglieder des jüd. Ordnungsdienstes (OD) in Rejowiec unter der Leitung des Judenältesten und Kommandanten des OD Kessler (aus Brünn) anwesend, die uns behilflich waren.

Am nächsten Tag, den 27. Mai traf bei uns ein zahlenmässig gleichgrosser Transport aus Stropkow und einen Tag später ein ebensolcher aus Humenne ein. Wir waren somit insgesamt 3.000 Juden aus der Slowakei. Die Rejowiecer Juden wurden noch am Chol Hamoed Pessach aus Rejowiec ausgesiedelt, sodass wir von der ursprünglich jüdischen Bevölkerung nur ungefähr 300 Seelen im Ghetto antrafen. Hierzu kamen noch eine kleine Anzahl von ca 60 Juden aus dem Protektorat und einige Frauen aus Nitra (Slowakei), deren Transporte inzwischen aus Rejowiec ausgesiedelt wurden.

Als Wohnung wurde ein Teil der gewesenen jüdischen Häuser angewiesen. Es stand sehr wenig Raum zur Verfügung, sodass ein Zimmer von 3 mal 4 20 bis 25 Personen aufnehmen musste. 8 Tage hindurch kümmerte sich um uns niemand. Wir waren ohne jedwede Aufsicht, es war eine unbeschreibliche Unordnung. Für Verpflegung war auch nicht gesorgt. Der Proviant, welcher uns in Zilina seitens der UZ mitgegeben wurde, wurde nach Entnahme der wertvollen Lebensmittel (hauptsächlich Gewürze) seitens des SA-Kreishauptmannes uns abgenommen und in der Schule eingelagert. Erst nach 15 Tagen wurde er uns wieder ausgefolgt, in bereits ungeniessbarem Zustand. Schliesslich kam an die 3.000 slowakische Juden die Aufforderung, sich zu Entsumpfungsarbeiten zu melden. Zur Arbeit wurden nur kräftigere,

Leibypol 4 30 54
Hecpsjnx Gauera Office
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jüngere Männer zugelassen, Familienväter mit über 3 Kinder wurden abgewiesen. Insgesamt wurden 450 Männer zur Arbeit gebracht. Diese wurden dann auch verköstigt. Sie erhielten täglich 25 dk Brot, zu Mittag eine dünne Gerstensuppe und zum Nachtmahl schwarzen Kaffee. Weitere 5 - 600 jüngere Leute wurden ohne Rücksicht auf die Familie nach umliegenden Lagern wie z.B. Sawin, Sajzice und Cholm (in das letzte zur SA Schwadron) abkommandiert. Die Auswahl dieser Männer geschah durch den bereits erwähnten OD, die sich durch Annahme verschiedener Gegenstände korrumpieren liessen. Es soll hier noch erwähnt werden, dass sich der bereits bestehende Judenrat aus verschiedenen Elementen zusammensetzte. Hervorzuheben ist die aufopferungsvolle Arbeit der Frau Gen. Dir. Forbath und der Frau Femes aus Nitra (Slowakei). Dasselbe kann über eine gewisse Frau Singer und Kaufmann (angeblich Geschwister) aus dem Nitraer Transport nicht gesagt werden. Um die auf diese Art zurückgebliebenen ca 2.000 slowakischen Juden hat sich auch weiterhin niemand gekümmert, sie standen da ohne jedwede Nahrung. Endlich hat der Judenrat Cholm nach 3-4 Wochen eine Volksküche, welche gegen Bezahlung von 50 Groschen ein Mittagessen aus einer Suppe ausfolgte, eingerichtet. Der Judenrat Cholm stand damals unter der Leitung eines sehr braven angesehenen Juden namens Fränkel; er wurde später samt seiner ganzen Familie erschossen.

Zufolge der mangelhaften Nahrung und der unmöglichen sanitären Bedingungen sind sehr viele Fälle von Flecktyphus, Ruhr und andere Krankheiten aufgetreten. Viele ältere Leute sind gestorben.

Eines Abends kam ein betrunkenener polnischer Polizist in die Wohnung des Arztes Dr. Grossmann (Sabonow), der soeben von einem Krankenbesuch kam, und forderte ihn auf, ihm seine Armbanduhr zu überlassen. Dr. Grossmann weigerte sich, seine Uhr zu geben, woraus zwischen den Beiden ein Wortwechsel entstand. Schliesslich bedrohte der Polizist Dr. Grossmann mit der Waffe. Dr. Grossmann wehrte sich, es entstand eine Schlägerei. Der jüdische OD und Juden aus den benachbarten Häusern wurden zu Hilfe gerufen. Dem Polizisten wurde sein Gewehr zurückgegeben, worauf er 3 Alarmsalven in die Luft abgab. Sofort kam polnische Polizei, verhaftete die Einwohner des Hauses Dr. Grossmann und 24 Männer aus den benachbarten Häusern, darunter 5 Mitglieder des OD. Dr. Grossmann selbst versuchte zu fliehen, wurde aber verletzt und dann sofort erschossen. Die verhafteten 24 Personen wurden sodann am nächsten Tag wegen "kommunistischen" Aufstands hingerichtet. Unter diesen befanden sich:

Perlstein und Frau (Sabonow)
Frau Dr. Grossmann und Tochter (Sabinow)

Rosin (Humenne)
Moskowitz (gewesener Bankbeamter aus Humenne)
Berliner aus Humenne
Klein und Sohn (Michalany)
Appel Siegmund (Sabinow, taubstumm)

5 Mitglieder des OD, darunter
Reiss
Kessler.

Am 9. August kam plötzlich der Befehl der Gendarmerie zum Antritt. Die ganze jüdische Bevölkerung, sowohl das Ghetto, wie auch das Arbeitslager (insgesamt ca. 2.700 Personen) musste am Hauptplatz und mit Gepäck antreten. Alle Personen, die wegen Krankheit oder Schwäche diesem Befehl nicht Folge leisten konnten, wurden in den Wohnungen erschossen. Dasselbe Schicksal erfuhren auch die Kranken, die im "jüdischen Spital" untergebracht waren, u.A. Dr. Sebök aus Sabinov, der Typhus hatte. Gegen 10 Uhr wurden die älteren Leute, die zufolge Ermüdung ihr Gepäck auf die Erde stellten und sich darauf setzten, von SS-Leuten von hinten durch Genickschuss getötet. Es fielen so ca. 30 - 40 Menschen. Es wurde sodann der Befehl zum Abmarsch gegeben. Voran gingen die Frauen, hinterher die Männer. Der Arzt Dr. Borkenfeld ging als letzter. Ich habe ihn aufgefordert, vor zu gehen, denn es war gefährlich, am Ende des Zuges zu verbleiben. Er antwortete: "Es ist meine Pflicht, ich bin Arzt". Kaum hatten wir 30 - 40 m gemacht, bekamen wir eine Salve aus Gewehren und Maschinenpistolen von der linken Seite. Unsere Reihen wurden stark gelichtet. Es fielen u.A.

Dr. Borkenfeld, Abraham, Sabinov	"
Dr. Deutsch, Josef	"
Ing. Bernstein	"
Frau Nagel	"
Horowitz und Frau	"
Frl. Holländer	"

Später wurde mir von einem gewesenen Mitglied des Judenrates in Rejowiec, einem polnischen Juden namens Holzblatt, der sich damals irgendwie retten konnte, in Krychow mitgeteilt, dass bei diesem Gemetzel 700 Juden ihr Leben verloren haben.

In Rejowiec verblieben nur eine kleine Anzahl von Arbeitern in der benachbarten Zuckerfabrik, die später, wie ich erfahren habe, nach Travnicki zu Torfgewinnungsarbeiten gebracht wurden. Darunter:

Landsmann Bela, Sabinov	"
Dr. Schön Dezider	"
10 Männer aus Strokov	"

Am Bahnhof in Rejowiec angelangt, haben uns die sogenannten "schwarzen Ukrainer" in Empfang genommen. Man hat uns in bereits bereitstehende Viehwaggons zu 120-150 Personen pro Waggon hineingepresst, ohne jede Evidenz. Die Türen wurden geschlossen.

anden dann bis 8 Uhr abends auf der Station. 25 Männer wurden ausgeholt, um die weggeworfenen Gepäckstücke einzusammeln und einzuwaggonieren. Sie wurden bei dieser Gelegenheit von den Schwarzen "Krainern" misshandelt und schikaniert. Im Waggon herrschte eine unerträgliche Hitze; es war August und wir hatten weder Wasser noch Luft. Die Frauen hatten die Kleider vom Leib gelassen, wir mussten wir Heringe nebeneinanderstehen, weil zu der kleinsten Bewegung kein Platz war. 150 Personen fanden den Erstickungstod, in meinem Waggon allein 20, darunter auch kräftige junge Leute, wie z.B.:

Rieser Robert, 15 Jahre alt, sehr kräftig
Grün Samuel, gewesener Fleischer

Gegen 1/2 1 Uhr nachts kamen wir in Sobibor an. Hier wurden wir durch die SS mit Nagalukas empfangen. Endlich bekamen wir etwas Wasser, zu essen nichts. Wir wurden sodann zu einer Fichtenallee gebracht. Die Frauen wurden auf die rechte, wir auf die linke Seite dirigiert. 25 Mann wurden von uns gewählt, um die Leichen und die Pakete aus den Waggons zu räumen. Wir haben diese dann nicht mehr gesehen. Am nächsten Morgen sahen wir, dass sich der grösste Teil der Frauen in Viererreihen in einen weiterliegenden Hof begab. Um 8 Uhr kam zu uns der Leutnant der SS und forderte uns auf, dass sich jene Leute, die sich bei den Entsaufungsarbeiten betätigt haben, melden sollen. Es meldeten sich ca. 100 Männer, hierzu kamen noch ca. 50 Frauen. Es entstand dadurch eine Gruppe von 155 Personen. Der Leutnant äusserte sich gegenüber dieser Gruppe: "Ihr seid neugeboren". - Aus der zurückgebliebenen Gruppe wurden sodann die Mechaniker, Schlosser und Uhrmacher ausgeschieden, der Rest teilte das Los der Mehrzahl der Frauen, sie gingen in den weiterliegenden Hof.

Die 155 Arbeiterkandidaten wurden dann nach Ossawa gebracht, wo wir eine Nacht verbrachten. Die dortige jüdische Leitung hat uns sehr gut aufgenommen, wir bekamen gut zu essen. In Ossawa fanden wir ca 500 deutsche und tschechische Juden. Die jüdische Polizei begleitete uns dann nach Krychow. Auf dem Wege passierten wir das Gut Hansk, wo wir ca 100 jüdische Mädchen trafen, die beim Datsch arbeiteten. Verhältnismässig ging es ihnen gut.

Krychow ist ein von der früheren polnischen Regierung errichtetes Starlager im Sumpfgebiet. Die Umgebung ist heute bereits von Juden ziemlich entwässert. Bei unserer Ankunft zählte der Stand ca 1200 Personen, darunter ca 400 Tschechen, 20^v Slowaken, der Rest Polen. Die Wohnverhältnisse waren unbeschreiblich schlecht. Wir wurden in gemauerten Baracken von 60 mal 4 m pro 200 Personen untergebracht. Es gab weder Stroh noch Decken, gar keine Waschgelegenheit, unerhörter Schmutz und Ungeziefer. Wir waren derart verlaust, dass die Mäuse unseren Körper buchstäblich

4. Es gab dagegen keine Hilfe. Die Kost bestand aus:

- 15 dk Brot
- 1 Suppe aus Krautblättern, ohne Fett, ohne Salz
- schwarzer Kaffee.

Aus Erfahrung wussten wir, dass diese Kost nur zu einem Hungertode innerhalb 6 Wochen ausreicht. Nach einiger Zeit bekamen die Meisten vor Hunger geschwollene Füße und Gesichter. Ausserdem wütete Flecktyphus und Ruhr. Wenigstens Typhus hatte ein Jeder von uns. Täglich hatten wir wenigstens 12 Todesfälle zu verzeichnen. Von den 155 Personen, die mit mir mitkamen, sind 60 infolge dieser Zustände gestorben. Die Arbeit an und für sich war keine schwere. Wir konnten sie jedoch nicht leisten, weil wir körperlich ganz geschwächt waren. Dem Arzt wurde das Recht auf Anerkennung einer Krankheit aberkannt. Mit Fieber von 39 Grad musste man zur Arbeit. Wenn man aber in das Spital kam, so bestand die Behandlung aus "dort liegenlassen". Es wurden keine Medikamente oder besondere Nahrung verabreicht. Wer es überstanden hat, hat es wohl überstanden, wenn nicht, dann eben nicht. Für viel Geld konnte man allerdings Medikamente bekommen. Geld hatten wir aber meist nicht.

Am 16. Oktober wurde uns mitgeteilt, dass ein Teil der Arbeiter nach der "Judenstadt" Wlodawa am Bug (25km von Krychow) gebracht wird. Für diese Aussiedlung wurden ältere und kränkliche Leute, die die Arbeit nicht gut vertrugen, ferner die Kinder ausgewählt. Auch das Spital wurde geräumt und mit nach Wlodawa geschickt. Die Leute wurden ohne Gepäck und ohne Fussbekleidung, weil die Gummistiefel bei der Arbeit benützt wurden, die Eigentum des Lagers waren; die eigenen Schuhe zu holen war nicht erlaubt, weggeschickt.

Vier Tage nach ihrer Ankunft in Wlodawa wurden die Lager Ujazdow und Hansk zur Überwinterung auch zu uns gebracht. Hiedurch waren die Wohnverhältnisse noch ärger geworden, es war nicht mehr zu ertragen.

Am 9. Dezember wurde uns plötzlich mitgeteilt, dass eine allgemeine Aussiedlung stattfinden wird. 100 Personen wurden ausgewählt, zu welchen dann noch weitere 10 kamen, welche zurückbleiben durften. Alle Anderen wurden weggeführt. Zurückgeblieben waren einige Frauen bezw. Mädchen aus Nitra, darunter:

Taussig, Piroska,	Nitra
Fürst Josza	"
Fürst Eva	"
Gärtner Edith	"
? Mirjam	"

Wertheimer, Hanka Cesch, Teschen-Nitra (Chaluzah)
Weiss Jolan, Ruzomberok
Steiner Malvin und Sohn, Nitra

ferner einige deutsche und tschechische Frauen und Mädchen. Von den

aus der Slowakei blieb ich allein, und weitere 2 Männer aus
 Singer Fritz, Prag
 Rhein Kurt, Teplitz-Schönau-Prag
 die restlichen waren polnische Juden. Die Gruppe hat viel Frau Piroski
 Taussig aus Nitra zu verdanken, die sich bei der Verwaltung eine Aus-
 nahmsstellung verschafft hatte und überall womöglich half. Der Um-
 stand, dass es gelungen war, so viele Mädchen zurückzuhalten, war ihr
 zu verdanken.

Im Frühjahr 1943 wurde das Lager durch weitere polnische Juden vergrößert.
 Im Juni 1943 wurden die Lager Ossawa, Sawin, Sajczyce und Luta
 liquidiert, der Rest kam zu uns, sodass sich unsere Zahl auf 533 erhöhte.
 Ausserdem befanden sich in Hansk 100-110 Frauen und 5 Männer. Aus
 Sawin sind u.A. folgende Personen zu uns gekommen:

- Geschwister Maria und Bözsi, Nitra (Fam. Namen unbekannt)
 - Frau Maca
 - Nally Schneiderin, Nitra
 - Dr. Dukas, Piestany
 - Dr. Sinai und Frau, Stropkow
 - Dym, Staatsbeamter Vel-Kapusany
 - Bruder Snina
 - Dr. Szilard, Arzt, Stropkow
 - Dr. Edith Rauchwegerer Sp. Nova-Ves
- Ferner befanden sich darunter:
- Frau Nowek mit Tochter Ruth und Mimi Brand, Prag
 - Roubitschek, Vera, Prag
 - " Alice "
 - Kaffkova, Hanka, Pilsen
 - ein Verwandter des Herrn Julius Basler aus Sabinow

Seit 1943 haben sich die Verhältnisse in Krychow wesentlich gebessert.
 Nach dem 9.12. 1842 erhielten wir eine Brotration von 40-50 dk pro Tag,
 ferner eine dicke Kartoffelsuppe zu Mittag. Wir bekamen gute Eisenbet-
 ten, auch die hygienischen Verhältnisse haben sich gebessert, wie hat-
 ten Waschmöglichkeit. Der Gesundheitszustand war viel besser geworden,
 wir hatten nachher nur 3 Todesfälle von den 110 ursprünglich Zurückge-
 bliebenen:

- Büchler, Bratislava-Nitra gew. Kaffetier Wien verwandt mit Staats-
 anwalt Fodor, Nitra (an Krebs gestorben)
 - Donath Prievidza 55 Jahre alt
 - Frau Hand, Wien, die Tochter 18 Jahre alt in Krychow
- Drei weitere Kranke wurden von dem Vertreter des Lagerkommandanten, der
 sich auf Urlaub befand, erschossen.
- Hopkowitz, oder Heimowitz aus Stropkow, gew. Angestellter der
 Fa. Kulik
 - 2 polnische Juden.

Im März nach der Vergässerung des Lagers hat sich die Verpflegung wie-
 der verschlechtert. Die Brotration sank auf 15 dk pro Tag, zu Mittag
 wurde nur eine Gemisesuppe ohne Fettgehalt gegeben. Im April 1943 wurde
 bei uns davon gesprochen, dass holländische und belgische Juden zu uns

insbesonders für die Geschehnisse verantwortlich:

Ing. Holzheimer, Chef der Wasserwirtschaft Chalm

17.8.1943.

1943, GENIYA OFFI

Ack. A.I. No. 108 to DFI, Feb 24

FOR INFORMATION ✓

COPY

eg

AIRGRAM

No. A 45
Time: 11:30 a m

*Paraguayan document
holders in civilian
internment camps.
Feb. 7, 1944*

AMERICAN LEGATION

BERN

On December 24, 1943 Department received a note from the Polish Embassy stating that the Polish Minister at Bern had received information that the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin, acting upon instructions from the Government of Paraguay, intended to annul passports theretofore issued by the Paraguayan Consul in Bern to Polish Jews who were interned by the Germans in special camps for citizens of the Allied Nations. As a result on December 12 German authorities arrived at camps and took up passports of all Allied Governments held by Jews. Department desires that you place matter before Swiss Foreign Office requesting that appropriate Swiss consular officers in Germany make an investigation in the matter. If any American passports have been taken up it is desired that if possible the Swiss consular officers obtain the names of the persons to whom they were issued, the approximate date of issue and make appropriate representations with a view to having passports surrendered to Swiss consular officers for ultimate transmission to the Department.

CORDELL HULL

840.48 Refugees/4934

840.1

JEWIS - EUROPE

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET
DOCUMENT FILE
NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I. Note No. 7706

FROM American Interests Section, Bern) DATED Feb. 24, 1944.

