

Measures Directed toward Halting Persecution: Romania, Vol. 2

028

October 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Regarding the Family of Zeilik Kant

10/7/44
Rumania
Mexico
Act Turkey

We are informed that 30 to 40 years ago the Jewish Colonization Association, with funds received from the well-known Baron de Hirsch, established several agricultural colonies in Turkey, for the settlement of Jewish people from Bessarabia and Russia. Among the settlers located on one of the Jewish Colonization Association farms at Panderma (Vilayet Balikkesser) was the family of Zeilik Kant, which came from Bessarabia. This family is composed of ten members, of which five are Rumanian subjects, two Turkish subjects, and three Mexican subjects. Their names are given below.

*ZEILIK KANT - 72 years old. Widower,
father of children KANT

*ALBERT KANT - 46 years old. Eldest son,
married, has one child

LAURE KANT - Turkish subj.
wife of Albert
Kant

RAYMOND KANT - Turkish
subject, son of
Albert (2 yrs.)

*IZIA KANT - 32 years old. Unmarried.

*ESTHERA KANT - 44 years old. Eldest
daughter, married to
a Mexican subject, has
two sons.

MORITZ SEGAL - Mexican
subject (husband
of Esthera Kant)
Izia Segal) sons of
Rene Segal) Esthera Kant

**ANNA KANT - 27 years old. Unmarried
daughter, born in Turkey.

* Born in Bessarabia.

**Born in Turkey but of Rumanian nationality.

The five Rumanian nationals have received an order of expulsion,
after having lived for more than 30 years in Turkey.

We are advised that up to the early 1920's, the Rumanian members of this family when traveling abroad from Turkey were recognized as Rumanian subjects, and the Rumanian Consulate delivered to them the necessary passports for overseas travel. In 1938, their Rumanian nationality was lost as the result of a law affecting Jewish people from Bessarabia. Nevertheless, the Rumanian Consulate delivered certificates of Rumanian nationality in order to assist this family to secure the necessary Turkish identity papers, which had to be renewed every year.

Title to the farm on which the Kant family were tenants was registered in the name of the late Mr. Franz Philippson, a Belgian national, formerly president of the Jewish Colonization Association. We are advised that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps to expropriate this farm, which the Belgian Embassy is protesting. In connection therewith, the five Rumanian members of the Kant family have received an expulsion order from Turkey. This expulsion order, we are advised, was received by the fourth section of the police in Istanbul, issued in Ankara; and a fifteen-day time-limit, from September 13, was given. This expulsion order subsequently was stayed, and is now pending.

The Rumanian members of the Kant family, now being without nationality technically, have no country to which they can go, assuming that the expulsion order is enforced. It appears, according to our information, that there is nothing on the record to warrant the issuance of the expulsion order to the Kant family.

It may be that the facts are not sufficiently known by the higher Turkish authorities, that is, that the Kant family were

only tenants on the Jewish Colonization Association farm. They might be very glad to have these facts called to their attention before further steps are taken with regard to the Kants. Meanwhile, the protection and assistance of the Rumanian mission in Turkey for this family undoubtedly would be of great help.

HK/b

913147
Roumania

September 13, 1944

file

ANKARA FOLDER

Talk to M. Simond about information secured from
Bratiano regarding Kolb.

10/26/44
Rosen
Amemb Ankara

Istanbul, October 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

You will recall the number of telegrams which were received from the War Refugee Board concerning the four Schleifer children. Two of them, the boys Alexander and Otto, with their aunt, Margarete Neulander, came to Istanbul with the group of 160 children destined for Palestine, about which I told you yesterday. The other two Schleifer children, Judith and Naomi, were lost with the Mefkura.

The enclosed draft of a telegram to the War Refugee Board is self-explanatory. If agreeable to you, will you please have it transmitted to Washington.

I suggested to the aunt, Miss Neulander, in whose care the four children had been left, and who feels personally responsible for the loss of the two girls since the decision to send them by the Mefkura was in part hers, that we would be glad to send a letter through the pouch for the parents of the two boys. I understand from Mr. Troutman that it is not in accordance with regulations to send private communications of this kind through the pouch. Nevertheless, in view of the exceptional and tragic circumstances, perhaps Miss Neulander's letter can be forwarded so that the parents will have some direct word from their own relative regarding their children.

I am sending the whole file of correspondence, etc. to you, because of your interest in the case and to give you an opportunity for seeing everything there is on the matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki.

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Encls: as described

HK:VH

October 19, 1944

10/19/44
Rumanian
Memo
J.A.

M E M O R A N D U M

In a communication received by Mr. Ueberall from Mr. Averbuch in Bucharest, the following points were made:

1. The Russians in Rumania are giving no assistance to refugees in that country, whom they regard as Russian subjects. This would include refugees from Bessarabia, Transnistria, and Bucovina. As Russian subjects, they will be repatriated in due course to those areas from whence they came.

2. Neither the Rumanian Government nor the Rumanian Red Cross feels that it has any responsibility towards these alleged Russian refugees. They say that they have enough to do to assist Rumanian nationals, including Rumanian Jews and those refugees who are non-Russian. The Russian authorities, they say, are responsible for their own nationals.

3. The extent of want among the Jewish people in Rumania is very great. Approximately 20 per cent of Rumanian Jewry has ample funds and may be regarded as well-to-do. The remaining 80 per cent, however, is in very straitened circumstances economically, too poor to provide for their own necessities. Men, fathers and sons, have been in labor camps, and although they are now returning to their homes, neither they nor their families have had proper food for three and a half years. They are without food and clothing, a situation which becomes more acute with the approaching winter months. Although the men are now returning home, that is not to say that they are able to find employment immediately, and to earn the funds necessary to maintain their families and themselves. Filderman has set up

a budget to cover minimum requirements for the needy Jewish people in Rumania, in the amount of 3½ billion lei. This is to cover food, clothing, shelter; particularly in behalf of former internees in labor camps, who are now returning, and for refugees. The substantial part of this budget should be made available for welfare work immediately. It is quite impossible for the Jews in Rumania to undergo another winter under existing circumstances.

4. The Rumanian Red Cross has secured permission from the Rumanian Government to organize transports of Jewish emigrants from Rumania until the termination of the war. Pandelis is cooperating with the Rumanian Red Cross, and Averbuch has found a means for composing differences among the various factions in Rumania, in order that there might be broader cooperation in refugee and relief work.