TO

NAME

*** 1-1395

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE.

eg

840.1

JEWS-EUROPE

Peru
Paraguay
Haiti
Costa Rica
Chile
Ecuador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Venezuela
Uruguay

Countries, whose documentation
is held by persons detained by
Germans, and whose documentation
is fraudulent.

JRM.

Jews in Europe

March 1944.

144
Jel to
Sept 31 Mar 44
return to Jel ✓
s que je vous prie de trans-
les avoir laes. Comme vous
V. n'ont pas été reconnus.
is et américains. Il est
tiques anglaises et américai
tous déportés, ce que sig-

Je ne peux rien faire sans retard si on veut sauver ces personnes. Je vous prie d'alerter de suite M. Silberschein dans votre ville et d'agir vous-même. Je pense que les légations en question voudront bien faire quelque chose pour protéger ces gens si éprouvés déjà. Il s'agit des vies humaines. Voudriez vous rendre aux consulats de ces pays pour leur présenter la situation critique de ces gens. Un simple mot de leur part disant qu'ils les protègent peut les sauver. Il faut que les autorités du camp soient immédiatement prévenues... Faites le, je vous en prie. Madame Adam et sa famille sont déjà emprisonnés, et si on n'agit pas sans retard, ils sont perdus.

J'espère que votre intervention pourra les sauver. Tous les anglais et Américains internés du camps sont outrés de voir leurs pays laisser passer ces choses sans vouloir les défendre. Veuillez agir sans délai. C'est que cela qui peut les sauver.

Stefan

238 Wachtel

Hirsch Wachtel
Nettie Wachtel
Liba Wachtel
Malca Hager } USA

Left with me by Mr. Sternbuch who called, accompanied by Mrs. S. on Thursday March 30.

14
5
20045 from Vittel
Group.

March 2 / 44
26.3.44.

Del to
Sept 31 Mar 44
return to [initials]

Trés chère Madame,

Je me permets de vous joindre deux feuilles que je vous prie de transmettre à M. Saul Weingort à Montreux après les avoir lues. Comme vous verrez les passeports de tous les gens de V. n'ont pas été reconnus, et ils sont tous isolés du reste des Anglais et Américains. Il est certain que si les représentations diplomatiques anglaises et américaines n'agissent pas sans délai-ils seront tous déportés, ce que signifie..vous le savez fort bien.-

Je ne peux rien faire d'icb et c'est chez vous qu'il faut agir, et sans retard si on veut sauver ces 300 personnes. Je vous prie d'alerter de suite M. Silberschein dans votre ville et d'agir vous-même. Je pense que les légations en question voudront bien faire quelque chose pour protéger ces gens si éprouvés déjà. Il s'agit des vies humaines. Voudriez vous rendre aux consulats de ces pays pour leur présenter la situation critique de ces gens. Un simple mot de leur part disant qu'ils les protègent peut les sauver. Il faut que les autorités du camp soient immédiatement prévenues... Faites le, je vous en prie, Madame Adam et sa famille sont déjà emprisonnés, et si on n'agit pas sans retard, ils sont perdus.

J'espère que votre intervention pourra les sauver. Tous les Anglais et Américains internés du camp sont outrés de voir leurs pays laisser passer ces choses sans vouloir les défendre. Veuillez agir sans délai. C'est que cela qui peut les sauver.

Stefan

238 Vittel

Hirsch Wachtel }
Nedie Wachtel } USA
Liba Wachtel }
Malca Hager }

Left with me by Mr. Sternbuch who called, accompanied by Mrs. S. on Thursday March 30.

19.3.

Lieber 'Scholu'

Leider leider habe Dir die traurige Nachricht mitzuteilen, dass wir alle Suedamerikanerbuerger 230 Juden gehen morgen frueh ausserhalb des Camp. Du stellst Dir kaum vor die Panik die bei uns herrscht. Wir haben schon zu viel Erfahrung, wie so man Menschen hereinarrt. Kurz, der Kommandant hat erkluert, dass wir sind von den "egierungen nicht bestaetigt worden und wir sind kein Austauschmaedel. Vorige Woche war hier ein Vertreter der Schweizer Schutzmacht, der hat erkluert, dass er wegen unserem Austausch nach Palaestina von den englischen behoerden nicht verstaendigt wurde, auch haben wir ueberhaupt von dem spanischen Konsul nicht verstaendigt worden. Wir sind der best von dem europaischen Judentum, ette uns schnell schnell, erstens sollen die Amerikaner "egierungen sofort telegrafisch die alle angefoehrten Namen zum Austausch anfordern, oder wenigstens soll die englische "egierung telegrafisch veranlassen, dass sie uns zum Austausch nach Palaestina nahemen. Gedenke die zeit ist kurz. Gott soll helfen, dass wir sich lebendig sehen sollen. Da musst die ganze Welt aufprallen, sie sollen sich auf den letzten best Juden erbarmen, ob wir noch die Gelegenheit haben zu Dir zu schreiben wissen wir nicht. Gruesse ☺

Jacob Josefsohn

Bitte fuer alle namentlich zu intervenieren.

Sehr Lieben,

Wir sind beunruhigt, da wie es scheint ist der spanische Konsul nicht fuer uns und auch die suedamerikanischen "egierungen. Die Panik ist unggheuer. Trachte alles anzuwenden, die zurueckgebliebenen paar hunder suedamerikanischen Juden, welche sich in allen Camps befinden, beim Leben zu erhalten. Ihr musst alles anwenden um dies durchzusetzen, es muss telegrafisch erledigt werden, da jede Stunde dorht uns die Gefahr, zu unseren Liebsten zu gehen. Wir haben alles mitgemacht und wissen was uns droht. Die Schala wird sein von Euch, da die dortigen "ehoerden wollen uns nicht anerkennen und wir sind nicht geeignet zum Austausch. Seht man soll namentliche Zertifikate schicken, nicht bloss Briefe von dortigen Palaestinaamt. Solche sind wertlos. Ihr koennt Euch gar nicht vorstellen, was fuer einen Eindruck di heutige traurige "achricht auf uns machte. Weiss nicht ob werden koennen zu Euch schreiben. Bitte zu schreiben auf Adresse

(Schrift von Josef Sider)

Es ist unbedingt notwendig, dass die Familie Wendlandt und Kohn, sollen als erste geholfen werden, denn Equador ist schon isoliert Sie haben keine Zeit zu verlieren.

Saul Weingort
Montreux.

Pozner: 2 3836

AJZENSTADT	Felix	Peru	GELLER	Konrad	Paraguay
"	Romana	"	"	Erna	"
"	Marcel	"	"	Stella	"
BENMIKSER			GOLDBERGER	Henryk	"
BAUMINGER	Kalman	Paraguay	"	Malka	"
"	Martha	"	GORLIN	Eugenie	Chile
BAUMINGER	Joel	"	GOLDSTEIN	Nachman	Peru
"	Bluma	"	"	Sara	"
BAUMINGER	Leon	"	"	Lea	"
"	Lea	"	"	Szyja F	"
BERGER	Abraham	Haiti	Horenstein	Abraham	Honduras
"	Eugenie	"	"	Estera Sara	"
BERGLAS	Chaim Leib	Paraguay	KACZMELSON	Ischok	"
"	Alta Hinda	"	"	Zwi	"
Blumenkopf	Aron	"	KADYSZ	Icek	"
"	Rywka	"	"	Brucha	"
"	Resia	"	"	Awilwa	"
BLUMENKOPF	Juda Leib	"	KOLLER	Rachmiel	Paraguay
"	Stella	"	"	Frideryk	"
BLUMENKOPF	Wolf	"	"	Halina	"
"	Helena	"	KON	Felicja	Nicaragua
"	Christine	"	"	Jacek	"
BLUMENKOPF	Muchim	"	"	Peter	"
"	Chaja	"	"	Stefan	"
DUDELEAK	Schalem Mottek	Peru	Krystenfreund	David	Honduras
"	Tysza	"	"	Ita	"
"	Jevzu	"	"	Szajndle	"
DUDELEAK	Rachmiel	"	"	Ruchla	"
"	Ita	"	"	Aron	"
"	Arcadius	"	LANDAU	Leib Alec.	Paraguay
BOK	Nathan	Paraguay	"	Eronis, Ester	"
"	Klara	"	"	Jevzy	"
"	Rosa	"	LICHTMANN	Oscar	Costa Rica
MISENZWEG	Szyja	"	"	Anne Rosalie	"
"	Gina	"	"	Regina	"
"	Gitla Miriam	"	LINDE NBALM	Sonia	"
PAKLER	Szyja	Costa Rica	LIMBER	Josepf	Paraguay
"	Stefania	"	"	Frimeta	"
"	Henryk	"	"	Henryk	"
FRUMIN	Anna	Chile	"	Freidla	"
"	Hermina Rosa	"	LISOWODER	Boris	Nicaragua
FRANKEL	Josef	Paraguay	"	Cypa	"
"	Cevla	"	"	Alexander	"
"	Mathilde	"	"	Miriam	"
"	Dorys	"	MALCOWSKY	Schmul	Venezuela
"	Alexander	"	"	Sara	"
"	Jochwet	"	"	Merrice	"
"	Pinkus	"	MANDELBAUM	Sylvia Hel.	Costa Rica
"	Leib	"	JOSEKOWICZ	Moszek	Paraguay
"	Rutha	"	"	Chana Ita	"
"	Marta	"	"	Alina	"
FRANKEL	Mendel	"	MOSZYNSKI	Leon	Haiti
"	Rosa	"	"	Lili	"
Fleischer	Ascher	Equador	NATANSON	Wladislaw	Costa Rica
GARBINSKI	Henrico	Peru	"	Stefania	"
"	Helena	"	"	Jadwiga	"
GEMORSAL	Abraham	Paraguay	OSIEK	Sara	"
"	Helena	"	POZNASKI	Jakob	Paraguay
			"	Jenta	"
			"	Marlem	"

RAPAPORT	Aron Paraguay Paraguay	WEINSTEIN	Lea Paraguay
"	Rywka Jochwet	WENTLAND	Malka Ecuador
RAPAPORT	Jakob	"	Adam "
"	RYWKA	"	Noemi
"	Abraham H	"	Judith
"	Majer	WEINSTEIN	Christine
"	Isck	"	Mieczyslaw Costa Rica
RAPAPORT	Simon	"	Stella
"	Rywka Jochwet	WOLF	Sami Paraguay
RAPAPORT	Wolf	"	Rosa Rachel "
"	Pola	"	Leon
"	Miriam	"	Erne
"	Israel	EUROPATWA	Sigmund
"	Moses	"	Joseph Paraguay
RAPAPORT	Schabsa	"	Felicja
"	Malka	"	Henryk
"	Rywka	SCHWARZBARD	Richard
"	Bela	"	Chiel Costa Rico
"	Perla	"	Perla
"	David	"	Martin
Rapaport	Symcha	SCHWARZMANN	Zipa Uruguay
"	Golda	WOLMAN	Henrik Paraguay
"	Israel	"	Chaje Hanna "
"	Moses	SCHMIDT	Isak Costa Rico
RAPAPORT	Schabse	"	Salomon " "
"	Gitla	"	Eleonore
"	Matla	SCHOR	Tamara " "
"	Isck	ZEMSZ	Leon Peru
RAPAPORT	Jacob	"	Cecylia "
"	Annie	"	Blanka "
RAPAPORT	Josef	ZIMMER	Salomon Is. Costa Rica
RAPAPORT	Rosa	"	Malka Feigel " "
"	Sabine	"	Bernard
RAPAPORT	Saul	"	Regina
"	Mina	BRINEMANN	Mirjam Marta Honduras
RAPAPORT	Israel R	"	Jenny
"	Malka Dewora	"	Erika
"	Jacob Binem	"	Lotte Helena
RAPAPORT	Aron	SCHAFU	Samson Costa Rica
"	Genia	"	Rosa " "
"	Rywka	SCHONBERG	Stla Honduras
"	Moses	SCHONBERG	Samuel "
"	Henryk Costa Rica	"	Estera "
"	Charlotte " "	"	Bella "
ROTTENBERG	Markus Paraguay	"	Jerzy "
"	Sara	TYLOR	Rosalia Ecuador
"	Naftali	"	Salomea "
ROTTENBERG	Rosa	HOMSEY	Benzion Samuel
"	Leser	WACHTEL	Hirsch U.S.A.
"	Martali	KESSEK	Nettie "
"	Hermann	"	Lieba "
"	Wolf	HAGER	Malka "
ROTTENBERG	Beila	ZURAWIN	Adam Honduras
"	Esther	"	Lea "
"	Ntalie	"	"
"	Frans	"	"
"	Nute	"	"
ROZANYEWIAT	Taddie Paraguay	"	"
"	Gerda	"	"
"	Richard	"	"
WEINGORT	Abraham Paraguay	"	"
"	Mathilde	"	"
"	Rosa	"	"
WEINGORT	Leon	"	"
"	Estera	"	"

Intermed in Little

Vittel group
Return to 3A files ✓
TELEGRAM SENT (TO)

To: Department

Date: March 30, midnight, 1944

No: 1958

Code: Secret

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's 1012 dated March 25th.

Following summary of message to Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch:

"238 Jews interned in American camp in Vittel have sent urgent appeal. Group, which includes distinguished rabbis, saved by receiving various South American passports year ago. Paraguay and some states recognized these passports, but other states have not recognized them. These people were isolated for deportation on March 20th on the grounds that they are not eligible for exchange as they possess merely accommodation passports.

"A letter from Schabse Frenkel, 113 Wilson Street, Brooklyn, to his parents in Vittel stated that most of this group is included in the exchange list of the United States War Department. The only chance of saving them is for the protecting powers to inform the Germans officially that preparations are being made for the exchange of these people. They will be no burden to the United States if the exchange is effected since all could go from Lisbon to Palestine and have veteran certificates.

"In addition to the Vittel group there are another few thousand distinguished persons interned at Tittmoning and other camps whose rescue should be considered. Possess little news and no appeal received.

"As a means of preventing deportation there are a few hundred Germans in Texas and their wives in Cuba. Rubenfeld, Rosenbaum, Pines, Sternbuch, Vaadha Hatzala."

HARRISON

DJR/RCG/imp/mjb

Para. in duplicate (Copy to CA)

8401 JEWS IN EUROPE

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 1944.

91-4 ✓
return to
JKH ✓

AI
Mr. Tait:

A telegram is being sent to the Department today on the basis of information received from Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, who is interested as an agent for Jewish organizations in the United States in extricating Jews from Axis and Axis-occupied territory, and also in aiding them there. This telegram is mainly concerned with the condition of a Jewish colony interned at Vittel and with efforts to get them out of troubles which they have got into as a result of being in possession of fraudulent passports and having made, falsely, claims to citizenship of certain Latin American republics.

In the telegram, however, paraphrase of which you should receive in due course, reference is made to the cases of Hirsch, Nettie and Lieba Wachtel and Malka Hager, all of whom, according to AI's records, have heretofore laid claim to American citizenship. In none of these four cases does it appear that the Department has passed on the validity of the claims.

Mr. Sternbuch has represented to the Legation that these four persons, along with allegedly 234 others who have claimed citizenship of the Latin American countries, are now threatened with deportation or other summary action by the Nazi authorities.

The telegram further states that this Legation, pending receipt of the Department's final decision in the Wachtel and Hager cases, has requested the Swiss authorities to intervene and request the Germans to take no action regarding these four persons.

Will you kindly take up the matter with the Foreign Interests Division with a view to having them expedite their instructions to Berlin in the matter.

As far as the others (234) are concerned, it appears that this Legation can do nothing other than report the situation to the Department, as has been done.

J.K.H.

(J. Klahr Huddle
Counselor)

CR
801-2

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

(O.L.)

Date: March 31, 10 p.m., 1944

No: 1994

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

P A R A P H R A S E

URGENT U.S.

Isaac Sternbuch has approached the Legation respecting the situation of Jews who have reportedly been interned in Vittel. (Refer also to my No. 1958 of March 30.) 238 persons are involved, comprising adults and children, by most of whom documentation has been obtained of ten Latin American Governments--Peru, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Honduras and others.

It is represented by Sternbuch that some kind of remedial action is being attempted by interested persons with the governments whose officials abroad have issued the false documents which are possessed by these persons. Also, it has been repeatedly stated that the State Department has interested itself and that the governments concerned are being urged by it to find some means of alleviation by either complete recognition of nationality or in some other way assuming responsibility for victimized persons. (Advice respecting the authenticity of this report is requested.)

There has now been received clandestinely information to the effect that the German authorities are about to or may have already removed these persons elsewhere largely because of some alleged action by the Spanish Embassy at Berlin as the protecting power of Paraguayans. The Swiss Division of Foreign Interests has told me informally that the Spanish Government had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bona fides of all suspected claims--not only Paraguayan--and that claims and responsibility were denied by other governments. There is no complete picture of the affair available to me.

The following four names of persons who claim United States nationality are contained in the list of internees concerned: Malka Hager, Hirsch, Lieba and Nettie Wachtel.

There

There is no record in the Legation of the submission of applications to the Department for documentation as American citizens of Hirsch, Lieba and Nettie Wachtel. In a list received from the Swiss authorities and transmitted to the Department (please refer to the Legation's despatch No. 6037 of September 3) Malka Hager was reported as an American citizen. The decisions of the Department respecting the citizenship claims of these persons have not yet been received.

The interested Jewish circles in Switzerland and Sternbuch are fearful of the fate awaiting the above-described group and it is felt by them that it may be possible to arrange with the German authorities an exchange of members group for Germans who now may be in North and South America. Such exchange arrangements, it is realized, would require time for negotiations and in the meantime Sternbuch, pending the submission of such a proposal to the German authorities, hopes that the German authorities might be prevailed upon to delay any summary action affecting the group. The possibility was therefore suggested to the Legation by Sternbuch that the Department might be willing to telegraph the American Embassy at Madrid requesting it to communicate with the Spanish Foreign Office with a view to communicating appropriately with the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin in the premises. It was suggested by Sternbuch that in such an arrangement the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin might be requested to ask the German authorities to withhold any action while the possibility of arrangements for an exchange against Germans could be explored.

Accordingly, I am submitting Sternbuch's proposal to the Department. Urgency is stressed by him. Representations may also, I have reason to believe, have been made to the International Committee in London and possibly also in Washington.

Respecting the Hager and Wachtel cases, I am asking the Swiss authorities to request the Germans to take no action until their status is definitely determined.

In my despatch No. 6921 of December 27 sent to the Department in microfilm No. 33X the developments reported in the foregoing were portended.

JKH/mjb:mk
Paraphrase to AI-Mr. Tait
3 paraphrases to CA

HARRISON

fruits in Europe
April 1944
—

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I. Note No. 8033

FROM American Interests Section, Bern) DATED April 4, 1944.

TO _____ NAME _____ *** 1-1365

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE.

eg

840.1 JEWS-EUROPE

APR 6 1944

BERN

Memorandum

Mr. Huddle

April 4, 1944

To: Mr. Huddle

From: DJR

Attached is another draft telegram from Sternbuch concerning the interest Jews at Vittel. At the time Sternbuch submitted this message with a request that it be forwarded to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, CA had not yet received a copy of your telegram 1994 of March 31. This message appears to add nothing to your telegram and it would consequently appear not worth transmitting.

DJR
DJR

RCG

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

SEP 22 1972

with Spanish government in Madrid.

Waad Hazala

Sternbuch Rabinfeld Rosenbaum Pines

N. STERNBUCH'S Sohn

Blatt

zu Brief vom

an Fa.

Union of orthodox Rabbis of
United States

New-York

Referring to our last report regarding the Interned
in Vittel please note that energetic proceedings of the
Spain ambassador in Berlin who is not watching the
interests of the Paraguayan citizens or watching them
insufficiently is urgently necessary. stop. According
to communication of Red Cross Geneva an extremely
sharp course is ruling against Jews since about three
weeks so that a particular firm proceeding of the
Ambassador is urgently necessary stop make at once
urgent steps in Paraguay to induce immediately intervention
with Spanish government in Madrid.

Waad Hazala

Sternbuch Rubinfeld Rosenbaum Pines

Let. to Dr. Sternbuch addressed to
St. Gall with note for CG Zurich
forward to him 4/7 JKH/

File #
70

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: April 6, midnight, 1944
No: 1153
Code: Brown Received: April 6, 6 p.m.

From War Refugee Board to Harrison.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac
Sternbuch, Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland,
from the Agudas Israel World Organization:

"Please provide complete list of South American
and Central American consulates in Switzerland which
issued passports or citizenship documents for threat-
ened Jews to forestall eventual difficulties. Jacob
Rosenheim."

HULL

re

copy in FA

8401 JEWS IN EUROPE

ask'a cy form

Heard's Tea
7 Apr 44



DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
RECD APR 7 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BERN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AA *Ack*
p file

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Zürich, April 6, 1944.

840.1
JEW'S IN EUROPE

Dear Mr. Huddle:

I have the honor to refer to your telephone conversation today with Mr. Hubbard and to state that Mr. Sternbuch urgently requests you to endeavor to get the Spanish Ambassador and the Swiss Minister in Berlin to intervene on behalf of the 238 internees who were formerly in the internment camp at Wittel, but who have now been removed to a concentration camp. Mr. Sternbuch produced a letter which he had just received from one of these internees stating that these two diplomates had refused to take any steps to save these persons. Mr. Sternbuch hopes that Madrid and Bern may be prompted to instruct their representatives to recognize these persons and to prevent their deportation to Poland or, what is more likely, their execution. He states that four of these have American passports.

Mr. Sternbuch would greatly appreciate anything you can do to save these 238 internees.

Sincerely yours,

Sam E. Woods

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

J. Klahr Huddle, Esquire,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
Bern.

Tel. to Dept. 4/7 JKH/mjb

ERNBUCH
ZURICH

TEL. 63056
ROR-ADM. STEINBUCH

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 7 1944
BERN

Zurich, April 6th, 1944.

To the Legation of
the United States

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle, chancellor,
B e r n .

Dear Mr. Huddle,

I beg to refer to the conversation which I had the honour to have with you a week ago and beg to express you my most sincerest thanks for your friendly reception.

Will you please excuse, dear Mr. Huddle, that I am obliged to trouble you again to-day. As I told you by phone, the 238 persons from the different camps of internment in Vittels (France) have been put, according to the fresh report I just received, in a prison of which the place and name is unknown.

I therefore ask you to forward at once a report to the government in Washington which the Consulate General at Zurich will transmit you to-day.

At same time I beg to enclose moreover a direct communication from me to the Union of orthodox rabbis of United States in New-York. The government in Washington is certainly overburdened with work and it might therefore be of great use to cable also to the Union of orthodox rabbis enabling them to pay attention to this urgent matter.

Receive, dear Mr. Huddle, my sincerest thanks for all your abundant efforts.

Yours most respectfully.

W. Steinbuch

P.S. I will take the liberty of phoning you Saturday in the morning in order to learn from you if you have some news in this matter.

8401
JEW'S IN EUROPE

Union of orthodox rabbis of United States

New-York

- 1) Urgent. The 238 interned South-American citizens among them 4 citizens of USA had to leave on March 31st the camps of internment in Vittels (France). They have been put in a prison of which the place and name is unknown.
- 2) The interned persons write that the Spanish and the Swiss minister in Berlin had declined to grant them their protection.
- 3) Make urgent intervention in Madrid and Berne before it will be too late.

Waad Hazala

Sternbuch Rubinfeld Rosenbaum Pines.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 6, 1944, 5 p. m.

No: 2139

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

US URGENT



PARAPHRASE

Following is for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis
Vaadha Hatzala from Sternbuch.

In my last report with regard to the interned Jews at Vittel, the substance of which the Bern Legation sent you through the Department of State, the energetic action of the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin is urgently necessary. The Spanish Ambassador ignores or watches insufficiently the interests of Paraguayan citizens. (For the Department: refer to Bern's 1994 of March 31.) The ruling against Jews, according to the Red Cross in Geneva, has been particularly drastic for about three weeks so that firmness by the Spanish Ambassador is urgently necessitated. You are requested to act urgently and at once in Paraguay for intervention in Madrid with the Spanish Government.

HARRISON

JKH:mjb:nf
In quadruplicate

3 copies to CA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

840.1
JEWIS IN EUROPE

MEMORANDUM

April 7, 1944.

Mr. Huddle telephoned to say that he had just received word from a Mr. Sternbuch of Zurich, who, he thought, was a manufacturer from around St. Gall and who had some connection with the Union of Orthodox Rabbis here in Switzerland.

According to Sternbuch, he had received clandestine word that all of the 238 persons previously referred to who anticipated being sent from the internment camp Vittel to some unknown destination, had actually so departed.

Sternbuch added that, according to his information, both the Swiss and Spanish representatives at Berlin had declined in any wise to intervene.

Mr. Huddle suggested that the foregoing be brought to the attention of the officers in A.I. and particularly to Bisang, since he anticipated that inevitably, there would most likely be complaint to Washington that adequate steps to protect these people had not been taken either by the Legation or by the Swiss Foreign Office.

G. T.

GT/dmh

(George Tait - Chief of American
Interests' Section of U.S. Legation,
Bern).

640.1
JWS
EDUPE

Note: To be forwarded to Dr. Sternbuch
through the Consulate General,
Zurich.

Bern, April 7, 1944.

Dr. Isaac Sternbuch,
St. Gall.

Sir:

This is to inform you of the receipt of the following
message, through the Department of State, from the Agudas
Israel World Organization:

"Please provide complete list of South
American and Central American consulates in
Switzerland which issued passports or citizen-
ship documents for threatened Jews to forestall
eventual difficulties. Jacob Rosenheim."

The Legation will be glad to transmit your reply to
the foregoing to the Department of State for delivery to
the Agudas Israel World Organization when it is received
from you.

Very truly yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/mjb

8410.1
JEWS IN EUROPE

Initial representations in US in favor of holder of false documentation in Germ.-occ. areas.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 7, 5 p.m., 1944

No: 1161

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 8, 4 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

TO

The Department has received from London Kullmann's report regarding the conferences which he had with the Swiss authorities, the International Red Cross, the Polish Minister, representatives of voluntary agencies and you concerning the attitude of Switzerland towards those who extended help to Poles, including Jewish refugees in internment camps in France, in securing passports issued by the consulates of American Republics and the attitude toward persons in occupied areas who are in possession of such documents on the part of the German authorities. The Government of the United States is approaching the American Republics on this subject and they are being urged, on humanitarian grounds, and at least until after the termination of the war, to take no action to cancel or to revoke such passports and to indicate in any way that that they are or may be canceled or revoked or considered invalid or ineffective. As you are presumably aware, the Government of Paraguay has already advised the Inter-Governmental Committee and the Government of the United States that it has not and is not considering revoking such passports as have been made available through its consulates.

The hope persists that more favorable treatment will be accorded to Poles, including Jewish refugees holding such passports, than is accorded to those refugees who are not in possession of such passports. In the view of the Government of the United States, any action should be avoided which might result in the deportation of these refugees, danger to their lives or to the worsening of their condition. It follows also that all action of an appropriate character aimed at protecting the lives and welfare of these refugees should be undertaken.

The Department accordingly requests you to advise the Government of Switzerland of the views of the Government of the United States in this matter. Appropriate officials of the Government of Switzerland should be requested to approach

the

RECORDED IN 100-1161

the Germans with a view to inducing them to continue to recognize the validity of passports of the American Republics in the possession of refugees in interment camps in France and in Germany unless and until the Government which has issued the passport takes affirmative action to deny its validity, to cancel or to revoke it. It is noted that Kullmann and others report that the Government of Switzerland has ~~acted~~ against the relatives and others in Switzerland who participated in obtaining these documents and that inquiries concerning the authority of some of the officials who have made the passports available have also been initiated by the Swiss Government. The Government of Switzerland should be informed that it is the view of the Government of the United States that the validity of the aforementioned passports is not in issue at this time and should not be questioned by the officials of the Government of Switzerland in the absence of positive renunciation of the documents by the American Republics. Seemingly in any event, such inquiry and action based on it might be postponed until after the termination of the war on humanitarian grounds if no other and the Government of Switzerland should be informed in this sense.

Since it was a duty to business men for money

The Department informs you that according to a report from Kullmann the Government of Switzerland is convinced that any approach to the Germans would prove completely ineffective and would result in more harm than good. The Government of the United States finds it impossible to agree with that point of view. The Department and the War Refugee Board feel strongly, ~~it~~ and have reason to believe, that it is most important and can only be helpful to refugees subject to persecution by the enemy that German officials be continuously advised that the treatment of Jews and others in occupied areas is being closely followed in all of its aspects.

Any and all developments respecting this matter should be reported to the Department.

HULL

/nm
in duplicate

COPY IN FA

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 7, 8 a. m., 1944.

No: 2163

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

(C.I.)

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Legation's no. 1994 of March 31.

There follows herunder the summary of a message to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch.

"1. I have despatched a courier to Hungary to report on the situation. I suggest that you examine with the American Government the possibility of arranging an exchange of Jews in Hungary against German civilians from Africa or other territory occupied by the Allies.

2. Please help us procure an unlimited number of Vatican certificates. I could wire to Jerusalem lists of thousands of families in Hungary. The certificates were, up to the present time, useful in occupied countries for obtaining internment against exchange.

3. South American passports for 10,000 families as a start would be another possibility for rescue. The passports should be handed to us confidentially through the consulates in Switzerland of those countries. Since the recipients are aware that the passports are valid only for wartime as a means of saving lives, the passports could not be misused. The passports would be given to well-known rabbis and other reliable persons only.

4. With regard to rescue possibilities, I am in constant telegraphic contact with Griffel.

5. I have extended rescue activities to all territories that are occupied. Since October contact with Lithuania has been interrupted but there is now en route a courier with instructions to help prominent persons and 150 rabbis.

Signed: Sternbuch, Rosenbaum, Pines, Rubinfeld."

HARRISON

DJR:RCG:nf
In quadruplicate
3 copies to CA
1 copy to FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

8401
JEWIS IN EUROPE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 7, noon, 1944

No: 2173

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

(C.I.)

PARAPHRASE

It is desired by Rubinfeld, Sternbuch, Pines and Rosenbaum that the following be communicated to the Union Orthodox Rabbis in New York:

"A report has been received by us to the effect that 234 interned South Americans and four American citizens, the subject of my telegram which was transmitted through the Department of State (No. 1994 of March 31 from the Legation at Bern), were evacuated to some prison of unknown location from the internment camp at Vittel on March 31st. It is stated in the report that protective offices were declined by the Spanish Ambassador and Swiss Minister in Berlin. Before it will be too late, please intervene Madrid and Bern."

HARRISON

JKH/mjb:mk

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

840.1 Jews in Europe

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 7, 10 p. m., 1944.

Code: ████████

No: 2194

Charged to:



Paraphrase

Reference is made to the words "Veteran Certificates" appearing in the second paragraph of the Legation's no. 1958 of March 30 and "Vatican Certificates," appearing in the third paragraph of the Legation's no. 2163 of April 7. These words mean certificates of approval issued by the Government of Palestine for permanent immigration of individual Jews to Palestine.

HARRISON

JKH:nf

In triplicate
Copies to CA and FA

840.1
Jews in Europe

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

Bern, April 10, 1944.

My dear Mr. Federal Councillor:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a memorandum dated April 10, 1944, in which is outlined the position of the Department of State with respect to the issue by representatives of certain South American countries of passports to refugees now in internment camps in France and elsewhere in Germany and German-occupied territory. At the same time I would respectfully invite your attention to the wishes of the Department of State as bearing upon the attitude of the Government of Switzerland in this affair.

Please accept, my dear Mr. Federal Councillor, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Enclosure:

Memorandum.

His Excellency
Marcel Pilet-Golaz,
Federal Councillor,
Chief, Federal Political Department,
Bern.

JKH/mjb

842.1
JWS
IN
EUROPE

based on Sept's 1181
of April 8th.

MEMORANDUM

The Department of State has received from the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees at London a report which is said to be concerned with conversations had by Dr. Kullmann of the Inter-Governmental Committee, on the occasion of a recent visit to Switzerland, with the Swiss authorities, the International Red Cross, the American Minister, the Polish Minister, and representatives of welfare agencies, regarding certain Poles, including Jewish refugees, in internment camps in France, who have obtained passports from consulates of some of the American Republics in Switzerland. The report also touched upon the attitude of the German authorities toward persons in Axis-occupied areas who are in possession of these documents.

The Legation has been informed by the Department of State that the Government of the United States is approaching the American Republics involved in this matter and they are being urged, on humanitarian grounds and at least until after the termination of the war, to take no action to cancel or to revoke such passports or to indicate in any way that they are or may be canceled or revoked or considered invalid or ineffective. Advices have already been received from the Government of Paraguay, by the Inter-Governmental Committee and also the Government of the United States, that Paraguay has not revoked, and is not considering the revocation, of such passports as may have been issued by its consular

officers.

officers.

The hope persists that more favorable treatment will be accorded to Poles, including Jewish refugees, holding these passports, than is accorded to those refugees who are not in possession of such passports. In the view of the Government of the United States any action should be avoided which might result in the deportation of these refugees by the authorities of Germany or of German-occupied territory, or of countries allied with Germany, danger to their lives or to the worsening of their condition. In consequence, in the opinion of the Government of the United States, all action of an appropriate character designed to protect the lives and welfare of these refugees should be undertaken.

The Government of the United States further holds the view that the validity of the aforementioned passports is not at issue at this time, and should not be questioned, in the absence of positive renunciation of the documents by the American Republics. Seemingly, in any event, investigation of the matter and action based on it might be postponed until after the termination of the war, on humanitarian grounds, if no other.

In requesting the American Minister to make known to the Government of Switzerland the views of the American Government as above outlined, the Department of State has asked the American Minister to request that the appropriate officials of the Government of Switzerland approach the German Government with a view to inducing the latter to

continue to recognize the validity of passports of the American Republics which are in the possession of refugees in internment camps in France and in Germany, unless and until the governments which have issued these passports take affirmative action to deny their validity, to cancel or to revoke them.

The Government of the United States, finally, believes that it is not to be postulated that an approach to the Germans on this subject would prove completely ineffective and would result in more harm than good. The Department of State and the War Refugee Board feel strongly and have reason to believe that it is most important and can only be helpful to refugees subject to persecution by the Germans that German officials be continuously advised that the treatment of Jews and others in occupied areas is being closely followed in all of its aspects.

Bern, April 10, 1944.

JKH/mjb

Copy sent to AI

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 10, 1944, 8 p. m.

No: 1221

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 11

*Present to 70
Foreign Affairs Division
id. for SA AI files.*

Paraphrase

(C.L.)

Following for the Chief of Mission. [REDACTED]

Please refer to previous communications from the Department regarding the War Refugee Board. Referring to the Legation's no. 1958 of March 30, and following the Department's no. 1181 of April 7, even though it is not clear what motives the Germans have in according better treatment to Jewish refugees of Polish origin who hold passports and other documents that have been issued in the names of several countries of Latin America, it would seem that such motives include the following:

*Simple that
they had these
passports, have
some value as
exchange material*

- (1) some anxiety that ill treatment by them of such refugees might afford the Latin American countries involved a pretext for limiting further the economic activities and the freedom of Germans residing in such countries of Latin America;
- (2) some hope that these refugees might be considered in the western hemisphere as exchange material against Germans there.

Not clearly

Legation's 1958, March 30. The measure reported in this telegram may be an indication that Germany is beginning to feel some doubt as to whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether the treatment of Germans in Latin America would be afforded by such Jews' treatment by the Germans. The Government of the United States regards as essential the taking of prompt and effective measures to dispel these doubts.

The Legation is therefore requested to seek the good offices of the Government of Switzerland in presenting to the Germans that discussions are being undertaken by this Government with countries of Latin America for a further exchange of Germans in the western hemisphere who are at present located in German-controlled territories and that in this connection the United States considers that all

persons

8401 JEWS IN EUROPE

persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries will be eligible for exchange as above indicated.

The Legation is requested to simultaneously ask the appropriate Swiss authorities to inform the German Government that in the interim the Government of the United States expects that the same immunities, rights and privileges will be accorded these people that the German Government expects will be accorded by the countries in the western hemisphere to Germans located those countries. The additional statement may be made that a number of German civilians interned by various countries of Latin America have been placed in our custody by such countries and are within the continental United States in such custody at the present time.

For the information of the Legation, the substance of this message is being communicated to U.S. missions in the Latin American countries concerned with the present proposal. There is also being made in such Latin American countries inquiry concerning the authenticity of the information which the Foreign Interests Division of the Swiss Government conveyed to the Legation informally and to which the Legation's no. 1994 of March 31 made reference.

HULL

/nf
In duplicate

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
APR 11 1944
REF

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

April 11, 1944.

Dear Klahr:

I have just spoken to Bisang, who has given me the following information regarding the representation by Switzerland of the interests of the Latin-American countries in certain Axis territory:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TERRITORY WHERE REPRESENTED</u>
Brazil	Denmark
Columbia	Germany, France, Italy, Japan
Costa Rica	Germany
Cuba	Germany, France, Italy, Japan
Dominican Republic	Germany, Italy, Japan
Chili	Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Japan
Ecuador	Germany, France, Italy
Guatemala	Germany, France, Italy, Japan
Haiti	Germany, France, Italy
	Honduras

Honduras	Germany
Nicaragua	Germany, France, Italy, Japan
Panama	Germany, Italy, Japan, Occupied China
Peru	Germany, France, Italy
San Salvador (formerly represented by Spain, now by Switzerland)	Germany, France, Italy
Uruguay	Germany, Hungary, Italy
Venezuela	Germany, France, Italy, Japan.

I also spoke with Nadal of the Spanish Embassy who tells me that Spain represents Bolivia in Germany and Italy, and Paraguay in Germany, Italy and Japan.