5. The captain of the Salahaldin expects to return to Istanbul with his vessel on October 26. He will return whether or not passengers have been embarked for the voyage. It does not appear that consent of the Russian authorities is now necessary for emigration from Rumania, even by sea. However, the Russians will not permit access to Constanza for embarkation, as this port is being used for military purposes. Consequently, Averbuch in order not to lose time in trying to secure Russian permission for Constanza, is attempting to arrange the sailing from another port, either Mangalia or Baltchik, both of which are small ports and not being used for military purposes. He will try to embark 500 people on the Salahaldin from one of these ports for the voyage to Istanbul.

6. Difficulty has arisen with regard to the issuance of

Bulgarian transit visas in Rumania. Although the Bulgarian authorities have notified their consul in Rumania that he is authorized to issue transit visas to applicants en route to Palestine, the instructions indicated that confirmations that Palestine certificates are available must come from the Turkish authorities. This is now being corrected to provide for confirmations by the Jewish Agency.

7. Formally, anti-Jewish laws in Rumania have been abolished. Effectively, however, there are no visible results of this abolition, as the Rumanian authorities are taking no steps to implement them in relation to the Rumanian population in general.

In a conversation with Mr. Joe Levy, who just returned to Istanbul from Bucharest, he informed me that Mr. Filderman had told him of the three-and-a-half-billion-lei budget which Mr. Filderman thought necessary for relief purposes to the Jewish people in Bucharest. Mr. Levy confirmed that the situation of the Jews in Rumania is disastrous, and that assistance should be sent to them immediately. He said that there were perhaps 150,000 Jews in Rumania, for whom aid is required. He made specific mention of approximately 30,000 Jews in Jassy, which might be regarded as the community worst off in Rumania.

HK/b

TELEGRAM SENT

1944
10/18
Oct. 18, 1944

WRB 166

Subject: ~~XXXX~~ Number and nationality of refugees in
Rumania. Need for their evacuation, particularly
Transnistrian refugees.

10/16/44
Rumania
Antisemitism

Istanbul, October 16, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The attached draft of a cable to the War Refugee Board is based upon figures and information just received by us from Mr. Wilhelm Filcerman, who as you know, is the leader of the Jewish Community in Rumania.

These are the first figures we have received from him, and if you deem it advisable I think the War Refugee Board should be informed.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Encl. #166

HK:VH

10029

*Special
Communication
Hungary*

TELEGRAM SENT

Oct. 16, 1944

WRB 165

Subject: Need for evacuation of Hungarian Jews. Further remarks
on desirability of Mr. Katzki's proceeding to Bucharest.

7 0 0 2 9 2

2/15/44
Romania

October 16, 1944

WILHELM FILDERMAN
STRADA ST. AICSTOLI 16

BUCHARBEST

YOUR TELEGRAM REPLYING HIRSCHMANN'S FIVE SEPTEMBER
RECEIVED FIFTEEN OCTOBER stop APPRECIATE INFORMATION AWAITING
FULL REPORT stop REGARDS

HERBERT KATZKI

Herbert Katzki
c/o American Consulate General
Istanbul

Sp. 11/16/44

10029

4157-1
Rumania
Ambassador

Istanbul, October 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The Department's telegram No. 310 of September 20 indicates that permission for me to proceed to Bucharest depends in some measure upon the clearance by the State Department and other interested agencies of certain matters then outstanding.

It would seem to me that the authorization given by the Department for certain American Missions to proceed to Rumania would imply that some of the pending questions have been clarified. Consequently it may now be opportune for the War Refugee Board to bring up again with the Department the question of authorization for me to proceed to Rumania. A suggested telegram in this regard is enclosed, and if you agree I would appreciate your having it dispatched to the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Katzki

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Encl. #165

HK:VH

10029

October 11, 1944

*2/16/44
Rumania
T.A
fyo*

Please secure from Wilhelm Milderma, Strada St. Apostoli 16,
and Jancu Kaufmann, Vasile Varlove 15, Bucharest, full report
covering following points regarding refugee emigration from
Rumania via Istanbul.

- (1) Present possibility travel by sea and land.
- (2) If impossible, give reasons.
- (3) Are exit permits and travel documents being issued stop

Foregoing information essential prior giving consideration
telegraphic requests to secure alteration Turkish Foreign Office
agreement now authorizing transit sea voyages exclusively.

7 0 0 2 9

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Oct. 7, 1944

10/7/44
J. D. C.

For Ambassador Erwin Hirschmann in Jerusalem

Subject: Pressman to be notified in plenty of time before proceeding to Rumania with Katzki.

10029

Mănuirea of the 4/10/44

The Soviet Command takes under its protection the transnistrian children.
They consider them as soviet citizens.

Presidency of the ^{Board} Board of Ministers
Board for social aid and protection
Local committee of Bucarest
Nr 6774 23/9/44

To
the Committee for Relief
here
Calea Moşilor: 78

We have the honour to inform you, that we have, in accordance with the demand of the soviet command, to send back the jewish children originating from Transnistria, Bessarabia and Bucovina Nord. Till the repatriation operates, the children will be lodged with the Board for social aid and protection, according to the instructions given by the soviet command to the chief of the general Municipality of the capital. In execution of the abovementioned instructions we delegated four officials in order to carry our the registration of the children in common with your organs, as it was decided in sequence of our meeting with your president adv. Schwefellberg. We ask you to give urgent instructions to your organs in order to accelerate the registration.

/-/ Dr Kokonec
General Secretary

Translation

tip

12/1/44
Romanian
Newspaper
1944

Extract from "MANTUIRA" ["Rescue"], October 4, 1944

. . .As it is known, out of the orphans that have been brought over from Transnistria at the cost of such tremendous sacrifices, only a few hundred have been able to leave, whereas 1350 are still here.

The Soviet Command has taken these children under its protection, considering that they all are Soviet citizens by birth. Consequently, the Command has ordered that these children be transferred from the Homes where they have been sheltered up to now to new premises, which had hitherto been serving as Homes to certain educational institutions controlled by the Ministry of Labor.

On this occasion, the Committee of Assistance that had hitherto been taking care of the children, received the following letter from the Prime Minister:

"Presidency of the Cabinet

"Council of Social Welfare

"Municipal Committee of Bucarest

"September 23, 1944, No. 6774

"To the Committee of Assistance, Bucarest,

"78, Calea Moşilor.