I am now endeavoring to confirm the protecting power as regards Brazil and Mexico in Axis territory. Minister de Mello has confirmed that Portugal represents ^{Brazilian} ~~its~~ interests in all Axis territory other than Denmark.

I shall let you know as soon as possible with reference to Mexico, which is the only remaining Latin-American country.


G. T.

MEMORANDUM

NOTA BENE!

*The question is not
simply a humanitarian one.*

April 12, 1944.

Department's circular telegram December 20, 1941 reported that refugee organizations were being imposed upon to create channels for world wide dissemination of Nazi agents. Department's Diplomatic Serial 3439 of January 22, 1942 reported misuse of passports of many governments to facilitate travel of German secret agents. Department's telegram 244 of January 28, 1942 specifically directed attention to use of "fraudulent passports" by suspect enemy agents in proceeding to South American countries, and instructed Bern to make special investigation on the subject. Department's Diplomatic Serial 3460 of March 12, 1942 questioned specifically validity Costa Rican passports reportedly issued to Axis agents who are not Costa Rican citizens. Department's strictly confidential Visa Instruction of October 22, 1942 recognized motives behind practice under discussion but remarked on potential danger to national security of all countries in Western Hemisphere and directed careful inquiry and suspension action in cases coming to attention.

FOR INFORMATION ✓

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 12, 10 p.m., 1944

No.: 1268

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 14, 10 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

The following is from the War Refugee Board from Harrison.

The Union of Orthodox Rabbis informs us that a number of the Palestine certificates which were sent from Switzerland to persons whom the Germans have interned or detained have not reached the persons for whom they were intended. Dr. Saul Weingort, whose address is Avenue des Alpes, Montreux, can furnish further details concerning these missing certificates. Should he confirm the report, you are requested to ask the Swiss authorities to find out from the German Government whether the certificates were lost in transmission or have been withheld from delivery. If it is found that they have been withheld from delivery, please ask the Swiss to induce the German authorities to deliver them as promptly as possible to the persons for whom they were intended. Dr. Weingort should be informed if they have been lost, so that he may take steps to replace them. We assume that the importance of these certificates to the persons involved will be readily appreciated by the Swiss. A report on the results of your inquiry is requested.

HULL

In triplicate

re

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

840.1

JEWIS-EUROPE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

From: Department Date: April 13, 11 p.m., 1944
No.: 1269
Code: [REDACTED] Received: April 14, 11 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

From the War Refugee Board for the Minister.

Bergen - Eisen

We have been informed that there are small groups of refugees from Poland interned at Vittel and at Bergen Bensen in Germany, who claim to be American citizens. We understand, furthermore, that the German authorities may inquire of the Swiss Government concerning the validity of such claims. You are instructed, in this connection, to advise the appropriate Swiss authorities at the proper time that all such inquiries should be answered, in substance, as follows:

Upon receipt from the Swiss Government of all pertinent information which is available to the German authorities relating to any claim to American citizenship that is asserted by any person who is in territory under enemy control, the Department will undertake to make a full investigation of such claim. During the investigation of any particular claim and until the Swiss Government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Department, it must be presumed that the claimant is an American citizen and he or she must be accorded all of the rights, privileges and immunities to which citizens of the United States are entitled, with the exception (refer Department's 1151 of April 5) that financial assistance, until specifically authorized by the Department, may not (repeat not) be extended.

HULL

In triplicate

re

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

640.1
JPRS - EUROPE

VITTEL - again

ON ACTION

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A. I. Notice No. 8143 to DFI, April 14, 1944

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

REC'D APR 14 1944

As per phone conversation -

1-1142

From: ^{BERN} Department

Date: April 13, midnight, 1944

No.: 1270

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 14, 10 a.m.



PARAPHRASE

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

Reference is made to Legation's 2173 April 7.

Following Department's 1221 of April 10, you are urgently requested to approach the Swiss Government immediately with the request that they take all necessary action to obtain the immediate return by the German Government to Vittel of the 238 persons who are reported to have been transferred to a prison. A prompt report on the result of your approach to the Swiss should be made.

HULL

In triplicate

re

COPY IN FA

Copy in A.I.

840.1
papers in Europe

Vatican role in L.A. document X
question.

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 13, 8 a.m., 1944

No: 2282

Code: [REDACTED]

C.L.

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

I learned on April 10th from the Papal Nuncio at Bern the details of approaches made to various South American governments by the Vatican in an effort to work out relief measures for Jews interned in German or German-occupied territory who hold documentation issued by those governments. In addition to question of recognition of documentation it appears that question was raised concerning eventual immigration to respective countries in course of possible exchange. There follows the substance of the replies:

1. Because of laws forbidding admission, Panama replied negatively with regard to Polish Jews;
2. Nicaragua and Costa Rica are disposed to recognize passports issued by their respective consuls up to eight families. If these families are neither farmers nor industrialists they could remain in these republics only for the duration of the war;
3. They would be received by Bolivia;
4. Negative replies were received from Guatemala and Salvador;
5. Instructions to verify and recognize passports have been given by Chile;
6. Each case would be considered individually by Uruguay;
7. The Republic of Haiti could not take any action;
8. Passports could not be recognized by Peru;
9. If the United States and Great Britain did not

5/10/1 JEW IN EUROPE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73

object

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

object, Cuba could recognize passports;

10. The passports of Polish Jews at Vittel have been recognized by Paraguay.

With the exception of Bolivia and Paraguay, which are represented by Spain, all of the above-listed countries are represented in Germany by Switzerland. It is to be assumed that they will advise their respective protective powers with regard to any action they take in future following representations by the American Government.

The Nuncio stated that, in the present reportedly aggravated situation of certain victims, the Holy See had requested its representative at Madrid to ask the Government of Spain to advise the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin of the gravity of peril of Polish Jews who have Paraguayan documentation and to insist to him upon the urgency of protection of an effective kind.

The Papal Nuncio had been informed that the cause of the trouble arose when the proposal was made to exchange these Jews for Germans in South America. In the list, Germany had included Jews who had Paraguayan passports. Protest was made by Paraguay, who said that the passports had been issued illegally; Paraguay refused to recognize such passports. The Germans withdrew as a result and Spain suspended its protection. The Nuncio tells me further that the IRC has confirmed this and has promised its intervention, if the objective is an exchange, conditioned on action of the Vatican.

The Legation does not know whether the Kullmann report, which the Department quoted in its 1181 of April 7, gives the details of this proposal for exchange and the results thereof. The idea of exchange was discussed with Kullmann and I encouraged him to foster it but I had not known hitherto that it had been taken up formally.

HARRISON

JKH:mjb:nf
In duplicate

COPY IN FA

*Spine wire composed
by Huddle!*

X

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 13, 5 p.m., 1944

No: 2297

Code: ████████

Charged to:

CL

PARAPHRASE

I have communicated to the Swiss Foreign Minister the substance of your No. 1181 of April 7.

Reference my 2282 April 13 reporting activities in behalf of interned Jews by the Vatican.

Kullmann report has not as yet been seen by me. Your statement was first official confirmation received, although I had private intimations regarding the action of the Paraguayan Government.

Please refer to my despatch No. 5824 dated August 10, 1943, which gives an objective review of the irregular documentation situation, with particular reference to consuls of Paraguay and Dominican Republic. Also refer to my 6921 of December 27 which gave first reports on difficulties of persons in territory occupied by the Germans who had been provided with this irregular documentation. Numerous telegrams on the subject with information of interest have been dispatched since the latter date. Since Kullmann did not review the subject in detail with the Legation above should all be consulted as possibly supplementing the Kullmann report.

As quoted by you, the Kullmann report seems to imply that the Swiss Government has acted unilaterally in these cases without consultation with the governments of South and Central America which are involved. This assumption does not appear to be borne out by the records in several

instances

840-1
JEWIS IN EUROPE

11. 524
instances of which the Legation has knowledge. Reference my telegram 6087 September 30, 1943 reporting the dismissal by the Paraguayan Government of Consul Hügli and to the Department's FSS 78 of October 26 predicting Peru's positive action in renouncing passports which were irregularly issued by consuls of Peru and instructing American diplomatic and consular officers to suspend action in the cases of all visa applicants presenting Peruvian passports. Reference also to the Department's 2678 of November 1, 1943 reporting dismissal of Consul Bauer by the Dominican Republic.

Impression conveyed that report by Kullmann is also critical of the Swiss authorities in the measures heretofore taken by them in endeavors to suppress irregular documentation traffic.

24 /
It is probable that by far the greater part of this irregular documentation is in the hands of bona fide refugees from Nazi oppression. It may surely be assumed that those holding such documentation who are now interned are not suspect. Without proper control, which in any event would appear impracticable, the issue has been widespread, and identity has not been proved although names of persons to whom passports have been issued are I suppose usually of record.

25 /
Swiss authorities have found irregular passports thus issued in possession of suspect persons in Switzerland, and in at least one known case irregular documentation has been issued to an individual in Switzerland to conceal identity illegally by a foreign consular officer. It was found by the Swiss moreover that there were being collected fees which were extortionate.

It would appear, on the whole, that the Swiss authorities have been motivated by considerations quite similar to those which occasioned the Department's several circular and special instructions inherent in the practice, particularly with reference to their possible use by agents of the enemy. Cases were found, moreover, which were deemed of immediate concern to the national security of Switzerland. Consequently I feel that criticism of the Swiss authorities or of remedial action taken by them, if such is actually contained in the Kullmann report, is scarcely justified and would be inappropriate at the present juncture.

There is no lack of understanding of or sympathy among the Swiss, moreover, with those victims who might

find

find surcease or means of escape from Nazi oppression by use of documentation under discussion and I have reason to believe that the Government of Switzerland will do what it feels it consistently can to alleviate their condition. That the Swiss are required to guide their activities and relations with several belligerents in such a manner as not to impair their usefulness as protecting power for many complicated and difficult purposes can be understood by the Department.

HARRISON

JKH/mjb
Paraphrased in dupl.

COPY IN FA

FOR INFORMATION

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I. Note No. 8138

FROM American Interests Section, Bern) DATED April 14, 1944.

TO

NAME

*** 1-388

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE

eg

840.1

JEWS-EUROPE

FOR INFORMATION ✓

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

April 14, 1944.

Dear Klahr:

I called today on Bisang with reference to the Department's telegram No. 1221 of April 10 regarding Jewish refugees.

After I had discussed the matter orally with him, he asked that the Legation send him a notice requesting the good offices of the Division in presenting the matter through the Swiss Legation at Berlin to the Germans. He said he did not feel that he could otherwise transmit the Legation's request. He pointed out that these people were not Americans and he felt that he should have at least a communication in the form of a notice which he could take up with Minister de Pury. He said that when he receives the notice, he would communicate with Minister Feldscher and ask the latter to take the desired steps.

Accordingly, I have drafted the attached notice for your consideration.

G. T.

Enclosure:
Draft of notice - as stated.
GT/amh

840.1

JEWIS-REFUGEE

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I. Notice No. 8143

FROM American Interests Section, Bern) DATED April 14, 1944.

TO NAME *** 1-1000

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE

840.1

JEWS-EUROPE



NONCIATURE APO
EN SUISSE

7KH

(Paraguayen Documents)

7KH
LH

ORIA

*Me sujet report
ou latin + des
et huit noms à ajouter à
la liste de ceux qui ont
été déclarés par le
Gouvernement suisse.
Il s'agit de la proposition
de reconnaissance de
nationalité par le
Gouvernement suisse.
Après avoir été discuté,
le projet a été adopté.*

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gine avait inclus dans la liste des juifs qui étaient en possession d'un passeport du Paraguay. Le Gouvernement de ce pays protesta disant que ces passeports avaient été accordés illégalement et se refusa de les reconnaître. En conséquence, les autorités allemandes les retirèrent et l'Espagne suspendit sa protection. Le Comité de la Croix-Rouge confirma la nouvelle et gentiment me fit parvenir la liste photographique avec les noms des juifs de Vittel et la nationalité de leurs passeports. En outre, toujours en vue d'un échange, la Croix-Rouge promit son intervention, conditionnée à celle du Saint-Siège.

Il était évident qu'avant de reprendre les tractations pour l'échange, il était nécessaire de rendre aux juifs de Vittel les passeports retirés et assurer la protection dont ils avaient joui jusqu'alors.

Le Saint-Siège, à la suite de ma proposition demanda, par le moyen de ses représentants, à presque toutes les républiques de l'Amérique latine s'ils étaient disposés à reconnaître ces passeports et à quelles conditions.

Les réponses reçues furent les suivantes:

1. Le Gouvernement de PANAMA répondit négativement à l'interpellation relative aux juifs polonais, des lois contraires à une telle admission existant dans ce pays;
2. Les Gouvernements de COSTARICA et de NICARAGUA sont disposés à reconnaître les passeports concédés par leurs Consuls respectifs jusqu'à concurrence de huit familles. Ces familles, si elles ne sont pas composées d'agriculteurs ou d'industriels pourront rester dans ces républiques seulement durant la guerre;
3. Le Gouvernement de Bolivie est bien disposé à recevoir les juifs signalés, mais désire connaître leur profession.
4. Le Gouvernement de GUATEMALA et SALVADOR regrettent de devoir répondre négativement, tout en reconnaissant la généreuse intervention du Saint-Siège;

mps des juifs de nationalité suisse très triste de leurs coréligionnaires juifs à Vittel était devenue es passeports dont ils jouissaient, s des Républiques de l'Amérique latidement du Saint-Siège une interven- s étaient absolument nécessaires relative, protégés ainsi par les ts sudaméricains, d'une manière

ns sont exactes, il semble que l'ori- e à la suite d'une proposition d'échan- és dans l'Amérique du Sud. L'Allema-

NONCIATURE APOSTOLIQUE
EN SUISSE

Vittel
(Paraguayen Documents)

7RH
LH

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Do you know which

*of LA gets the protection
by Swiss?*

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Le Saint-Siège, à la suite de ma proposition demanda,
par le moyen de ses représentants, à presque toutes les républiques
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ports et à quelles conditions.

Les réponses reçues furent les suivantes:

1. Le Gouvernement de PANAMA répondit négativement à l'interpellation relative aux juifs polonais, des lois contraires à une telle admission existant dans ce pays;
2. Les Gouvernements de COSTARICA et de NICARAGUA sont disposés à reconnaître les passeports concédés par leurs Consuls respectifs jusqu'à concurrence de huit familles. Ces familles, si elles ne sont pas composées d'agriculteurs ou d'industriels pourront rester dans ces républiques seulement durant la guerre;
3. Le Gouvernement de Bolivie est bien disposé à recevoir les juifs signalés, mais désire connaître leur profession.
4. Le Gouvernement de GUATEMALA et SALVADOR regrettent de devoir répondre négativement, tout en reconnaissant la généreuse interven-
tion du Saint-Siège;

(Paraguayan Documents)

7/14
LH



PRO-MEMORIA

Il y a quelque temps des juifs de nationalité suisse qui s'occupent de soulager le sort très triste de leurs coréligionnaires m'informèrent que la situation des juifs à Vittel était devenue périlleuse à la suite du retrait des passeports dont ils jouissaient, passeports concédés par les Consuls des Républiques de l'Amérique latine, et me priaient d'obtenir rapidement du Saint-Siège une intervention en leur faveur. Ces passeports étaient absolument nécessaires pour leur assurer une tranquillité relative, protégés ainsi par les Puissances protectrices des intérêts sudaméricains, d'une manière spéciale de l'Espagne.

20

Si mes informations sont exactes, il semble que l'origine de cette grave mesure soit due à la suite d'une proposition d'échange entre juifs et allemands internés dans l'Amérique du Sud. L'Allemagne avait inclus dans la liste des juifs qui étaient en possession d'un passeport du Paraguay. Le Gouvernement de ce pays protesta disant que ces passeports avaient été accordés illégalement et se refusa de les reconnaître. En conséquence, les autorités allemandes les retirèrent et l'Espagne suspendit sa protection. Le Comité de la Croix-Rouge confirma la nouvelle et gentiment me fit parvenir la liste photographique avec les noms des juifs de Vittel et la nationalité de leurs passeports. En outre, toujours en vue d'un échange, la Croix-Rouge promit son intervention, conditionnée à celle du Saint-Siège.

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3. Le Gouvernement de Bolivie est bien disposé à recevoir les juifs signalés, mais désire connaître leur profession.
4. Le Gouvernement de GUATEMALA et SALVADOR regrettent de devoir répondre négativement, tout en reconnaissant la généreuse intervention du Saint-Siège;

5. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du CHILI assure avoir donné des ordres à son représentant à Berne afin de procéder à la vérification et à la reconnaissance des passeports accordés aux juifs;
6. Le Ministre de l'Intérieur de l'URUGUAY est disposé à considérer chaque cas isolément.
7. Le Gouvernement de HAITI dit qu'il ne peut rien faire;
8. Le Gouvernement du PEROU dit qu'il ne peut reconnaître ces passeports parce que concédés d'une manière illégale;
9. Le Gouvernement de CUBA dit qu'il ne peut reconnaître ces passeports, les gouvernements de Grande Bretagne et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique s'y opposant;
10. Le Gouvernement du PARAGUAY assure que les passeports ^{des} juifs polonais réfugiés à Vittel ont été reconnus. (Pour les juifs espagnols la Secrétairerie d'Etat a intéressé la Nonciature Apostolique de Madrid.)

*Spécial pour
en guerre
dans le quart*

A la suite de l'intervention du Saint-Siège et je crois aussi de celui des gouvernements des Etats-Unis et de Grande Bretagne, la situation des juifs à Vittel ayant un passeport de la République du Paraguay, redevient complètement normale. Dans ces derniers jours cependant, j'ignore pour quelles raisons, la situation de ces juifs s'est aggravée et le péril conjuré semble de nouveau menaçant. Cela me surprend parce que, en date du 23 février, le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge m'informait que l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne à Berlin avait visité le camp de Vittel et avait assuré les intéressés qu'ils étaient sous sa protection et qu'ils n'avaient rien à craindre pour le moment.

Quoiqu'il en soit, j'ai télégraphié au Saint-Siège qu'il était urgent de faire savoir, par le moyen de la Nonciature Apostolique de Madrid au Gouvernement Espagnol, la gravité du péril et la nécessité d'insister auprès du Représentant espagnol à Berlin sur l'urgence d'une protection efficace. Le Saint-Siège m'a répondu avoir donné immédiatement les instructions à ce sujet au Nonce Apostolique de Madrid.

*Handed to me by Monsignor Bernardini
at time of my call upon him April 11th
I told him that U.S.G. had asked LA
JFK not to revoke ppt's, desir of U.S.G. that
nothing be done to worsen position of ppt. holders
and some asked to urge Germans to recognize*

MEMORANDUM

April 15, 1944.

AI
Mr. Tait

Dear George:

75

Since this subject, if it works out as the Department expects, will become a subject for presentation to the Swiss Foreign Interests Division and probably involves ultimate exchange as well as the protection of individuals in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, I should be glad if you would develop the matter.