"We have the honor to inform you that, subsequent to the demand made by the Russian Military Command, the Jewish children originating from Transnistria, Bessarabia, and northern Bucovina are to be repatriated. Pending the final arrangements for their repatriation, those children will be housed by the

Council of Public Welfare in conformity with the instructions issued by the General Commanding the Russian Forces and by the Chief Mayor of Bucarest.

"With the purpose of carrying out these instructions, I have delegated four officials who will undertake a census of all those children, in cooperation with your representatives, in the way we fixed it up today in the conversation we had with your President, Lawyer Schwefelberg.

"We would like to ask you to be good enough to instruct your respective organs to carry out this census in the most urgent way.

"(signed) General Secretary

"General Coconet."

Translation

1944
Rumania
Rescue
J. H.

Extract from "EANTHRA" ["Rescue"], October 4, 1944

"IT IS NOT THE WAY IT LOOKS"

A Short Introduction to the history of
Jewish Emigration from Rumania in the Last Decade,
by Jean Cohen.

. . . Dr. A. L. Zissu, president of the Zionist organization in Rumania and mandatory of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Rumania, having visualized the urgent need for carrying on the emigration of Rumanian Jews to Palestine, regardless of ways and costs, has been trying on the one hand to intensify the rate of emigration, and on the other to remove from its way blackmail and spoliation in which certain greedy shipping agents had been indulging, in connivance with some fascist elements inside the Government itself. It is a fact that years ago, in order to be able to evade the almost prohibitive provisions established by the Mandatory Power with regard to immigration, it had been found necessary to resort to the cooperation of certain clandestine elements and shipping agents. That cooperation and the methods that went with it have created conditions of transportation that were inhuman, and involved material sacrifices beyond any imagination. Evidently, these unscrupulous and spoliating elements, namely shipping agents and captains of vessels, were at the beginning merely collaborators to whom very high prices would be paid by the official bodies dealing with emigration. Lately, however, they started doing it all on their own account, and very often turned into criminal undertakers instead of discharging

030

their jobs as shipping agents and ship-owners. They turned the tragic problem of Jewish emigration, that is a problem of general interest, into a criminal enterprise of blackmail and spoliation. Thus it was very natural that these shipping agents should, by means of graft and astronomical bribes, ensure to themselves the cooperation of important members of the country's administration, in order, with the help of the latter, to be in a position to blackmail and profiteer on the emigration legally initiated and carried out by the Emigration Office of the Zionist Organization.

It is good that everybody should know that neither the Zionist Organization nor the Emigration Office were ever able to charter a single vessel nor carry out a single transport except on the conditions of a monopoly savagely and incessantly exercised by influential agents with the connivance of the State. These agents have been able, by means of tremendous grafts, to assure for themselves tremendous influence, both with the German Gestapo as well as with the competent authorities in the Rumanian State administration. It is good that people should also know that these influences were so powerful and so efficient that not even the official emigration bodies of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul, where boats would be chartered at the cost of immense efforts, were able to free themselves from this heavy servitude. Every attempt for removing these influences would immediately result in the creation of certain situations, both in Istanbul and in Bucarest, that would simply suppress emigration at all.

This was the reason why vessels used for transportation, their quality and cost as well as the rate and the general conditions of emigration, were at a certain time fully and

completely at the discretion of that private monopoly exercised by the shipping agencies. At the end of April, 1944, Mr. Zissu, as mandatory of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Rumania and as President of the Zionist organization, started a campaign intended to convince the former Government to make up its mind whether it was ready loyally and honestly to give its support to Jewish emigration and then be prepared to hand over this matter to the exclusive competence of a Jewish public institution, as could be the Zionist organization of Rumania. If, on the other hand, the Government was not prepared to do it, Mr. Zissu pointed out, then it would have to admit its connivance, let it be even a silent one, with those private commercial organizations that, with the aim of spoliation, had in fact monopolized the whole activity of emigration.

Thus, the Government was placed in an alternative which it could no longer fail to realize. The result of it was that, on June 2, 1944, the Government finally gave its agreement, in principle, to the propositions stated in one of the memoranda addressed to it by Mr. A. L. Zissu. Thus, an emigration Office was created, presided over by Mr. A. L. Zissu, mandatory of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, with technical counsellors, to be appointed by him.

This represented a great achievement, both for the prestige of the Zionist organization of Rumania as well as for the fate of emigration, because through the tenacity and clear political vision of Mr. A. L. Zissu, a possibility was found that, after hard struggle, the activity of emigration of Rumanian Jews and of Jewish refugees from Hungary and Poland to Palestine should, from a spoliatory and criminal trade exercised by unscrupulous

shipping agents, be transformed into an institution of national rescue.

However, Iacov Lecca, the hangman of the Jewish population in Rumania, did not disarm. With the help of the very people who, by this reform, saw themselves dispossessed of a source of fantastic profits from crime and plunder, and also with the help of the tremendous funds put by them at his disposal for graft, as well as the help of certain Jews who debased themselves to become instruments of others and make either political speculations or simple profiteering on emigration, Lecca finally succeeded in holding up the departure of boats for weeks and weeks, thus endangering the whole work of rescue of Jewish refugees from Hungary and Poland, of the Jewish children repatriated from Transnistria, and of young pioneers (Chalutzim). It took a good deal of heavy struggle against the men in the Government as well as against those working in the shadow of the former Antonescu regime, and it also required tremendous financial sacrifices, until it became possible to lift the ban that prevents the departure of those boats. As an illustration to this, it is enough if we point out that only for making possible the departure of the boat HAZBA the Emigration Office had been compelled to pay to the Council of Public Welfare, at the demand of and under the pressure from the Interministerial Commission for Jewish Emigration appointed by Marshal Antonescu, the sum of 75 million lei [over \$30,000 -- Translator]. Today, both the Zionist Organization as well as the Emigration Office are trying to recover this sum from the Public Welfare Council.

Unfortunately, the pending contracts made by the respective

bodies of the Jewish Agency abroad could no longer be cancelled except at the cost of heavy financial penalties, which would have made the cost of emigration even heavier. Thus, the Emigration Office was compelled to take over, on its own account, the heavy charge of a situation of fact, namely that emigration must continue.

The Emigration Office succeeded, however, in achieving another very important point, which was primary to the whole problem, namely to submit emigration to the following principles:

(1) the principle of free passage.