We recently discussed Palestine certificates. I have understood that the certificates themselves were not sent to the persons in whose favor they were issued, but that evidence that the certificates had been issued was given to such persons for identification and protection purposes. Moreover, it has been told to us that these certificates were issued by the Palestine Government in Jerusalem. It is, therefore, not clear why certificates were sent from Switzerland, nor is it clear how certificates came into the hands of persons in Switzerland or could have been lost here. There is just a possibility that there has been illegal traffic in these so-called Palestine certificates, as well as in South American passports. In interviewing Dr. Weingort, who no doubt will come to see you upon your request, it might be well to keep these matters in mind.

There is a possibility that Mr. MacKillop may know something about this situation, and I am pretty certain that the British Government would be interested. It might be well, while awaiting Dr. Weingort's visit, to discuss the matter with MacKillop, in the event that he is informed regarding it.

Should anything of interest turn up in the course of your development of the case, I should be glad to hear about it.

J.K.H.

JKH/mjb

268 4/15
Mr. Tait - George

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO.

PCS/dh

Tel. to Dept. Let. to Squire 4/18 JKH/mjb

ASK'ed by JKH

*only really practical
technique in this whole
question is to exchange
ideas - not merely talk
about it!*



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 17 1944
BERN

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Geneva, Switzerland, April 17, 1944

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner informs me that the matter referred to in the enclosed cable was discussed upon the occasion of your last meeting and that he is submitting this telegram for transmission, subject to your approval, to the Department of State for the information of Dr. Stephen S. Wise.

Any action taken in connection with the disposition of of this telegram I would be pleased to report to Dr. Riegner and Mr. Richard Lichtenheim.

With kind wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Squire
Paul C. Squire
American Consul

Enclosure:

Draft of telegram, as stated

The Honorable
Leland Harrison,
American Minister,
Bern.

840.1
JEWS IN EUROPE

To: Dr. Stephen S. Wise, World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway, New York.

From: Richard Lichtheim, Gerhart Riegner, Geneva.

We are of opinion that War Refugee Board in conjunction with British Government should make special effort to arrange exchange of Jews in German occupied countries against German nationals in Allied countries stop Jewish candidates for exchange are in first place those who received Palestine immigration certificates and whose names have been notified by British Government to German Government through Switzerland as Protecting Power stop their number is about 3500 stop Germany has accepted in principle exchange of these certificate holders against German nationals but so far no exchange has materialised owing lack German candidates for exchange stop Germany is now becoming impatient and certificate holders who so far have been kept in special camps are in danger of deportation stop if a beginning would be made by an exchange of at least a few hundred with prospects of further exchanges in future the whole group might be saved stop therefore War Refugee Board should draw up as quick as possible full list of all Germans eligible for exchange in North and South America and in British Empire and should together with British Government transmit this list to German Authorities through Protecting Power stop in view situation as described this procedure is of utmost urgency paragraph after obtaining some practical result it should also be tried to arrange for a separate exchange scheme for such Jews who have obtained South American passports or other identity papers from certain consulates provided respective governments can be induced to recognise such documents for this purpose stop further Jewish candidates for exchange would be holders of visas for oversea countries stop this plan of action is of special importance in view desperate situation Jews Hungary who also could profit from Palestine certificates or other authorised documents or visas stop It is our considered opinion that neither holders of Palestinian certificate nor any other groups can be saved if no immediate action is taken to enable actual exchange stop this view is shared by Papal Nuncio Berne and all diplomatic representatives we have lately approached .

April 17, 1944.

Re: Latin-American passports

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 291.74
Telegrams : Zionorg Geneva
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/DT - A/14

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BERN
REC'D APR 19 1944

Genève, April 17th, 1944.
37, quai Wilson

Dear Mr. Huddle,

I am referring to my visit to your Legation on April 7th, and to the question of the South-American passports which have been issued by certain consuls in Berne to a number of Jews, part of whom are now in Vittel.

As I told you and His Excellency the Minister, our office has abstained from taking any active part in the procuring of such documents. But now that so many people are in imminent danger of deportation and death, we feel it our duty to be helpful as far as we can render any assistance in our capacity as the representation of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

It is only too natural that our office receives much information on the subject and we are constantly pressed by people here and in Palestine to give information on or assistance in this matter. But we are handicapped by the fact that our knowledge of the details of this affair is rather limited.

So far I have been unable to find out the truth with regard to the main point : Have the various South-American States recognized the passports issued by certain consuls in Berne or have they refused to do so ?

When our conversation in Berne touched on this subject you have mentioned (if I remember rightly) that Paraguay has not recognized these documents. I have also learned from private sources that Spain as the protecting power has not been informed of any favourable change in the attitude of Paraguay or other States and has therefore refused to confirm that the papers are valid.

On the other hand there are people connected with this business who say that if not all at least some of the governments in question have declared these passports to be valid while at the same time these people admit that Spain, as the protecting power for some of these States, has not been informed - a situation difficult to understand.

Among the special cases which have been brought to my knowledge is also the case of Rabbi SCHORR and family, who have received passports from the Consuls of Costa-Rica and Nicaragua

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Counsellor of the American Legation,
Bern

890-1 TEWS IN BERN

./.

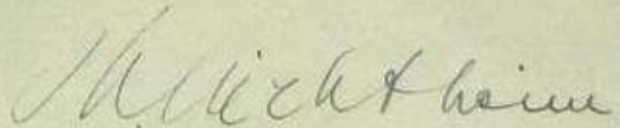
I understand that these States are represented by the Swiss Government.

I shall be most grateful if you could enlighten me on the subject by giving me any information you may be able and willing to put at my disposal with regard to the main question mentioned above, i.e. what States, if any, have recognized the said documents and what the actual position is with regard to the States of Paraguay, Ecuador, San Salvador, Costa-Rica and Nicaragua.

Should it be true that some of these States have recognized the documents in question, then the respective protecting powers should have been informed and on this point also I would like to obtain any information you can provide.

Awaiting your kind reply,

I am, dear Mr. Huddle,
most sincerely yours



R. Lichtheim

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

ok. April 19, 1944.

VITTEL

Berne, April 17th, 1944

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

Mr.

TEL. 6 00 50
TELEGR.-ADD. STERNBUCH

J. Klaus Huddle,
Counselor of Legation of the U.S.A.

B e r n

*File
JH*



LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

REC'D APR 18 1944

BERN

Dear Mr. Huddle,

J have the pleasue to refer to my visit with you and J beg to thank you again for your kindness. J hasten to enclose herewith a detailed list of the families interned in Vittel/France and who are now isolated in an unknown place.-

J hope that by these details it will be sooner possible to save them in due time. As each our counts J should be especially thankful if you would be so kind to ask the Swiss departement to treat this matter with greatest promptness.-

Receive, dear Counselor, my sincerest thanks for all your endeavours and believe me to be

yours obediently

[Handwritten signature]

840.1
JEWS IN EUROPE

Lista in Vittel internierten Familien.

WEINSTEADT	Felix	GELLER	Konrad
"	Romana	"	Erna
BAUMINGER	Marcel	"	Stella
"	Kalman	GOLDBERGER	Henryk
BAUMINGER	Martha	"	Malka
"	Joel	GORLIN	Eugenie
BAUMINGER	Bluma	GOLDSTEIN	Nachman
"	Leon	"	Sara
BERGER	Lea	"	Lea
"	Abraham	"	Szyja F
BERGLAS	Eugenie	Horenstein	Abraham
"	Chaim Lejb	"	Estera Sara
"	Alta Hinda	KACENELSON	Izchok
BLUMENKOPF	Aron	"	Zwi
"	Riwka	KADYSZ	Icek
"	Rozia	"	Brucha
BLUMENKOPF	Juda Leib	"	Awia
"	Stella	"	Rachmiel
BLUMENKOPF	Wolf	KALLER	Frideryk
"	Helena	"	Halina
"	Christine	KON	Felicja
BLUMENKOPF	Nuchim	"	Hacek
"	Chaje	"	Peter
DUDELZAK	Schulam Mottak	"	Stefan
"	Tyszla	KRYSTENFREUND	David
"	Jerzy	"	Ita
DUDELZAK	Rachmiel	"	Szajndle
"	Ita	"	Ruchla
"	Arcadius	"	Aron
ECK	Nathan	LANDAU	Leib Alec.
"	Klara	"	Bronisl. Ester
"	Rosa	"	Jerzy
EISENWEIG	Szyja	LICHTMAN	Oscar
"	Gina	"	Anne Rosalie
"	Gitla Miriam	"	Regina
FAKLER	Szyja	LINDENBAUM	Sonia
"	Stefania	LIEBER	Josepf
"	Henryk	"	Frimeta
FRUMKIN	Anna	"	Henryk
"	Hermine Rosa	"	Freidla
FRAENKEL	Josef	"	Boris
"	Perla	LISOWODER	Cypa
"	Mathilde	"	Alexander
"	Dorys	"	Miriam
"	Alexander	MALCOWSKY	Schmul
"	Jochweß	"	Sara
"	Pinkus	"	Maurice
"	Leib	MANDELBAUM	Sylvia
"	Rutha	JOSKOWICZ	Moszek
"	Marta	"	Chana Ita
FRAENKEL	Mendel	"	Alina
"	Rosa	MUSZYNSKI	Leon
FLAISCHER	Esther	"	Lili
GARBINSKI	Enrico	NATANSON	Wladislaw
"	Helena	"	Stefania
GEHORSAM	Abraham	"	Jadwiga
"	Helena	OSIEK	Sara
		POZHANSKI	Jakob
		"	Jenta
		"	Mariam

	Aron	WEINSTEI.	Lea
	Riwka Jochwet	WENTLAND	Malka
	Jakob	"	Adam
"	Rywka	"	Noemi
"	Abraham H	"	Judith
"	Majer	"	Christina
"	Icek	WETSSTEIN	Mieczyslaw
RAPAPORT	Simon	"	Stella
"	Rywka Jochwet	WOLF	Sami
RAPAPORT	Wolf	"	Rosa Rachel
"	Pola	"	Leon
"	Miriam	"	Erna
"	Israel	"	Sigmund
"	Moses	KUROPATWA	Joseph
RAPAPORT	Schabsa	"	Felicja
"	Malka	"	Henryk
"	Rywka	"	Richard
"	Bela	SCHWARZBARD	Chiel
"	Perla	"	Perla
"	David	"	Martin
RAPAPORT	Symcha	SCHWARZMAN	Zipa
"	Golda	WOLMAN	Henrik
"	Israel	"	Chaje Hanna
"	Moses	SCHEIN	Isak
RAPAPORT	Schabse	"	Salomon
"	Gitla	"	Eleonore
"	Matla	SCHOR	Tamara
"	Ester	ZEMSZ	Leon
RAPAPORT	Jacob	"	Cecylia
"	Annie	"	Blanka
RAPAPORT	Josef	ZNEREV	Salomon
RAPAPORT	Rosa	"	Malka Feigel
"	Sabine	"	Bernard
RAPAPORT	Saul	"	Regina
"	Mina	BRINKMANN	Miriam Marta
RAPAPORT	Israel	"	Jenny
"	Malka Dewora	"	Erika
"	Jacob Binem	"	Lotte Helena
RAPAPORT	Aron	SCHAPU	Samson
"	Genia	"	Rosa
"	Rywka	SCHOENBERG	Etila
"	Moses	SCHOENBERG	Samuel
"	Henryk	"	Estera
POSHAENDLER	Charlotte	"	Bella
"	Markus	"	Jerzy
ROTTENBERG	Sara	TYLBOR	Rosalia
"	Naftali	"	Salomea
ROTTENBERG	Rosa	HOMSSKY	Benzion Samuel
"	Leser	WACHTEL	Hirsch
"	Naftali	"	Nettie
"	Hermann	"	Lieba
"	Wolf	HAGER	Malka
ROTTENBERG	Bella	ZURAWIN	Adam
"	Esther	"	Lea
"	Natalie		
"	Franz		
"	Nute		
ROZANYKWIAT	Teddie		
"	Gerda		
"	Richard		
WEINGORT	Abraham		
"	Mathilde		
"	Rosa		
WEINGORT	Leon		
"	Estera		

MEMORANDUM

April 17, 1944.

I spoke to Mr. McKillop with reference to Palestine certificates. He said that it has been the practice of the Palestine Government to draw up lists of persons who will be admitted to that country. These lists are forwarded to the British Government at London, which in turn communicates the lists to the British Legation here. The latter transmits the lists to the "wiss for forwarding to Berlin and delivery to the German authorities. McKillop said that when the Germans receive notice to this effect, it has resulted in deportation being deferred or definitely stopped. Some nine or ten such lists have been forwarded altogether. It has also been the practice sometimes to forward lists of certain Jews whom the Palestinian Government contemplated authorizing entry at a later date.

McKillop added that so far he knows, there has been no case in which these lists have been lost or that there has been a failure to notify the interested

640.1

JR'S-EUROPE

interested person. He said, however, that the Swiss had endeavored at the same time that they notified the Germans to notify directly the persons concerned. He said that so far as he knew, there was no actual certificate involved. He was unable to explain how certificates should have emanated from Switzerland, but thought that this was a misunderstanding of the actual procedure followed. He had never heard of Dr. Weineort.

G. T.

GT/amh

APR 21 1944

(JKH's handwritten notes)

- 1 - Sternbuch has given only partial information
- 2 - Misrepresentations have been made regarding Palestinian Certificates (Depts. 1268 Apr.12)
- 3 - (Explanation of procedure in case of issue of so called "Palestinian Certificates").

(QT's handwritten note)

In Tel. point out issue authorization entry Palestine ~~exclusively~~ *exclusively* matter British.

Chancery File

VITTEL

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 1944.

AI
Mr. Tait

Dear Mr. Tait:

Mr. Sternbuch called on me Monday afternoon, April 17th, and, among other things, inquired whether I thought it might be useful if the Swiss were to be provided with a list of the Jews interned at Vittel whose position has recently been endangered for reasons fully disclosed in our files.

I told him I knew of no objection to sending them such a list, and said that I thought it might be of some use.

I do not know why Mr. Sternbuch has not himself send the list to the Swiss Foreign Interests Division, and did not take occasion to ask him, since I doubted that I would receive a candid reply.

In connection with your discussions of this matter with Mr. Bisang, I would suggest that you transmit to him a copy or two of the lists which are enclosed, for such use as they may be able to make of the names. It would also be useful to us to know, for our future guidance when asked by Mr. Sternbuch to approach the Swiss, whom he has been in touch with in the Foreign Interests Division, and whether it would be advisable for us, rather than to receive such communications from him for transmission to the Swiss, to refer him directly to the Foreign Interests Division or someone in the Division.

Please be good enough to reply to Mr. Sternbuch's inquiry, informing him of the action you have taken.

J.K.H.

Enclosure:

Letter from Mr. Sternbuch,
April 17, 1944.

840.1 Jews in Europe.

JKH/mjb

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

Klaber: Mr. Lichtheim left the note for me while
I was holding down a interview.

11.45 a.m.

APR 18 1944

Dear Mr. Squire,

With regard to my yesterday's letter (in
case it has not yet been sent off to Mr.
Huddle): I wanted to ask you kindly to inform
Mr. Huddle that, in case he does not
wish to give me the information I have
been asking for in writing, but would
prefer to give it orally, then I am of
course at his disposal and ~~would~~
would visit him in Berne.

2) On the second page of my letter
to Mr. Huddle there is a slip
of the pen (or the type-writer):
Please read "enlighten" (not
"enlight").

Yours very sincerely
R. Lichtheim

17. IV. 44.

X
✓

Bern, April 18, 1944.

Dear Mr. Squire:

You may inform Dr. Riegner that the telegram transmitted with your letter of April 17 as emanating from himself and Mr. Lichtheim has been duly transmitted to the Department of State in response to their desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

840.1

Paul G. Squire, Esquire,
American Consul,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 18, 4 p.m., 1944

No: 2444

Code: XXXXXXXXXX

Charged to:

(C.I.)

PARAPHRASE

The following is transmitted by this Legation for the information of the Department and for delivery in the discretion of the Department to the addressee.

From Richard Lichtheim and Gerhart Riegner, Geneva, for Dr. Wise, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York:

"Special effort to arrange an exchange of Jews in German-occupied countries against German nationals in Allied countries should be made by the War Refugee Board working with the British Government, in our opinion. Numbering about 3500 the Jewish candidates for exchange in first instance are those who received Palestine immigration certificates, whose names have been notified through Switzerland as protecting power to German Government by the British Government. Germany has accepted the principle of exchange of these holders of certificates, but owing lack of German candidates exchange so far has not materialized. The holders of the certificates thus far have been kept in special camps are now in danger of deportation as Germany is now becoming impatient. Whole group might be saved if, as a beginning, an exchange of a few hundred at least could be made, with prospects of further exchanges in future. Therefore the War Production Board should prepare a full list of all Germans eligible for exchange in the British Empire, South and North America, as quickly as possible. WRB should with the British Government transmit through the protecting powers such a list to the Government of Germany.

In view of the present situation this procedure is of the utmost urgency. Effort should also be made, if some practical result obtained, to arrange a separate exchange scheme for such Jews as may have obtained South American passports or other identity papers from certain consulates

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

provided

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

81001 JEWS IN EUROPE

provided that the respective governments can be induced to recognize such documents for this purpose. Bearers of visas for overseas countries would be other Jewish candidates for exchange. This plan of special importance in view of the desperate situation of Jews in Hungary who also could profit from Palestine certificates or other authorized visas or documents. Unless immediate action is taken to effect a group exchange we are of the considered opinion that neither the holders of Palestinian certificates nor any other groups can be saved. This view is shared by all diplomatic representatives lately approached by us, including the Papal Nuncio at Bern."

\$80.45.

HARRISON

JKH/mjb

Paraphrased in single copy

FOR INFORMATION

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE 840.1 JEWS-EUROPE FOR A.I.Note No. 8174

FROM American Interests Section, Bern DATED April 19, 1944

TO _____ NAME _____ . *** 1-1306

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE

840.1

JEWS-EUROPE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 19, 1944

No: 1344

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 20, 9 a.m.

paraphrase

With reference to your telegram No. 1994, of March, 31, 1944, the American citizenship of Hersh, Liba, and Nettie Wachtel has been established. Please see the Department's instructions of February 24, 1944. You should also note the Department's instruction of February 24, 1944, with regard to Israel Wachtel, whose claim to American citizenship has been established subject to the provisions of Section 402 of the Nationality Act of 1940. You are requested to endeavor to ascertain from Malka Hager the period of residence in the United States and well as the name, date and place of birth of father.

HULL

/nra

in triplicate

8901 SEW IN EUROPE

Re: notification of German &
J. P. Vittel group has
Palestine Certificates.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle

April 19, 1944.

From: Mr. Tait

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 21 1944
BERN

Dear Klahr:

I refer to your memorandum of April 15 regarding the Department's telegram No. 1268 of April 12 - 10 p.m., which has reference to Palestine certificates. My memorandum of April 17, attached, covers my talk with McKillop on this subject.