(2) the principle that he who does not deserve to enter Palestine, whether because of his being an agent of nazism under any form, or because of his being a person of bad morals, could not embark on those boats, no matter how much money he was ready to pay. He could not do it even if he had resorted to blackmail, as was the case of Bernard Compenitz and others, who had tried to make use of pressure on behalf of the Government and the Nazi agent Eduard Loebe. As a matter of fact, since it was being handled by the Emigration Office, emigration proved to be free to a proportion of 92.3 per cent of the passengers of each boat.

Nevertheless, if this chapter of Jewish emigration from Rumania also has enough sad passages, it is so because during the three months only that this Office has been functioning, having to brave all storms and to face all kinds of fiendish attacks both from within and from outside, it could not possibly remedy entirely a situation that had been lasting for years . . .

Ankara, October 3, 1944

Dear Monsieur Cretzianu:

I regret that I have been requested to return to Washington for consultation suddenly and that it has not given me time to say au revoir to my numerous friends in Turkey. Again I want to thank you for the opportunity I have had to confer with you and your sympathetic and helpful aid. I only regret that I cannot see you and tell you this in person, but I hope that we shall meet again in peaceful times either in Washington or elsewhere.

My assistant, Mr. Herbert Katski, is remaining here to carry on the work of the War Refugee Board and there is one matter on which he will confer with you at your convenience. I know you will offer him all possible assistance.

Again with thanks and good wishes,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attaché

Monsieur Alexandre Cretzianu
Rumanian Minister to Turkey
Rumanian Legation
Ankara

92741
Ankara
Ambassador

Istanbul, September 23, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On Tuesday, when I was in Ankara, I mentioned to you the circumstances surrounding the S.S. Smyrnie, a Greek registry boat chartered by the Jewish Agency for the purpose of rescue operations. The Smyrnie is now in Ismail, Rumania, having been sequestered by the Russians under the terms of the armistice.

You stated that it was not in order for the Embassy to take any active steps, in view of the absence of an American interest. I have been since informed that the Joint Distribution Committee of America will be charged with \$50,000 which has been spent for the purpose of fitting the cost for refugee operations.

While it is my impression that there are no steps which can be taken in connection with the matter at the present time, I deemed it desirable to transmit this additional information to you.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

IAH/b

030

Istanbul, 13.9.1944.

Dear Mr. Hershmann,

SEP 14 RECD

we have received today a cable from Pandelis, Bucarest, informing us about the following:

The m/v SMYRNY was sequestered by the Russian authorities and brought to the Danube-port of Ismail, Rumania. The ship is flying the Greek and the Rumanian Red Cross flag. SMYRNY belongs to the Greek subjects Elena Grigore Stathatos, Braila, Berlescu Constantin 5 and Marigo Stathatos, Athens. It was protected by the Rumanian Red Cross.

We have invested in this ship the amount of 250.000 Swiss Francs or 50.000 Dollars. This money comes from the J.D.C.

The SMYRNY can carry about 2000 refugees. She was designed for the transport of Hungarian and Polish refugees now in Rumania.

We have asked the Greek Consulate, Istanbul, to intervene with the Russian government and to make sure, that this ship is Greek property. The Consulate is forwarding the matter to the Greek Embassy, Ankara and has promised to get busy on it.

We hope, that you will do everything in order to release the ship and that you will succeed.

Faithfully
yours

Mr. I. Hirshmann,
-Istanbul.-

G.E. Weberall.

10030

92-101
R. A. Hirschmann
Pehle

Istanbul, September 21, 1944

Dear John:

I think you will be interested in the quotation below from a broadcast of September 16 of an American newspaperman in Bucharest:

"Examination of shipping statistics has revealed that the mining in the Danube carried out entirely by the R.A.F. was 'astonishingly effective' according to one officer. Rumanian shipping on the Danube was altogether over by August and German barges trying to get petroleum products to Germany despite the mines suffered heavy losses."

This confirms the information which had been reaching us in Istanbul concerning the danger of Danubian waters for the transport of refugees, and relates directly to the decision which was made by us in connection with the Jabotinsky proposal to charter vessels to proceed with refugees from Budapest via the Danube.

With warm personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

J. W. Pehle, Esquire
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 9, D. C.

IAH:VH

T. C.
MUNAKALAT VEKALATI
P. S. T. İ. Ş. U. M.

Devlet telgraf mühüratından
dolayı mesuliyet kabul etmez.

TELGRAF

OCT 15 RECD

125144
Rumania
(Örnek: B. 1)

Yol

Servis İşaretleri

Adres :

Hatlardaki arıza

sebabile gecikmiştir

- hirschman care of american consulate. isbu

| Sıra No. | İlk Merkez | No. | KELİME | VERİLDİĞİ | RƏSMİ | ORTA MERKEZ | ALINDIĞI | İMZA |
|----------|------------|-----|-----------|------------------|---------|-------------|------------|------|
| | | | Bukaresti | 5813 66 20/9 13. | İstisna | | Tarih Saat | |

- reçu votre cinq septembre stop réfugiés juifs treze cent
polonais neuf cent hongrois cent dix allemands autrichiens quinze
mille rapatriés de transistrie stop gouvernement approuve notre
demande entree roumanie environ sept mille juifs de youéostavie
stop depart bateau impossible avant pacification balkans stop
snyrnie auspices jewish agency stop depart urgent emergency

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

T. C.
TANAKALAT VEKALETI
P. T. T. İş. U. M.

Devlet telgraf muhaberatından
dolayı mesuliyet kabul etmez.



TELGRAF

Adres :

(Örnek : B. 1)

Yol

Servis İşareti

Hattadaki arıza
sebebiyle gecikmiştir

Lesous rappatriés transmissio stop attendons plaisir votre
- arrivez - filderman .+ HUSUSI

10031

TELETYPE UNIT

9/17/44
2000000
Sept. 19, 1944

RE 157

Subject: Developments since sending #149, Sept. 5, indicate possibilities of rescue from Hungary through Turkey are now remote. Request authorization to return to U.S., as Gatzki prepared to stay.

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Translation of article appearing in the

Monasterea Nostra of September 18, 1944.

THE JEWISH EMIGRATION TO PALESTINE BY ERIC LALSTIRE.

On what conditions transit visas are granted for
Rumania and Turkey.