Dr. Saul Weingort of Montreux called on me this morning. The following covers my conversation with him:

He said that the Jewish Agency at Jerusalem applied for the so-called Palestine certificates (which actually means permission of the Palestinian authorities for entry into that country of a given individual). From that point the procedure outlined to me by McKillop was actually followed. Additionally, the Jewish Agency informed the Palestinian Office at Geneva of the names of those approved. The latter then advises the International Red Cross Committee and the person concerned. In other words, a given Jew in Axis territory is informed directly (1) by the

par 1

the Palestinian Office at Geneva; (2) by the International Red Cross Committee, and (3) by the protecting power.

With regard to the 238 Jews at Vittel, he said that their entry into Palestine had been approved by the Palestinian authorities and that London had been so informed. The latter, in reply to inquiry from Jewish circles in Switzerland, said that these names had been communicated to the British Legation at Bern. In reply to inquiry by interested Jewish organizations, the British Legation said it was unable to state definitely whether it had received these names, but that it was its practice promptly to transmit names of persons so approved to the Swiss Foreign Office. The latter stated it had received no such list. Accordingly, the British Foreign Office had informed interested persons that a confirmation list had been sent on April 3 by London to the British Legation at Bern.

McKillop tells me that the British Legation was approached by interested persons on this matter but that he was not prepared to tell them anything except that all such cases were handled in the same manner
and

and that the Swiss were promptly informed as soon as the names were received. He said, for my personal information, that the names of all the Jews interned at Vittel had been communicated among others in four lists sent to the Swiss on January 29, February 25, March 10, and March 23. Since then, the British Legation had requested the Swiss on April 9 to confirm the fact that these notices had been delivered to the Germans. He told me that the British Government had obtained, some time ago, the assurance of the German authorities that persons such as the Jews proceeding to Palestine, would not be deported to the East if the German Government were advised to this effect. He said that there had been a sort of an understanding with the Germans that Germans abroad would be repatriated in exchange against such persons in Germany, but that at the present time there were only some fifty Germans involved and it was quite possible that the German Government might say that the agreement had broken down.

Bisang tells me that he is not able to say whether or not the names of these persons have been communicated to the Swiss, but this will be checked and I will be advised in the near future.

From

From the foregoing (please see also my memorandum of today's date to you on this general subject), it would appear :

- 1) that the information conveyed to the Department is not in accordance to facts. (the 238 Jews are still at Vittel and the Palestine "certificates" have ^{apparently} neither been lost in transmission nor withheld from delivery by the Germans.) [^] (see par 2 below)
- 2) since it would seem that the German authorities as well as each of the Jews concerned has probably been informed through the three channels mentioned above that he will be admitted into Palestine, it strikes me as much more likely that the German authorities consider this group as having been dishonest in claiming Latin-American nationality, and as holding bogus documentation, and accordingly they may refuse to permit them to depart for Palestine. I believe this feature of the case should be made very clear to the Department when we report.

It only remains for me to add that I do not like

this

this matter at all in any of its aspects. This group of persons has obtained false papers to which they have no claim and has endeavored to obtain special treatment which they would not otherwise have received. We are being placed in the position of acting as nurse-maid to persons who have no claim to our protection and who are moreover trying to utilize the services of the United States in assisting them in their present compromising position.


G. T.

Enclosure:

My memorandum of April
17, 1944.

VITTEL

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 21 1944
BERN

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

April 19, 1944.



Dear Klahr:

Please refer to your confidential memorandum to me of April 18 with its enclosure, regarding your conversation with Mr. Sternbuch. I attach a reply to Mr. Sternbuch's inquiry.

During the course of my interview this morning with Mr. Weingort (which is the subject of a separate memorandum to you of today's date), I inquired whether the Jewish circles concerned had communicated to the Swiss Foreign Interests Division the list of the 238 Jews at Vittel. He told me that he did not know.

When I inquired regarding the present status of these persons, he told me that according to the information which had been received clandestinely from Vittel by interested Jewish organizations in Switzerland, the 238 Jews received identical treatment and that they had the same accommodations as other persons at that camp until March 26 when they

were


were suddenly isolated although kept in the same camp. The Germans told them, he said, that they were being so treated because their papers were not in order. I asked just what he meant by this to which he replied that although all the 238, -except four who were Americans, -were of Polish origin and nationality, they were the bearers of Latin-American passports. The Germans said furthermore that these Jews could not be better treated than other Polish Jews. He said they indicated that the 238 could not remain at Vittel but it was not yet known to what place they might at some future time be sent.

I do not like particularly sending this list of 238 Jews, apparently all of whom are of Polish nationality but who are in possession of false documentation, to the Swiss. However, I have spoken to Bisang and he said that since it was not possible definitely to establish whether the names of those concerned had been transmitted to Berlin, if I would send in the list personally he would have the matter looked into. I do not believe that we should accept such lists in the future, but that it would be preferable to refer Mr. Sternbuch and other interested

persons

persons to the Foreign Interests Division.

I inquired of Mr. Weingort regarding the person to whom Mr. Sternbuch had spoken in the Foreign Interests Division. He said that he did not think Mr. Sternbuch had approached the Division, but said that Mrs. Sternbuch had spoken with Maurice.


G. T.

Enclosure:

Letter to Mr. Sternbuch - as stated.

FOR INFORMATION

COPY
eg

Bern, April 19, 1944.

J. Sternbuch, Esquire,
1 Villa des Colondalles,
Montreux.

Sir:

I refer to your letter of April 17 addressed to Mr. Huddle, with which you enclosed a list of certain persons interned at Vittel, France.

The list referred to has been informally communicated to the Foreign Interests Division of the Swiss Federal Political Department, which has been requested to expedite, so far as possible, its treatment of this matter and, as requested by Dr. Weincort during the course of his visits today, to endeavor to ascertain whether the German authorities have been advised of the approval of the persons concerned for immigration into Palestine.

Very truly yours,

George Tait
First Secretary

GT/dmh

B40.1
JEMS-EUROPE

FOR INFORMATION

COPY
eg



Personally handed to me on April 19, 1944,
by Dr. Saul Weingort, from one of the
persons interested in the fate of the 238
Jews interned at Vittel.

G. T.

840.1

JEWIS-EUROPE

enclosure
1 letter

26.3.44.

à chère Madame,

me permets de vous joindre deux feuilles que je vous prie de transmettre à M. Saul Weingort à Montreux après les avoir lues. Comme vous verrez les passeports de tous les gens de V. n'ont pas été reconnus. Et ils sont tous isolés du reste des Anglais et Américains. Il est certain que si les représentations diplomatique anglaises et américaines n'agissent pas sans délai-ils seront tous déportés, ce que signifie..vous le savez fort bien.-

Je ne peux rien faire d'ici et c'est chez vous qu'il faut agir. Et sans retard si on veut sauver ces 300 personnes. Je vous prie d'alerter de suite M. Silberschein dans votre ville et d'agir vous-même. Je pense que les légations en question voudront bien faire quelque chose pour protéger ces gens si éprouvés déjà. Il s'agit des vies humaines. Voudriez vous rendre aux consulats de ces pays pour leur présenter la situation critique de ces gens. Un simple mot de leur part disant qu'ils les protègent peut les sauver. Il faut que les autorités du camp soient immédiatement prévenues. Faites le, je vous en pris. Madame Adam et sa famille sont déjà emprisonnés. et si on n'agit pas sans retard, ils sont perdus.

J'espère que votre intervention pourra les sauver. Tous les Anglais et Américains internés du camps sont outrés de voir leurs pays laisser passer ces choses sans vouloir les défendre. Veuillez agir sans délai. C'est que cela qui peut les sauver.

Stefan

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 20, 3 p.m., 1944.

No.: 2510

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

OFF 1-1142

Paraphrase

The Government of Switzerland has been requested by this Legation to extend protection to the Wachtel and Hager cases mentioned in this Legation's no. 1994 of March 31, until specifically advised to the contrary. In the future the Legation will take similar action in cases of this kind. On April 14 requested was made for the immediate return of 238 persons to Vittel.

It is assumed by the Legation that the authority given in the telegram referred to below to extend protection to documentation applicants awaiting decision of the Department applies to such refugee cases only and does not alter the customary procedure of withholding protection in ordinary cases referred to the Department for decision, such as cases which involve expatriation, first time application, doubtful loyalty, cooperation in the war effort of the enemy, etc. In the latter cases, the Legation will continue to request the Swiss representative to withhold protection until receipt of the Department's decisions, unless Legation is instructed to do otherwise.

Refer to Department's 1269 April 13, 11 p.m., and 1270 of April 13, midnight.

HARRISON

DWM:mep:nf
In duplicate

840.1
NEWS-EUROPE

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Tait
From: Mr. Hadraba

April 21, 1944.

I sent this morning to the Consulate a copy of the paraphrase of the Department's 1344 of April 19, 1944, and asked Senden to prepare such documentation memos as the instructions in this telegram justify.

Senden called back this afternoon and stated that he did not consider the statement contained in the telegram regarding Hersh, Liba and Netti Wachtel sufficient authority to ask the Swiss to issue Swiss protective certificates valid for residence abroad. He said the question in these three cases was not one of "establishing" citizenship (for citizenship was already considered as established when their documentation applications were referred to the Department) but whether they are entitled to documentation as American citizens while resident abroad.

With regard to Israel Wachtel, Senden expressed the belief that the statement in the Department's telegram did not in any wise alter the status which he had had when applied for a passport at Warsaw, at which time authority was given to issue to him a passport valid for return to the United States.

Mr. Maher

840.1
JENS-EUROPE

Mr. Maher and I discussed the foregoing and agreed that, since the Department's instructions of February 24, 1944, to which reference is made in its telegram No. 1344, should be received soon and since the rulings contained therein will doubtless be lengthy and involved, we should await their receipt. In addition it would appear that the above-named persons will receive as much protection, of not more, from the Swiss on the basis of the Legation's note A.I.No. 8174 than when the memos regarding their right to protection are written.

As regards Malka Hager, the Consulate states that it has never received an application executed by her. Accordingly the Swiss will be requested to accept her application and furnish the information requested in the final sentence of the Department's 1344.

T. J. H.

TJH/ag

MEMORANDUM

April 21, 1944. ✓

AI
Mr. Tait:

Thanks for your several memoranda on the subject of interned Jews in German-occupied territory and particularly at Vittel.

There is no particular reason why we should not present the Swiss with the list of Jews in which Sternbuch is interested and who he says have been interned at Vittel. In the first instance, Mr. MacKillop gave you to understand that he had the names of these people. It now develops that, having seen the list of names, he did not have them, or at least all of them. Moreover, the Department has specifically requested the Swiss to intervene in behalf of these people, and there is no reason why the Swiss should not know who they are. If we have the list, as happens to be the case, it is well to give it to them. As to telegraphing the names to the Department, has it requested us to do that? I do not recall.

There has never been any intimation that the names in this list are of persons who were in possession of Palestine certificates. For aught I know, some of them may have Palestine certificates, but I have never been informed to that effect by Mr. Sternbuch. There has, therefore, been no misrepresentations in that particular respect. The misrepresentations which evidently have been made regarding Palestinian certificates are quoted by the Department, it would seem, in its 1268. Moreover, the intrusion of the War Refugee Board in giving instructions regarding Palestinian certificates without having previously consulted the British may arouse some interest in the latter.

We may be able eventually to work some order out of this confusion. I am returning the file for your action in answering the Weingort telegram (1268 of April 12).

J.K.H.

JKH/mub

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

April 21, 1944.

Dear Klahr:

I have just received by personal letter from Bisang the enclosed list which I sent him relating to the 238 Jews at Vittel. He said there had been delay in his reply because the files were badly scattered. The names of those persons regarding whom the Division has record have been under-scored with red pencil at the Division. Bisang pointed out in this connection that the lists received from the British and transmitted to the Swiss Legation at Bern ^{via} customarily contain the words "and family" if more than one person composes a given family.

You may note that there are a considerable number of persons whose surnames appear on the attached list who are not listed as having been communicated to the Division of Foreign Interests.

Following this development, I had a further talk with McKillop this morning. He now tells me

that

that for a considerable length of time negotiations have been proceeding between the British and the German Governments by which Jews now in German hands, whose entry into Palestine had been authorized by the Palestinian and the British authorities at London, would, when their names were communicated to the Germans, not be deported or receive other harsh treatment, in return for which the British Government would repatriate to Germany certain Germans held in its custody abroad, whereupon a number of Jews would be permitted to proceed to Palestine. It seems that no Jews have thus far been permitted to leave German-controlled territory because the British have been able to find such a small number of Germans they could put their hands on.

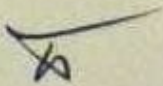
McKillop added that while he could not say that all of the 238 Jews at Vittel had been included in his lists, he would be glad to check any list we have (I do not consider this necessary as I feel confident the action taken since yesterday by the Foreign Interests Division is sufficient for our record).

McKillop said that all records regarding Jews

desirous

desirous to proceed to Palestine were at London and he thought that any interest in the 238 at Vittel which emanated from the United States might well be referred to London.

In the light of the foregoing, what do you think if we sent to the Department the attached list which Mr. Sternbuch recently sent you, listing separately those whom the Foreign Office indicates have been communicated to the Germans and those regarding whom the Division has no record? It seems to me that this might well be incorporated in our report, together with the other relevant points which you have raised. It looks as though the Legation has again been misled since it is clear that many of the 238 have not received the necessary permission to enter Palestine.


G. T.

Enclosure:

List - as stated.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

April 22, 1944.

Dear Elahr:

Thank you for your memorandum of yesterday. I attach, for your consideration, a note to the Swiss prepared along the lines you have indicated, and also a telegram to the Department in reply to its 1268. I hope this fits in with the action you have taken and at the same time meets your wishes of what should go to Washington.

G.T.

Enclosures:

1. - Note, dated today, to Swiss Foreign Office;
2. - Telegram, dated today, to the Department.

GT/amh

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

A.I. File

SEE B40.1 JEWS EUROPE FOR A.I. Note No. 8212

FROM American Interests Section, Bern DATED April 22, 1944.

TO NAME ... 1-000

REGARDING: JEWS IN EUROPE

eg

B40.1

JEWS-EUROPE

COPY
eg

A.I. - Mr. Tait

Dear George:

I do not fully understand the reason for your proposed note to the PO, from what I gathered of the results of your interviews with Weingort and MacKillop.

Therefore I am a little confused.

Please go over the attached draft telegram to the DEPT. carefully and check whether it is in accord with the facts of your interviews.

Also, if note to Bisang is OK, it can go along from your office.

JEH

22 Apr.44

B40.1

JEMS-EUROPE

Let. to Lichtheim
2 Lets. to Sternbuch (care CG Zurich)
4/24/44 JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Spanish - Paraguay -
Vittel 1100-40

From: Department

Date: April 22, 11 p.m., 1944

No: 1400

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: April 23, 5 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

(C.I.)

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

Department's 1181 and 1221, dated April 7 and 10, respectively.

Embassy Madrid has been furnished with full advice concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and at other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American countries. Excerpts from Department's 1221 have been sent to Madrid. The Embassy was requested urgently to report to the Spanish Government the preoccupation of the United States with this matter, informing it of the discussions pending with Latin American countries with regard to a further exchange with Germany of civilians, of the United States Government's views on the eligibility of persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers for such an exchange, and of the fact that this Government expects that pending such an exchange the German Government would accord the internees in question the same treatment which it wishes extended to German civilians in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In order to assure that these persons are given every possible protection, the Embassy was requested to urge the Spanish Government to act in Madrid and in Berlin, and to take immediate steps to correct the impression which may have been created in Berlin that the countries of the Western Hemisphere are not concerned about the treatment which is accorded to persons holding papers issued in the names of those countries.

The Embassy was instructed to request that the Spanish Government make every effort to secure the return to Vittel of the 238 persons whose evacuation from that camp was reported by the Legation.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

Please

840.1 from in Europe

Please advise Riegner, Sternbuch, and other interested organizations of the substance of the above. The negotiations between the United States and Swiss Governments should be fully explained to them, and they should be informed that Department has sent cables to the Latin American countries in the names of which papers were issued, opening the subject of exchange.

Following message from Vaadna Hatzala Emergency Committee should, at the request of WRB, be delivered to Sternbuch after he has been advised of the matter under reference:

326
Handwritten

Please advise us, after you have investigated conditions at Camp Zelle, what can be done at said camps and whether you have been able to establish contact with them.

HULL

In duplicate

rs

indicates as follows: ... Bern, April 22, 1944.

Dear Mr. Lichtheim:

Insofar as the information is available, I am glad to answer the queries contained in your letter of April 17 as follows.

We are by no means fully informed regarding action which may have been taken by the various South American Governments with reference to the passports which have been irregularly issued by their several consular officers in Switzerland and elsewhere in favor of persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

When you were in Bern, I think I stated, with reference to Paraguay, that "the Legation has no information which would indicate" the nature of action which Paraguay may have taken with reference to these documents. By reason of its comparatively isolated condition, this Legation is of course unable to state on any given date the latest information on the subject. Since your visit, however, the Legation has learned that the Paraguayan Government is said to have recognized the documents issued by its consuls as valid. Spain is the protective power for Paraguay in Germany. The Legation is not informed whether the Spanish Government has been notified by the Paraguayan Government of the action taken by the latter, nor does it know whether the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin has been instructed by the Spanish Foreign Office in Madrid to act in behalf of the persons affected.

With reference to other countries involved, information which the Legation has received from a reliable source at present known to the Legation. There was an intimation received from a private source that the Government of ... indicates Mr. R. Lichtheim, authorized the Swiss to take up the case of ... The Executive of the Zionist Organisation, ... The Jewish Agency for Palestine, ... 37 Quai Wilson, ... Geneva. You are aware, of course,

840.1
JEWISH IN ECONOMIC

SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
TOP SECRET

indicates as follows: does not have full lists of names of persons who received these irregular documents, and it is Panama has taken negative action with reference to Polish Jews. It seems doubtful whether there has ever been any proper control over the issue of such Bolivia would be disposed to receive persons in possession of irregular documentation. in possession of such passports.

Chile has given instructions to verify and recognize the passports issued. where there is centralized complete information on this subject, having Guatemala and Salvador have taken negative action. letter under acknowledgment that you are handicapped by a Costa Rica and Nicaragua are disposed to recognize clear passports issued by their respective consuls to a number up to eight families, provided that if these families are neither farmers nor industrialists they could remain in these republics only for the duration of the war. Incidentally, the telegram which you and Mr. Uruguay will consider each case individually. of exchange seemed to me to be a very sensible endeavor to Haiti and Peru could take no action. something like a regularized exchange can be organized, the difficulties Cuba would recognize the passports if Great Britain and the United States interpose no objection.

The Legation has been informed by the State Department that the latter is intervening with Latin American Governments on the subject, and there is a possibility that some of those governments which have indicated negative action, as shown above, may alter their point of view as a result of having the matter brought to their attention by the Department of State. Counselor of Legation.