In this article, signed by E. H. Alter, a survey is given of the Jewish emigration from Rumania to Palestine, its origin, character, aims and means. It is pointed out that in the last few weeks ---

"All Jewish institutions abroad, and especially the leaders of the Jewish Agency and of American Jewry, have been concentrating political efforts and financial means on stimulating the relief work for those under Nazi yoke. Evidently the attention of these leaders has been directed towards the stimulation of Jewish emigration to Palestine as the only salutary solution. A large number of emigration certificates to Palestine have been assigned to the Jews in Southeastern Europe, to those of Rumania, to those deported in 1941 and 1942 to Transnistria, as well as the refugees from Poland who have been able to find a temporary shelter in Rumania.

"This emigration which, according to the number of certificates granted, which was intended to take place in conditions of a maximum speed, was meant to bring a solution to the Jewish problem in this part of Europe and to save the remnants of Polish Jewry. The latter category was so much the more interesting as it also comprised automatic witnesses of the list of charges to be dressed against Nazism for all the horrors committed in Poland.

On the other hand, the provisions of the latest white book, which were to prevent Jewish emigration to Palestine after April 1, 1944, have been modified to the extent that emigration be able to go on for two years after peace is signed, in which case it will be quite possible to use up an important number of certificates granted under the same white book."

"The Direct Aims of Emigration."

"The Jewish emigration to Palestine was to serve a triple scope ---

To place at the disposal of Palestine a sufficient quantity of manpower to meet the war economy there, the development of which for the last two years has been in full swing;

To place volunteers at the disposal of the Allied armies;

to re-enforce Jewish self-defense and the Jewish element in Palestine with a view to the moment when the political situation of the country is to be decided."

The article then speaks of the various difficulties from the side which unfortunately prevented this emigration from developing to the speed intended. It points out the various formal difficulties in the way of applicants who would apply for Bulgarian or Turkish transit visas. It then goes on --

"New provisions"

"The most desired solution in this direction would have been that the Turkish transit visas be granted automatically with the emigration certificates. A beginning towards this solution has already been made. The Emigration Office in Bucharest received clearer instructions under which the possessor of an emigration certificate would be in a position automatically to obtain a Turkish transit visa, provided he produced to the Turkish Consulate a letter from the Emigration Office certifying to the existence of an emigration certificate in his name.

"This provision, however, is only valid for a person or persons who sail from the port of Constanza (emigrants from Bulgaria) or from the port of Burgos (emigrants from Bulgaria), which practice annuls the favorable aspects of the provisions related above.

"On the other hand, the Turkish Consulate has instructions generally not to grant transit visas any longer except for persons who are to sail from Constanza. In practice, this means that it would be impossible for one, from now on, to make use of the land route via Bulgaria to Turkey, via Svillingrad.

"There is only one solution to this problem: The Turkish visas should be granted, leaving to the emigrant latitude of choice of the way he is to proceed to Palestine, by sea or by land. According to our information, the Emigration Office has undertaken the necessary démarches for solving this extremely important question in the sense pointed out by us above.

"Again, when speaking of the technique of supplying Turkish visas, it must be remembered that that visa cannot be divided. In other words, a visa is being granted for a family as a whole, and if one of the members of that family is, for instance, a youngster over 18, he will not be able to get his visa on his own passport, but will inexorably have to make use of the collective passport of the whole family.

"The Bulgarian Visa".

In regard to the Bulgarian visa, this one could not be obtained in the past, except for persons over 60. This change has been taken solely in view of the existence of that type of German control at the frontier called "lyllin red". The new change of regulations in Bulgaria must realize that this is a visa in which no danger of, peace, war, etc., etc., are involved, that the transit through Bulgaria for them will be made with much less care than before!

"Internal Difficulties"

This comprises various questions in connection with obtaining exit visas with the right of return within 30 days, with the various difficulties with all kinds of exit permits and institutions.

In this connection, there are two aspects to be pointed out, as obviously deriving from racial legislation, namely:

- a. The statement that has to be made that, in the event of departure from the country, the Jewish emigrant renounces the right of ever returning again;
- b. The certificate certifying, to the effect that the Jew in question has settled all the various obligations with regard to the innumerable taxes imposed upon Jews by the late Commissary General for Jewish problems through the Jewish Central in Rumania.

There is no need for too many arguments to show how much abuse there is in the obligation of presenting such testimonials. It is enough to point out that they make no sense whatsoever under the regime of today.

September 15, 1944

Moses Leavitt
Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York

Hirschmann telegraphed Fehle September 5 requesting permission of State Department and Board for him and me to proceed to Rumania stop Have meanwhile obtained Rumanian visa and ready proceed but awaiting reply stop As guide to me in development our program this area which very pressing would appreciate your inquiring to determine likelihood obtenti n this permission and when stop Appreciate urgent reply.

Charles Passman

Charles Passman

Park Oteli

Ayas Paşa

Istanbul

912/44
K...
Ambassador

Istanbul, September 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Pursuant to your suggestion, I saw Colonel Gibson at the British Consulate yesterday, and he informed me that, while they did not authorize any "impromtu" newspapermen to go to Bucharest at this time, they were as a matter of policy desirous of sending Barles and possibly Ueberall of the Jewish Agency; that as an institution of the British Government he wishes to encourage the activities of the Jewish Agency, which had been helpful in intelligence work.

Colonel Gibson stated that after his talk with Cretzianu on Friday there was little hope of securing an airplane at this time, and that he was leaving for Ankara this coming Friday, September 15, in order to make arrangements with the Turkish officials for an automobile to take British representatives to Bucarest, possibly next week. I asked for Passman and me to be included in this group. He could not promise about Passman, but said he would try to include me, and would let me know. This is a three to five-day trip by automobile, and not without its hazards. If there is no other way to proceed, I will try to go this way by car. I understand that Cretzianu is in Ankara, and he may have some information regarding a plane from Rumania.

I think you will agree that it is desirable for an American representative to get to Bucharest before the representatives of the Jewish Agency. Once we secure authority from Washington, which I trust will be forthcoming soon, I hope some transportation can be found for me to get to Bucharest without delay. A report on conditions there relating to rescue work

and the possibility of opening some channel to bring out Hungarian citizens at this time would be desirable and useful.

In this connection, the information contained in Ackermann's letter from Italy is significant. If his information is correct, it is apparent that there is still an urgent rescue job to be done from Hungary and possibly Rumania. I should like to suggest that Ackermann's telegram be repeated at once to Washington. I think this is important information for Washington to have, in order for them to realize the possibilities of rescue work from Rumania and the need for sending some representative to Bucharest without delay.