With the exception of Paraguay and Bolivia, the protective power of all the countries named above is Switzerland. Whether the Swiss have been informed by the respective governments named in the premises is not at present known to the Legation. There was an informal intimation received from a private source that the Government of Chile had authorized the Swiss to take up the case of persons in possession of Chilean documentation. I have been unable as yet, however, to verify this statement. The Legation does not find in its records any mention of Rabbi Schorr and his family. You are aware, of course,

that

that this Legation does not have full lists of names of persons who received these irregular documents, and it is unaware whether such lists have been kept, or, if so, where they might be procured. It seems doubtful whether there has ever been any proper control over the issue of such documentation, and the Legation is aware of a number of cases in which suspect persons have been in possession of such passports.

While the Legation does not know where there is centralized complete information on this subject, having reference to your remark in the third paragraph of your letter under acknowledgment that you are handicapped by a lack of knowledge of the details of the affair, it is clear from instructions received from the Department of State that the War Refugee Board is disposed to lend all possible assistance to persons involved, and it may be hoped that as time goes on some tangible action which may serve to extricate them from their precarious situation may be evolved. Incidentally, the telegram which you and Mr. Riegner sent in the other day on the subject of exchange seemed to me to be a very sensible endeavor to arrive at some kind of solution. Unless something like a regularized exchange can be organized, the difficulties attendant upon remedial action would seem to be almost insurmountable.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/mjb

Note: To be forwarded to
Dr. Sternbuch through
Consulate General, Zurich.

Bern, April 24, 1944.

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

The Legation has received the following telegram embodying a message to you from Vaadha Hatzala Emergency Committee which is delivered to you at the request of the War Refugee Board:

"Please advise us, after you have investigated conditions at Camp Zelle, what can be done at said camps and whether you have been able to establish contact with them."

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Dr. Isaac Sternbuch,
St. Gall.

JKH/mjb

Note: To be forwarded to Dr. Sternbuch
through the Consulate General,
Zurich.

Bern, April 24, 1944.

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of activities now being engaged in by the War Refugee Board and the American Government in an endeavor to alleviate the condition of certain Jews detained in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, I now have to inform you that a telegram to the Legation from the Department of State, dated April 22, gives the following additional information.

The Department of State informs the Legation that the American Embassy at Madrid has been furnished with full advice concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and at other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American countries. The Embassy was requested by the Department urgently to report to the Spanish Government the preoccupation of the United States with this matter, informing it of the discussions pending with Latin American countries with regard to a further exchange with Germany of civilians, of the United States Government's views on the eligibility of persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers for such an exchange, and of the fact that the United States Government expects that, pending such an exchange, the German Government would accord the internees in question the same treatment which it wishes extended to German civilians in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In order to assure that these persons are given every possible protection, the Embassy was requested to urge the Spanish Government to act in Madrid and in Berlin,

and

Dr. Isaac Sternbuch,
St. Gall.

and to take immediate steps to correct the impression which may have been created in Berlin that the countries of the Western Hemisphere are not concerned about the treatment which is accorded to persons holding papers issued in the names of those countries.

The Department of State further states that the Embassy at Madrid has been instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure the return to Vittel of the 238 persons whose evacuation from that camp has been reported.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/ajb

correct the impression which may have been created in Berlin that the countries of the Western Hemisphere are not concerned about the treatment which is accorded to persons holding papers issued Bern, April 24, 1944.
countries.

The Department of State further states that the
Dear Mr. Lichtheim: has been instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure the return. Referring to your letter of April 17 and my reply thereto of April 22, I now have to inform you that a telegram to the Legation from the Department of State, dated April 22, gives the following additional information on the subject of activities now being engaged in by the War Refugee Board and the American Government in an endeavor to alleviate the condition of certain Jews detained in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

J. Klahr Huddle,

The Department of State informs the Legation that the American Embassy at Madrid has been furnished with full advice concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and at other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American countries. The Embassy was requested by the Department urgently to report to the Spanish Government the pre-occupation of the United States with this matter, informing it of the discussions pending with Latin American countries with regard to a further exchange with Germany of civilians, of the United States Government's views on the eligibility of persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers for such an exchange, and of the fact that the United States Government expects that, pending such an exchange, the German Government would accord the internees in question the same treatment which it wishes extended to German civilians in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In order to assure that these persons are given every possible protection, the Embassy was requested to urge the Spanish Government to act in Madrid and in Berlin, and to take immediate steps to

correct

Mr. R. Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

correct the impression which may have been created in Berlin that the countries of the Western Hemisphere are not concerned about the treatment which is accorded to persons holding papers issued in the names of those countries.

The Department of State further states that the Embassy at Madrid has been instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure the return to Vittel of the 238 persons whose evacuation from that camp has been reported.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 24, 1 p.m., 1944

No: 2603

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference your 1268, April 12.

On April 19 Weingort called at the Legation. He was unable to state whether authorization for entry into Palestine had actually reached authorities of Germany. Weingort did not seem to be well informed regarding the fact of the situation. Your statement that so-called Palestinian certificates were lost somewhere in transmission or particularly in Switzerland or have been withheld from delivery was not confirmed by him. (Legation note: Regarding Palestine certificates there is apparently some misunderstanding. Rather than to send actual certificates it is the practice to send notification to the Government of Germany and to the persons affected, officially through the British Foreign Office, British Legation at Bern and Swiss protective power, that their entry into Palestine has been authorized by the appropriate authorities of Palestine.)

It is stated by the British Legation that there have regularly been forwarded through the Swiss authorities to Berlin lists of persons whose entry into Palestine has been authorized. The Swiss authorities, the Jewish Palestine Agency in Geneva and International Red Cross all endeavor to notify the refugees concerned directly. No instance is known to the British Legation wherein any lists have been lost or names omitted from the list. British Legation believes that notifications have all been made regularly.

I am not therefore taking further action on your telegram above referred to in the absence of more definite particulars on which action might be premised. It might be of assistance in this connection if you are able to indicate just what is meant by reference to "lost certificates" or to indicate the identity of persons who may have been affected.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

JKH/mjb
Paraphrased in dupl. (Copy to AI)

HARRISON by R. H. Parks Date

SEP 22 1972

8421
JEWS IN EUROPE

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**

GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 291.74
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/DT - A/14

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 25 1944
BERN

Genève, April 24th, 1944.
37, quai Wilson

File
[Signature]

Dear Mr. Huddle,

I have to thank you for your letter of April 22nd, concerning the attitude of the various South American States with regard to the much discussed passport question.

Although your letter, for reasons I fully understand, does not answer all the questions raised in my letter of April 17th, your explanations have been a great help to me and I am most grateful for the trouble you have taken in giving me this valuable information.

Believe me, dear Mr. Huddle,

very sincerely yours

R. Lichtheim

R. Lichtheim

84901
JEWS IN EUROPE

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation,
Legation of the United States
of America,

B e r n

3 paras one to Tittmann/nf

By [unclear] 6/24/44

File

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

To: Sephardic Jews in Germany

From: Department

Date: April 24, 4 p. m., 1944.

No: 1414

Code: [redacted]



Received: April 25, 9 a. m.

Paraphrase

From the War Refugee Board for Tittmann at Vatican City.

The message hereunder has been sent to the Madrid Embassy.

The Spanish Government, on several occasions in the past, due to intercession by the Holy See, whose humanitarian efforts have resulted in saving thousands of lives of persecuted refugees in Europe, has given protection to groups of Sephardic Jews in German-occupied territory and after their release from concentration camps has intervened with the German authorities to effect the evacuation to Spain of such persons.

The War Refugee Board has received information that a group of 400 Sephardic Jews, who previously lived in Athens, have been recently interned in a concentration camp. It is vitally essential that Spanish protection be given to the Sephardic Jews in order to prevent almost certain death and forestall deportation to Poland.

You should approach the appropriate Spanish officials and inform them of the situation of the refugees under reference in order to rescue them through the aid of the Spanish Government. The latter Government should be given full assurance that funds for the support in Spain of such refugees as may be evacuated to that country will be available and that action to speed their departure from Spain to places of refuge in other countries will be taken promptly.

Please keep the Department informed concerning developments in connection with the above.

Following for Tittmann.

Please approach the appropriate Vatican authorities to request the Vatican's support for the above.

HULL

/nf

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Exec. 1-11-72

By H. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

8401 Jews in Europe

Jews in Europe
File
Just
Rec. & Stern send an
inspector to Vittel.

MEMORANDUM

April 24, 1944.

During a conversation with Mr. Huddle this morning regarding the alleged 238 Jews confined at Vittel, he indicated to me that according to word he had received from certain interested Jewish circles in Switzerland, the statement had been made that the Government of Chili had agreed to recognize documents which had been falsely issued by certain of ~~its~~ officials abroad. Mr. Huddle asked if I would check this through Mr. Bisang.

[Signature]
G. T.

Bisang says no such word received. Howard in March 1944 F.O. received word from Chilean Govt would accept 3 named persons.
4:40 P.M. 4/26/44

GT/amh

April 26, 1944.

Bisang told me further that Mrs. Sternbuch had called at the Division (she spoke to the substitute for Maurice since the latter is now in military service.)

service.) She said that she had received word that 234 of the Jews concerned at Vittel had been removed to Drancy and that the remaining four who claimed American citizenship were still at Vittel.

Bisang said that the cases of these persons were so confused that he had forwarded the list received from Mr. Huddle to Minister Feldscher and had asked that an inspector be sent at once to Vittel to make a complete check of the situation, including how, when and where this group was at the present time and any information which would indicate their current situation.


G. T.

GT/dmh

Note: To be forwarded to Dr. Sternbuch
through the Consulate General, Zurich.

(Del.)

Bern, April 24, 1944.

840.1 JEWIS IN EUROPE

Dear Dr. Sternbuch:

12217

with reference to previous correspondence on the subject of activities now being engaged in by the War Refugee Board and the American Government in an endeavour to alleviate the condition of certain Jews detained in enemy or enemy-occupied territory, I now have to inform you that a telegram to the Legation from the Department of State, dated April 22, gives the following additional information.

The Department of State informs the Legation that the American Embassy at Madrid has been furnished with full advice concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and at other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American Countries. The Embassy was requested by the Department urgently to report to the Spanish Government the preoccupation of the United States with this matter, informing it of the discussions pending with Latin American countries with regard to a further exchange with Germany of civilians, of the United States Government's views on the eligibility of persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers for such an exchange, and of the fact that the United States Government expects that, pending such an exchange, the German Government would accord the internees ~~German civilians~~ in question the same treatment which it wishes extended to German civilians in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In order to assure that these persons are given every possible protection, the Embassy was requested to urge the Spanish Government to act in Madrid and in Berlin, and to take immediate steps to correct the impression which may have been created in Berlin that the countries of the Western Hemisphere are not concerned about the treatment which is accorded to persons holding papers issued in the names of those countries.

The Department of State further states that the Embassy at Madrid has been instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure the return to Vittel of the 238 persons whose evacuation from that camp has been reported.

Sincerely yours

J. Klahr Huddle
Counselor of Legation

Wangert feels
163 people were
removed on Apr 22nd

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**
GENEVA OFFICE

File

Telephone : 291.74
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)

Genève, April 25th, 1944.
37, quai Wilson

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 26 1944
BERN

RL/T-A/14

Dear Mr. Huddle,

I have to thank you again for the additional information contained in your letter of April 24th. I hope that the energetic action taken by the State-Department will show good results.

Yours most sincerely

R. Lichtheim
R. Lichtheim

840.1
Geneva in Europe

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation,
Legation of the United States
of America,

B e r n .

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TEL. 0 30 50
TELEGR.-ADIC. STERNBUCH

Zürich, April 25 th 1944. X

To the honorable ✓

Legation of the United States of
America,

B_e_r_n_e . . .

Dear Mr. Götzinger,

I beg to send you the following letter for your kind perusal :
After the occupation of Hungary our work of help of the Jews
has to be reduced to the rescue of them from France and Italy.
In these countries very many respectable people have to keep
themselves hidden and are longing for the help.

Unfortunately it is not quite clear up to the present, if such
an activity is allowed to be made from this country. These
people have to be informed so that they may make themselves ready

abroad for their coming over ways which are quite risky; further
the guides who help them must be paid in order to bring the
refugees through the German lines to the Swiss borders.

One should presume that such a help be permitted, because we
are applying this only to such refugees who are registered by
the Swiss Foreign-Police-Office in "Not-to-be-refused-lists"
i.e. that such refugees, after crossing the Swiss borders, would
not be refused or sent back.

I should be ever so much obliged to you if you could try and
find a way to clear this question in order to enable us to go
on with the work of rescue. Should this matter refer to the
competence of the new delegate for the problems of refugees,
Mr. Mc.Clelland, I will be ever so grateful to you for passing
my to-day's letter on to this gentleman requesting him to let
us have his help. Thanking you once again for all your kindness
I beg to remain, dear Mr. Götzinger,

very truly Yours

J. Sternbuch

Not-Refused-Lists

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 25, 4 p.m., 1944

No: 1429

Code: Brown

Received: April 26, 9 a.m.

For the Minister from the War Refugee Board.

WRB No. 4.

Please deliver a paraphrase of the following message from the War Refugee Board to Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 167, St. Gallen, Switzerland:

"Greatly pleased with your April 7th message. Suggest necessity that such couriers be supplied with larger sums and that such funds be given to outstanding personalities leaders of communities and former heads of Yeshiveth to save themselves in whatever possible manner. Ready supply you additional funds on request. Vaadhatzalah emergency committee Rabbis Rosenberg Kotler Kalmanowitz."

HULL

/nrm

in duplicate
to files

Copy to CA

Let. to Mr. Lichtheim
4/27 JKH/mjb

OL
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 26, 3 p.m., 1944

No: 1442

Code: XXXXXXXXXX

Received: April 27, 10 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

Reference is made to your telegram No. 2424, of April 16, 1944.

With reference to the fourth sentence in the message for Dr. Wise, quoted in your telegram under reference, the Department would like to know if possible who proposed to the Germans the principle of exchanging Jews holding Palestine certificates and the date and manner of acceptance by the German Government. The information requested above might assist the Department in assessing the probability of success of such efforts as may be undertaken along the lines of the proposal in question.

HULL

/nrm

in single copy

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

840.1 JEW'S IN EUROPE



VITTEL

BERNA, 26. 4. 1857

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst. and to thank you for the information it contains.

My dear friend,

I am told that the jaws of Vitell have been reported to the camp of Treacy. Of course these unfortunate people are again in great danger.

I am sending a telegram to the Vatican urging my superiors to give the Pope's personal instructions to the authorities in Madrid and Vizcaya in order to prevent a further factious separation.

I wonder if the present authorities have permitted these acts and under present pretensions as they should have done.

Could you telegraph to Madrid in the same sense? Please see for writing, but to try it's good enough to show the house, as we have a deputation committee.

With best wishes I remain

Yours cordially
R. Remond

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 1944.

Getzinger telephoned me this morning to say that he had Sternbuch with him, who would like to see me. I said that he might call.

Sternbuch said that according to information he had received by telegram from Vittel (he did not seem to wish to go into detail on how he received the telegram or from whom) to the effect that the 238 internees were to be moved from Vittel to Drancy on April 18. He said the telegram was dated April 17. He continued by stating that two of the number had succeeded in escaping and that he had received a letter from one of these two confirming the foregoing.

Sternbuch inquired whether there was any further action which the Legation could take. I told him that the Legation has requested the Swiss to demand the immediate return to Vittel of the Jews concerned from the German authorities. He asked whether the Swiss had conveyed this information. I told him that I could not answer definitely, but that since the Swiss had not indicated any

objection

840.1

JENS-EUROPE

objection to this request, it might be assumed that the request had been immediately transferred to Berlin.

He then said that he thought he would talk the matter over with Monseigneur Bernardini, indicating at the same time that he saw the Papal Nunzio two or three times each week.

G. T.

GT/amh

Bern, April 27, 1944.

Dear Mr. Lichtheim:

Having reference to a draft telegram which you submitted to the Legation under date of April 17 through Consul Paul C. Squire at Geneva, and regarding the transmission of which you were apprised in a letter from me to Mr. Squire dated April 18, you are now informed that the Department of State has signified its desire to learn if possible who proposed to the German Government the principle of exchanging Jews who are the subjects of Palestine certificates.

The Department of State would also appreciate knowing the date and manner of acceptance by the German Government of this principle. Are you by chance in a position to give me the desired information?

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Mr. R. Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**

GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone: 291.74
Telegrams: Zionorg Genève
Letters: Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/DT - 4/14

Genève, April 28th, 1944
37, quai Wilson

Very interesting letter!

Ackd 29 Apr 44

File #1

*Exchange scheme for holders
of Palestine Certificates.*

8401
Jews in Europe

Dear Mr. Huddle,

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D APR 29 1944
BERN

In answer to your letter of April 27, concerning the exchange scheme for holders of Palestinian immigration certificates, I can give you the following information :

This scheme has passed through several stages.

a) Three years ago, an exchange of a small number of Palestinian women and children (about fifty) has actually taken place. They were bearers of regular Palestinian passports and happened to be in Germany or Poland when war broke out. They were first interned by the Germans and later on exchanged against German women and children from Palestine (Exchange number I.).

b) About 800 women and children, mainly Polish, who were entitled to be residents of Palestine (the husbands or fathers having already settled in Palestine) but not yet in possession of Palestinian passports, became eligible for an exchange by decision of the British Government. They were granted immigration certificates and a list containing their names and addresses was handed to the German authorities by the Protecting Power (Switzerland).

This exchange scheme never materialized, partly because it was impossible to trace the women and children (most of them in Poland at a time when the massmurder of Jews began), partly because the negotiations between the British and the German Governments regarding the counterpart, i.e. the Germans to be exchanged against these women and children, did not lead to any tangible result. But it became clear from these negotiations that the Germans had accepted in principle the idea of exchanging Jews not yet Palestinian citizens but entitled to settle in Palestine against German nationals (Exchange scheme number II.).

Note

c) This led to a new experiment when the persecution of the Jews in Holland and other countries reached its climax. It became known that being in possession of a Palestine immigration certificate might delay or avert deportation. Many people in various countries therefore applied for such certificates. The Jerusalem office of the Jewish Agency submitted lists of several thousand names to the

Government

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
B e r n

Government of Palestine. Certificates of immigration were granted - these are the so-called Zionist Veterans certificates - and the lists were forwarded through the Foreign Office to the Protecting Power and through them to the German authorities in order to obtain the release of these persons so that they might emigrate to Palestine.

The Germans did not allow these people to leave but in conformity with their attitude taken in the case of Exchange scheme number II, declared themselves willing to negotiate on an exchange of such certificate holders (Exchange scheme number III.).

We do not know of any German promise in writing at any given date, but it is a fact that negotiations on an eventual exchange have been going on and it is also a fact that several thousand persons to whom such certificates have been granted and whose names are on the lists transmitted to the German authorities, have been separated from the other Jews in Holland and other countries and are now concentrated in special camps.

Lately we have been told that the Germans are showing signs of impatience with regard to the exchange. The British Government is apparently willing to exchange German nationals against these certificate-holders but the technical difficulties seem to be considerable, mainly because there are not enough German nationals at hand.