Messrs. Squires and Berry called on yesterday to tell me that they had received urgent telegrams requesting authorization for some of the "impromptu" newspapermen of the Jewish Agency to go to Bucharest. Mr. Berry stated that he had telegraphed to Washington in the same vein as the telegram on the same subject which you showed me in Mr. Kelly's office.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Honorable Laurence Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara IAH/b

P. S. It occurs to me that, since the British Government considers it imperative to send some representatives of the Jewish Agency to Bucharest without delay, the United States Government might deem it at least equally desirable to send representatives of the War Refugee Board, which is officially charged with a specific and definite task in that field at this moment.

I. A. H.

Istanbul, September 13, 1944

Dear Major Maxon:

Confirming my telephone conversation with you today I wish to refer to the agreement that Captain Lanning McFarland and I had prior to his leaving, on the day he introduced you to me.

Ambassador Steinhardt instructed me to visit McFarland without delay to request of him that he make arrangements for me to be placed on the first airplane which can proceed from Turkey to Rumania. He also requested that Mr. Charles Passman of the American Joint Distribution Committee be placed on such a plane if possible. At the same time Ambassador Steinhardt telegraphed to Washington for authorization for us to proceed to Bucharest at the first feasible moment.

McFarland surveyed the possibility of placing me on the plane which was then in Istanbul, and which I understand has since proceeded to Bucharest. I told McFarland that I could not leave so soon, since I was waiting for confirmation from Washington. McFarland promised to request you to place Passman and me on the next available plane. Ambassador Steinhardt and I are working on the assumption that such arrangements will be made when it is possible. When such a plane appears to be available I should appreciate your calling me. It is possible that I may go to Ankara this weekend to attempt to expedite arrangements, and if you have any information in advance of that time I shall be grateful to hear from you.

I shall be happy to come and see you if you wish to discuss the arrangements or any other points connected with them.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Major John Maxon
Office of Strategic Services
Istanbul

IAH:VH

07/177
Bucarest

C o p i e

Barlas - Istanbul
Bucarest 12.9.44

85 vostro 3473 et precedentés regrettons vous
informer troisième fois que consulat turec bucarest
pas encore reçu instructions que mentionnez
stop les ^{seules} instructions arrivées au consulat
prévoient visa seulement pour voie marine stop
si n'obtenez pas modification ou complément
cette disposition notamment "délibération" (délivrance)
visa avec droit passage ~~dispositionxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
swillengrad tout les visas inopérants consul bucarest
n'ayant compréhension pour question emigration et
actionant strictement en vertu instructions ankara
stop répétons priere nous envoyer materiel informatif
concernant erez stop confirmons reception listes
certificats dixhuit dixneuf vingt surpris n'avoir
encore reçu listes quatorze quinze seize prions
les envoyer ~~xxxxxx~~ urgence stop rappelons notre adres
exacte oficiul de emigrare bucarest remus 15
et adresse télégraphique ofem bucarest stop
lettre explicative suit prions réponse

ofem

... (mirrored text from reverse side)

NO. 1004 13.3.44
LONDON - 13.3.44

3 0 1

1A+ we have been trying to find to see about
what can be done for these and for
Dung, dogs human have seen to be
making a major battle here. Russians
want want to sit up for come this battle
leads & we have not been able to get
anywhere to go to Bucha especially.
Govt is planning to send mission into
Korea as state dept. at time when
IAHW will be in. As meanwhile
WRB will continue to function. of course
WRB cannot keep people who by preference
want to change countries. our job is to
rescue people in danger of death & transfer
there is some need that we don't know about.
people better of Communist goes in. also will
be an extremely work which to work.
(why people under which we are working
has not changed) maybe the field has
to working in other reasons & we will let
people know when air plans change &
there been helping pass as show at and so
JDC will play a vital role in relief work &
while propaganda vital things meeting should
continue to interchange info and keep in touch &
maybe a time when new program comes up WRB
will play a role but still they should continue &
discuss and techniques should not be given up

Warren to get work

1947. understands calls for insurance
let: info furnished:

1. Many Jews going back to Europe. were
expelled but now
being back - 4 months in forced labor camps
now being released & apparently, as our
Jews moved into former possessions can't get them
out. Part of blood of is were paid back. 2/3
just people paid any Jews who own established
ownership of flat or car take on without
and long term but just doesn't help.

There is not very much further done. were 500,000
now only 130,000. but only Jews going back
but are Jews also and supporters of all 2 groups
wants, especially regarding the city. of his
In new pleasure position and fact that Jews
are deprived of numerous things to acquire.
Tried to send people without territorial
rights. but clear from others. making
reference to find out from where.

1947. This complete change in regulations since war
change. Maybe a reorganization of ads is
necessary.

Soldier order at border. Jews & people should be
sent back but not Jews.

Border police in the next place where people were
sent back. Seems to have been from Italy and
not Turkey.

Schid.

Next meeting as we need

Pres. It appeared to me under WR 3 and apparently
doesn't show when this will be but unless
change will be done to help ⁱⁿ need in 10 days
same time next week.

Heber = People there (R) last week they trying
to get boat out, argument: Have authority
from own people in own responsibility
to pay premium
Bader - lunch early to keep ship of RR not open

Summary

- AH: Suppose what about
discuss with Stein with business toward this and
all boats; Suppose is legal under American
agreement; no basis in which to first
can make protest;
- Bader: But maybe an appeal to make me at two
responses from anything
- Web: Americans can ask Russians to release the
ship for this for price
- AH: of upping head first through war the
could be too
- Par: American is new factor, To ask for
release of boat for supplies with Russians is a
dangerous step
- Web: is it necessary what attitude of Russians
is in supplies because not good to raise
price too, need but to watch if opportunity
should arise
- AH: of 500,000 for 500,000 maybe at proper time
can ask
- Schub: not clear why other boat doesn't go if price
other boat doesn't get out, can't raise price

MEMORANDUM

September 13, 1944

9/13/44
Rumania
Memo

During the course of the exposé made in Istanbul on September 1, 1944, by Mr. Dan Bratiano of the Rumanian Red Cross at a conference at which were present, in addition to Mr. Bratiano, Mr. Birseemann, Mr. Passman and Mr. Katzki, the name of Mr. Kolb, delegate of the International Red Cross in Bucharest, was mentioned.

Mr. Bratiano implied that Mr. Kolb is not to be regarded as a man of fullest integrity. He was of the impression that Mr. Kolb may be financially interested in some of the relief and rescue work undertaken in Rumania. He mentioned the following two matters:

(1) When it appeared that the SS Tari might be chartered for a voyage to Constanza to transport refugees, Mr. Kolb, on his own initiative, purchased food and stores, including cognac and other luxury items, to the value of 12,000,000 Lei, to be placed aboard the ship for the passengers. In this connection, Mr. Bratiano mentioned two things: first, that the type of food-stuffs purchased were not all appropriate for an emergency voyage of this kind; and second, the quantities purchased were in excess of those which might be required for a voyage of such short duration as the Tari would undertake. Subsequently, when the Tari voyage failed to materialize, Mr. Kolb made every effort to dispose of the stocks he purchased in whatever manner he could, through private sale or otherwise. He asked the Rumanian Red Cross to take over the purchase, which it was unable to do because of the nature of the food-stuffs involved.

(2) At a certain time it became necessary to find medical supplies to be used for Jewish charitable institutions in Bucharest. The dearth of medicines in Rumania generally made the obtention of supplies to meet immediate requirements

urgent. The Rumanian Red Cross at that time was without stocks from which the needs could be met. Recalling that the International Red Cross had sent, according to Mr. Bratiano, nineteen cases of medical supplies from Turkey to Mr. Kolb in Bucharest for administration by him, application was made by the Rumanian Red Cross for a part thereof for the Jewish institutions. Mr. Kolb stated that he had no supplies, nor was the Rumanian Red Cross ever able to ascertain what happened to the shipments made to Mr. Kolb, if indeed the shipments were made. In this connection, Mr. Bratiano implied that perhaps Mr. Kolb disposed of these medicaments in a manner not contemplated at the time the shipment was made to him.

Herbert Katzki

HK/b

7/24/44
Rumania
Memo

September 12, 1944

Memorandum of conversation held between
Mr. Hirschmann and Col. Gibson of the
British Embassy. Major Whittall was also
present.

Place: British Embassy

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Date: September 12, 1944

I explained to Col. Gibson that Ambassador Steinhardt had suggested that I talk with him regarding the Palestinian citizens who were attempting to go to Rumania; that several of them had arranged to receive impromptu designations as reporters for minor newspapers in America; that they were really representing the purposes of the Jewish Agency; that I had no quarrel with them, in fact admired them for their ingenuity, but that too many representatives in Rumania at the same time might cause confusion. Col. Gibson stated that it was in the interest of the British Government to send at this time a legitimate representative of the Jewish Agency, which is a British institution, and that they intended to send Mr. Barlas at the first opportunity, having warmly recommended his authorization to London. They were also interested in sending Mr. Ueberall who had made a good impression upon them. I concurred in the latter.

Col. Gibson stated that he had seen Gretzianu on Friday before Gretzianu left for Ankara, and that he was not encouraged to believe that there would be any airplane service within the next several weeks to Bucharest; that he, Col. Gibson, was leaving for Ankara on Friday in order to make plans for a special automobile to make the trip to Bucharest with British representatives. I asked for permission to be included in this, for myself and Passman. He could not promise for Passman, but did for me. This trip will take three days.

Col. Gibson disclosed the fact that the Jewish Agency operators had supplied a certain amount of intelligence information to the British, and that they were encouraging their activities. I was about to leave, and Col. Gibson asked me to remain for the purpose of securing my views on the so-called "Brandt case." I told him briefly of my activity in connection with it and my report that I had sent to Washington. He concurred in the opinion that Brandt was clumsy and honest, and that the rumors to the effect that Brandt had confessed were not founded on any fact.

Col. Gibson stated that he would get in touch with me as soon as something definite had been formulated.

I. A. Hirschmann

Sprade to
 British Remembrance
 Conf. Privately
 Application for
 Plans on train for
 relief - or no case - Jewish
 no mistakes -
 before plans on
 our opinion

App. ~~Plan~~
 always Correspondence
 sent to my official
 very discussed in their
 Ex. address
 internal
 Jewish
 plan

Col. ~~Rosen~~
 item

Klarman - Revisionist

Category
44936
83736 H

9/12/44
Romania
Hungary

Istanbul, September 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am attaching a communication from Monsieur Simond connected with the refugee situation, which I believe you will find of some interest.

I have acknowledged the letter and informed Simond that I was sending it to you for your information.

Very truly yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Honorable Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador to Turkey
American Embassy
Ankara

Encl.

P. S. For your information, I am also including a copy of the memorandum to Mr. E. Packer from M. Simond, dated September 5.

I. A. H.

Istanbul, September 11, 1944

Dear Monsieur Simond:

I wish to acknowledge and to thank you for your letter of September 7 from Ankara. Monsieur Jaquinet's French lessons are so valuable that I understand the letter written in French, and I think you and your assistant are to be congratulated. It is a major accomplishment.

The information contained in your letter is of interest and we have noted it. I have taken the liberty of passing it on to Ambassador Steinhardt who has returned to Ankara.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Monsieur Gilbert Simond
42 Necati Bey Caddesi
Yenigehir
Ankara

IAH:VH

Handwritten:
Sent under Simond
Sept 12

1033

C
O
P
Y

MEMORANDUM

Ankara, September 5, 1944

Simond informed me this afternoon that Courvoisier, who was formerly here and who is now in Bucharest, is now under instruction to go to Palestine to make arrangements to receive Jewish emigres arriving from the Balkans. Since the movement is about stopped, a proposal has been made that he be sent instead to Budapest, but the present situation between Hungary and Rumania precludes his getting through to Budapest. Courvoisier telegraphed to Simond a couple of days ago stating that all Jews being evacuated from Hungary would go by way of Switzerland and France to Tangier.

Simond understands that approximately 2000 Hungarian Jews are still in Rumania where they have now been interned. He believes that they could be gotten out if the transport could be had. In this connection he says that all arrangements have now been made for the SS TARI to leave except the last step of getting the Turkish Government's permission.

E.L.P.

cc:

Mr. Hirschmann

Translation

DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
THE RED CROSS IN TURKEY

Ankara, September 7, 1944

Ira A. Hirschmann, Esquire
American Consulate General
Beyoğlu, Istanbul

My dear Hirschmann:

I beg pardon for not continuing in English, but I am persuaded that thanks to the excellent lessons of Jaquinet you will be able to understand me.