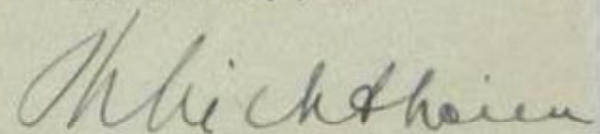
But I understand that a certain progress has been made in the course of the last weeks. It seems that the Germans have drawn up a first list of such certificate-holders which has been forwarded to London as a basis for a first exchange and that the British Government is trying to come to some arrangement.

This is the position at the present moment. It is clear that these negotiations would proceed more quickly if the number of German nationals eligible for an exchange in British territories were higher than it is. Therefore, we have suggested that the exchange scheme under review should be considered also by the United States and that German nationals in all the Allied countries should be taken into account.

In submitting these explanations I may be allowed to point out that so far all the negotiations concerning the above mentioned exchange schemes have been conducted between the British and the German Governments through the good offices of the Protecting Power. What we know of these negotiations has been disclosed to us by the Parties concerned in an informal way. I would ask you kindly to take into consideration this special circumstance in the case that your Legation should now or later discuss these matters with official quarters in Bern.

Believe me, dear Mr. Huddle,

most sincerely yours



R. Lichtheim

Note: To be forwarded to Mr. Sternbuch
through American Consulate General,
Zurich.

Bern, April 29, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
St. Gall.

Sir:

With reference to certain matters which you discussed with Mr. Getsinger of the Legation on April 26th, and to your letter of April 25th, you are informed that the conditions of entry into Switzerland of refugees from Axis or Axis-occupied territory is a matter falling only within the competence of the Swiss Government.

The Legation does not doubt that the appropriate Swiss authorities will be pleased to advise with you on the subject and to inform you fully with reference thereto.

Very truly yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

JKH/mjb

Bern, April 29, 1944.

Dear Mr. Lichtheim:

I am very much obliged for your letter of April 28 concerning negotiations in the Palestine certificate matter and have passed the substance of the information given by you to the Department of State in Washington.

Sincerely yours,
For the Minister:

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Mr. Richard Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 29, 6 p.m., 1944

No: 2738

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

OL

PARAPHRASE

Reference your telegram 1442 dated April 26.

It is reported by Lichtheim of the Jewish Agency for Palestine that the Germans have recently drawn up a list of the holders of Palestine certificates which as the basis for first coming exchange has been forwarded to London. The British Government is trying to come to some arrangement.

The first exchange, involving about 50 women and children from Germany and Poland, took place three years ago. First the Germans interned them and later they were exchanged against German women and children from Palestine.

About 800 women and children, mainly Polish, were later declared eligible for exchange by decision of the British Government, although not yet possessing Palestine certificates. They were granted certificates and the list was handed to the German authorities by Switzerland protecting power. For various reasons this proposed exchange did not materialize.

It is suggested that you may obtain the exact official details from London as the negotiations have been conducted by Switzerland as protecting power between the authorities of Germany and Great Britain.

HARRISON

JKH/Mjb

Paraphrased in duplicate

Copy in file

8401 Jews in Europe

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

Old question of accumulating!

Minister

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Let us read letter to
Huber and copy by
informal letter to Mr. JKH*

From: Department

Date: April 29, 1944, read.

No: 1 498

Code: ██████████

Received: April 30, 9 p. m.

Paraphrase

(C.I.)

The following telegram is No. 10 from the War Refugee Board for Minister Harrison.

You are requested to deliver the following to the International Red Cross:

"The War Refugee Board and the American agencies interested in refugees requests the International Red Cross to approach the German Government and the satellite governments with a view to obtaining for Jews and other persons who are detained, interned, or otherwise confined because of race, religion or political belief the following:

(1) treatment to compare with that which is accorded to civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention is applied by analogy at the present time, or,

(2) treatment of such persons comparable at least to the extent that they be granted, under the supervision of the International Red Cross, distribution and reception of food packages under guarantees similar to those in practice at the present time with respect to civilian internees referred to in (1) aforementioned.

The WRB feels strongly, in connection with the above, that (1) is preferable and suggests that (2) should be presented only if, in the judgment of the Red Cross, (1) cannot be obtained. The WRB further requests of Intercross that it secure, both from local and domestic sources of supply and channels of the International Red Cross, opportunities and facilities to obtain food and other necessities for Jews and other subjects of Nazi oppression (who, though not actually interned, have been singled out as victims of persecution) as may prove possible on a basis of equality with the local population in the communities in which they live.

The War Refugee Board also desires to call the attention of Intercross to the efforts of the Board to rescue from

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the occupied areas in as large numbers as possible Jews and other persons who are victims of persecution. It is urged by the WRB that Intercross, through considered approaches to the German authorities and other authorities of occupied areas and through any other possible means, do all that is possible to facilitate the departure of the refugees in question to neutral countries which may receive them. The War Refugee Board keenly appreciates the humanitarian activities in which Intercross is engaged and is cognizant of Intercross' continuing efforts to bring into effect the general program outlined above. The WRB is ready to collaborate with the International Red Cross in every way possible."

This section is for Minister Harrison from the War Refugee Board:

"The foregoing suggested approaches, on the part of Intercross, to German and satellite authorities are considered by the Board to be of the utmost importance in the achievement of its objectives. Bearing in mind the recent military developments, as well as the changing situation in Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary, the Board has come to the conclusion that efforts should be concentrated at present on persuading the Germans to better the situation of the Jews and other persecuted groups in territories occupied by the enemy. In accordance therewith, you are requested to support in every possible way the proposals to Intercross contained in the present telegram. If at any time you believe that the Swiss Government would find it possible to associate itself with these approaches to the Germans, or otherwise assist in this general program, you are authorized to suggest informally to the Government of Switzerland that it take some action in the matter."

HULL

Swiss might be informed of current representations.

/nf

In duplicate

Copy in Fa

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: April 29, midnight, 1944.

No: 1502

Code: ██████████

Received: April 30, 9 a. m.

Paraphrase

(C.L.)

The following telegram is for the Chief of Mission.

Reference is made to the Legation's cable no. 2282 of April 13 and to the Department's cable no. 1221 of April 10 sent to the Bern Mission.

The Department requests you to transmit to Tittmann paraphrases of the telegrams above referred to, as well as the following, also in paraphrase.

"The Government of the United States of America is most grateful for the generous initiative of the Holy See and regrets only that it did not have earlier information with regard to this initiative on the part of the Holy See. It is the view of this Government that most, if not all, of the countries of Latin America concerned would withhold their consent to the exchange of refugees or even to simple recognition of documents unless it is clearly understood by these Governments they they were not expected to admit the refugees to their territories actually. The possibility exists that the lack of such assurances in the negotiations which the Holy See undertook has resulted in the responses of the Governments reported and in Spain's action in withholding protection from the refugees. It is noted that 238 refugees were removed from the civilian internees' camp at Vittel while the negotiations were in course; it is also noted that many other refugees, several thousands possibly, are reported to face the danger of being deported to Poland.

On April 11, 1944 a circular airgram was transmitted to diplomatic Missions of the United States in the Latin American countries concerned. A paraphrase of that airgram follows hereunder.

Begin Airgram Circular:

'The American Minister at Bern, Switzerland, has informed the Department that the Foreign Interests Division of the Swiss Government has advised him informally that The Government of Switzerland had been requested by the

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Lett. 1-11-72

German

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

To Vattel

840.1 from in Europe

German authorities to investigate the bona fides of passports issued in the names of certain countries of Latin America and which passports are now in the possession of internees in areas controlled by the enemy, and further that the Latin American Governments concerned have denied responsibility as well as any claims made by the persons under reference. The Department requests you to inquire through the appropriate authorities of the government to which you are accredited whether that government has received from the Germans, through the Spanish Government or otherwise, any such inquiries with regard to the validity of the passports in the possession of the internees in question. In the event that such inquiry has been made by the Germans, the Department requests you to ascertain if a reply was made to the inquiry and, if so, the nature thereof.

Since the situation of the internees is a most perilous one, it is believed that in order to safeguard the lives of these unfortunate victims of German persecution probably the only course is to initiate negotiations forthwith through proper channels by which the internees in question will be considered as eligible for an exchange with nationals of Germany. In contemplating negotiations regarding such an exchange, it is not expected that such persons will be physically admitted, even on a tentative or temporary basis, into the territory of the government to which you are accredited. It will be the entire responsibility of the Government of the United States to make all arrangements required to route these people elsewhere.

Having in mind the foregoing, the Department requests you to approach the government to which you are accredited with the request that its approval be given to the proposal that the Government of the United States approach the Government of Germany through the proper channels with a view to initiating the negotiations aforementioned. The Department also requests you to advise the appropriate authorities of the government to which you are accredited that corresponding requests are being made of other countries of South America since it is the hope of the Government of the United States that it will be able to sponsor exchange discussions on a hemispheric basis. Further, inform such authorities that it is understood, of course, that in any such negotiations which may be entered into with regard to an exchange, the Government of the United States will consider unquestioned citizens of the United States and of countries of South America in a category entitling them to priority over others.

that The Government to which you are accredited should also be requested on humanitarian grounds to approach affirmatively through the protecting power, the German Government with the demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or making claim to its citizenship based on the possession of consular documents be safeguarded and these internees be given all immunities, rights and privileges granted to enemy nationals, who are civilian internees to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment accorded to prisoners of war is applied by analogy at the present time.

Because of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves, you are requested to act as quickly as possible in the matter under reference.

Finally, there is communicated to you, for the purpose of transmitting it to the government to which you are accredited, the substance of a cable which the Department has sent to the Bern Legation for Minister Harrison.

(This note is for Minister Harrison. A paraphrase of the Department's cable no. 1221 of April 10 followed at this point.)' End Airgram Circular.

Our Mission at Madrid was also asked to request the support of the Spanish Government in the efforts under discussion.

The Department requests you to transmit to the Holy See the substance of the foregoing communication and to express to the appropriate Vatican officials this Government's ~~warm~~ appreciation of the efforts made by the Holy See to rescue the refugees concerned; also express the hope that the Holy See may find it possible to collaborate in this Government's efforts by supporting the actions taken in Latin America and Spain and which have been detailed in the present communication.

The Department further requests you to obtain confirmation and, if possible, elaboration of the details reported in the Bern Legation's cable no. 2282 of April 13 to the Department and included in the present message, and clarification of the apparent contradictions in the information contained therein respecting the action taken by the government to which you are accredited. In view of the urgency of the matters under reference, prompt action is obviously necessary. Please keep the Department advised. You will be kept informed of developments by the Department.

The substance of the foregoing is being sent to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington for his information."

/nf: In duplicate

HULL

Let. to Papal Nuncio
T-1. to Dept. 5/3 JKH/mjb

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

C.L.

Date: April 29, midnight, 1944
(Filed April 30)

No: 1503

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: May 1, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 6. For Harrison.

The Board greatly appreciates the information given in Legation's 2282 April 13. Had it known before of the Vatican's efforts, it would have supported them with assurance to Latin American countries as indicated below. Under the circumstances the Department's 1221 April 10 becomes more urgent and the Legation is requested, if it has not already done so, to proceed accordingly with all possible despatch.

Please note in this connection that, in contemplating the exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for holders of Latin American passports, the United States Government has advised Latin American countries that they are not expected to admit any of these persons physically to their territories, but that provision will be made for them in temporary havens elsewhere.

This information may be confidentially communicated to the Papal Nuncio in Bern. We are, in the light of Legation's 2282, communicating with American missions in Latin American countries and also with the Vatican, which is being asked to support on this basis the efforts of the War Refugee Board.

HULL

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By E. H. Parker Date SEP 22 1972

8401 Jews in Europe

Report Submitted by Selhennick - Sat Apr 29th /44
50m/c.

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING JEWISH CIVIL INTERNEES
IN GERMANY - PARTICULARLY VITTEL .

(C.I.)

INTRODUCTION:

Due to the various interventions of political representatives, institutions such as the International Red Cross, Jewish organisations and some private individuals, a great deal of confusion has been created in the above mentioned matter. It has, therefore, become necessary to make a general report, dispensing with all details. Only then will it become possible to create a clear picture of the situation, in order to evaluate at their proper merit the steps which can and ought to be taken. Many of the civil prisoners who are of Jewish descent are in danger of their lives, especially those held interned in Vittel, but it is not unlikely that the same situation exists also in other camps for civil internés.

840.1 JEWIS IN EUROPE

THE CAUSE OF INTERNMENT:

In view of the complete extermination of Jews in countries occupied by the Germans, relatives and friends as well as Jewish welfare and political organisations have sought means and ways of saving at least some of these people. One of the means consisted in providing proof of citizenship of one of the belligerent powers. Citizens belonging to belligerent states (also Jews) were put into civil internment camps, where they all had equal treatment, which in general was quite satisfactory. Any person in possession of a valid passport, stating that he was a citizen of an enemy state, was interned in such a camp by the Germans. In most cases naturalization papers were sufficient; originals were hardly ever asked for, an authenticated photo copy was enough. Even a demand in writing coming from a consulate requesting that documents be submitted in order to make out a passport would suffice. The willingness of the Germans to put anybody who could produce such a document into a civil internment camp, without examining the matter any further and without taking into consideration the religion or descendency of

such persons, as well as the good treatment prevailing in such camps, is obviously due to their desire that their nationals should be equally well treated in enemy countries, and to the fact that they wished to gather material for an eventual exchange of interned persons.

The necessary legitimation papers were obtainable through various consulates, mostly those of the South American states. High prices were often paid for such papers, as human lives were at stake. Through the consulates in Switzerland passports were provided for Paraguay, Honduras, a few also for Haiti and Peru; while passports for other South American states, such as Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica etc. could be obtained in the United States and Sweden.

In this way about 10.000 Jews from the occupied territories entered the civil internment camps of Vittel, Liebenau, Tittmonig. The owners of certificates for Palestine, who did not possess the nationality of a belligerent state, were put in the camp Belsen-Bergen (Celle), which is not a civil internment camp like those mentioned above, but holds a special status.

As the documents in question had been issued by the various consuls without their getting in touch with their governments and against payment, their credentials were withdrawn - mainly in Switzerland - during the second half of 1943 (July/August/September). We immediately took steps through the Jewish international organisations especially in the U.S.A. in order to have the passports formally acknowledged. In support of our request we stated, that the passports had been issued by the consuls entitled thereto, that they merely serve the purpose of saving the persons in question from a sure death, and that these passports cannot be used for emigration purposes (the internés usually only possess a photo copy of same). In any case it was foreseen that these internés should be given back their original passports after the cessation of hostilities. We took all these steps as we feared that as soon as the Germans learned that various consuls had been dismissed, they would begin to raise objections to such passports. As a matter of

near Hannover

Wb - 100?

Critical reasoning

fact a commission from Berlin visited Vittel on December 10th 1943, looked over the passports of the Jewish internés and took them back to Berlin for further examination. Thereupon we redoubled our efforts in view of having them officially recognised; steps were also taken by the Polish, Belgian and Dutch Legations, who saw their citizens getting into great danger. Interventions were also made via the Apostolic Nunciature, i.e. the Vatican. The various wires despatched in this matter, as well as the steps taken by the individual legations were not coordinated, which lateron was the cause of misunderstandings. The various governments reacted differently, and in the course of time changed their opinion. Paraguay f.i. first of all replied in a negative sense, agreeing lateron to acknowledge the passports issued, but refusing to accept the exchange stipulation, having nobody to offer in return. Peru declared to be unable to accede to our request, as the protective power (Switzerland) does not want to assume the representation. This information was communicated to the Polish legation here by their government; it is, however, not clear and must be elucidated. Haiti demanded a list of the passports issued and the Polish government in London also wished to have a statement indicating those countries which would come into consideration, and a list of all passports. These statements were given to the Polish Legation, but as far as I know they did not go any further, being too voluminous to be transmitted by wire. As will be seen lateron, it would be important to communicate the names of the individuals in question. Other replies were received by the Nunciature. From all this it would appear that the whole situation is very confused, with the exception of Paraguay, who definitely acknowledged the passports issued by its consulates. It is certain, however, that the persons in question are not mentioned or known by name either to the respective representative in Switzerland or in Spain.

In spite of the examination which took place on December 10th 1943, the situation in Vittel remained unchanged up to March 19th 1944. On that date we received the information quoted below which was contained in a letter :

Wsp. Domus

Of the 434 persons of Jewish descent interned here, 232 of whom we have a list in our files (a copy of which we attach hereto) have been isolated in order to be deported lateron. We do not know the reasons for this isolation, but the persons in question were informed that they are protected by no one, as neither Switzerland nor Spain (Spain acting as protective power for Paraguay) have informed Germany of their intention to take care of them, and furthermore had nobody to offer in exchange. The Swiss government furthermore declared that they had had no information from the respective governments either concerning the owners of passports or those in possession of certificates. The internés in question begged us to prevail upon the protective power to intervene on their behalf, mentioning their names and stating explicitly that they are under its safeguard. This statement should be given to the camp leader as well as to the Foreign Office in Berlin.

Why the American's

As the matter was very urgent and there was no time to get in touch with the Spanish government, acting as protective power for Paraguay, a provisional statement should have been given by the American legation. On April 17th, however, the internés in question were informed that they would be sent to Drancy on April 18th. Lateron we received information to the effect that on April 19th only three persons were deported who were in possession of passports from Ecuador. On April 26th we learned that two internés escaped from Vittel. We had an opportunity of speaking to them and they gave us the following information:

On March 19th they were isolated and were told that unless it were possible to exchange them, they would be deported to Drancy. The camp leader told them they still had a few weeks' time and that they should take the necessary steps. On the 18th April, however, Gestapo agents arrived suddenly from Paris and the house containing the 232 persons was surrounded. They were told to pack their belongings and prepare for departure during the next day. They were assured that they would remain

in Drancy and as soon as notification was received from the protective power they would not be deported any further. The two internés escaped that same evening.

Later on we received news that 80 persons were deported, but that 20 returned the next day. For what reasons this was done we do not know. We only know that the guards mentioned "we have brought back these people as we are afraid of trouble". From this we gather that the situation of these people is very dangerous and that everything should be done to save them - without paying attention to formalities. The best way would be:

1. for the protective power - only Switzerland enters into consideration - to declare on basis of a communication from the American legation in Berne, that these people (namely those in Vittel as well as those who have been sent to Drancy) might eventually be used for an exchange;

2. to issue a communication stating that in case of further deportations similar preventive measures would be applied to German citizens in the United States.

3. As a similar situation might very well arise with regard to the other internés in Vittel, as well as the people in the other civil internment camps (Tittmonig, Liebenau, etc.) it would be best to register the internés already now with the protective powers.

I would furthermore suggest that the men who escaped from Vittel and who are at present in the orphanage in Lausanne (Ajzensstadt and Dudelsack) be questioned.

*Camp d'accueil
de l'Orphanat
Lausanne - a Swiss
reception camp for refugees
under military control.*

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