You will please find attached copy of the text of a telegram which I received from one of my colleagues in Bucharest. Before sending it to you, I went to the Hungarian Legation where I had the pleasure of meeting Baron Thierry. I read him the telegram and asked him to make his comments on it.

He was familiar with the emigration projects of Jews to Switzerland and Sweden, but was totally unaware of any relating to Tangier.

On the other hand he was startled at the insinuation that a wholesale deportation of Jews would take place beginning the 26th of August. He gave me every assurance that these rumors are totally false, and a formal denial thereof. Moreover he confirmed to me that the Regent had taken in hand the whole Jewish question, without any German interference in this field. Meetings have taken place with the Germans relative to the passage of these Jews across the portion of the adjacent country occupied by the Reich. Baron Thierry was not able to give me the results of these negotiations, except the assurance that no Jew had been deported since the Regent has occupied himself with the matter. They have simply been evacuated to little Hungarian towns or villages.

I am keeping in contact with him on this subject and shall not fail to let you know any news concerning a change in this problem.

We are both in accord in asserting that there no longer exists any hope of transferring the Hungarian Jews through Turkey, taking into consideration the most recent events.

In that which concerns the Rumanian Jews, I have just learned that my colleagues at Bucharest have slowed up their activities, in spite of themselves, following the arrival of the Russian Army. I have great hope that all is going to settle itself, and that, a short time from now, the technical organization of transports can be reinstated upon a fairly large scale. It will be a question, I suppose, of the Hungarian Jews having been able to pass through Rumania in time. I hope soon to be able to give you further news on this subject.

Believe me, my dear friend,

Cordially,

/S/ G. E. Simond
Delegate of the International
Committee of the Red Cross in
Turkey

Sept 12

ation

COPY

For Monsieur Gilbert Simond, from Monsieur Courvoisier,
Bucharest. (Message sent the 1st of September).

The Palestine Amt of Budapest, whose work is controlled by the Swiss Legation, finds itself in possession of some lists of emigrants. A collective passport bearing the names of 2,000 persons has been set up; it has been possible to obtain all the visas relating to them, with the exception of a German visa; these persons are selected for the first convoy. The Swiss Legation is moreover preparing collective passports for later convoys.

Only an agreement between the Hungarian Government and the German authorities would be able to definitely settle the question of a German visa. This agreement would aim to liquidate the whole Jewish question.

In consequence, 8,000 Jews will emigrate to Palestine, to Tangier, to Switzerland and to Sweden, and the rest will be deported to Germany.

The Hungarian Government would probably have some hesitancy on this subject. Unless the C.I.C.R. gives it an express order to intervene in this affair, it is only after the acquiring of a German visa that Monsieur Born would take in hand the whole question of emigration.

Definite tokens lead one to believe that a wholesale deportation will take place beginning the 26th of August; equally, on this day all the Jews who are still free will be interned, a few at the time.

The Hungarian Government is still studying the question of the evacuation of the Hungarian-Jewish children to Tangier. The possibility of the trip as far as the Bosphorus seems to be assured.

In order to instruct the Government, Monsieur Born would like Geneva to give him precise information on the Ferriere Mission. Moreover, for his reports he has never received any receipts.

Ankara, September 4, 1933

P.S. The telegram, of which this is a paraphrase, has been communicated to Berne.

TELETYPE RECEIVED

Sept. 9, 1944

Ackermann: 108

Subject: Necessity for someone to go to Rumania.

87911
Rumania

TELEGRAM SENT

Sept. 9, 1944

NRB 152

Subject: Decree by the Rumanian Government abolishing anti-Jewish laws.

Rumanian
Memo

Rum

September 8, 1944

Notes on Rumanian situation, suggested by Mr. Katzki:

1. Transportation - sea

I.A.H. knows these matters in detail. Find out how the scheme has worked until now. How each part of the job of selection was done, the people prepared, by whom, who prepared documents, etc., etc. This would involve going into the whole question of Zissu, Orat, Ruben, etc. Find out what Griffel's correspondent Petrusca is doing and under what circumstances he always cabled about having ships, etc. What are possibilities for future transportation by sea? What held up ships, etc?

Transportation - land

Why don't people come out by land? How about Turkish Foreign Office instructions about Turkish transit visas? Do they know about this?

2. Rescue from Hungary

Go into this in detail. How did it work in the past? Who did what? Can the work be continued? What information do they have about Hungarian situation, or elsewhere?

3. What existing relief, rescue and emigration organizations are there? Go into this set-up. Can it work? Can it be centralized? How?

4. Transnistria children

Where are they and how many? Why weren't they sent out to Palestine?

5. What are probabilities for future relief work?
What needs doing, where, how many and under what circumstances can work be done under Russian occupation?

6. What is situation of Jews, their legal status, where are they and how many?

7. What is status of refugees in Rumania: the Hungarians, Slovaks, Poles, etc? Go into this question of the Polish nationals and see who is doing what for them.

of 1944
Rumania
Poland

September 7, 1944

Mr. Staniszewski, the Polish Consul, furnished the following data to Mr. Hirschmann today:

Mr. Swiderski
Director of the Polish Refugees' office in Bucarest

Mr. & Mrs. A. Roman
Mr. F. Schatzel
Mr. A. D. Rogoyski
(They have Turkish visas.)

9.7.44
Rumania

Translation

DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
THE RED CROSS IN TURKEY

Ankara, September 7, 1944

Ira A. Hirschmann, Esquire
American Consulate General
Beyoğlu, Istanbul

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Believe me, my dear friend,

Cordially,

/s/ G. E. Simond
Delegate of the International
Committee of the Red Cross in
Turkey

Original letter sent to
Ambassador Steinhardt, Sept. 12

1034

Translation

COPY

For Monsieur Gilbert Simond, from Monsieur Courvoisier,
Bucharest. (Message sent the 1st of September).

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Ankara, September 4, 1933

P.S. The telegram, of which this is a paraphrase, has been communicated to Berne.

9/16/44
Rumania
Pelle

Istanbul, September 6, 1944

Dear John:

For the Board's information, I believe you will find of interest the enclosed translation from the German of a letter from a responsible person in Bucharest. It serves to confirm some of the information which has arrived in Istanbul concerning the heroic efforts of groups of Jews in Rumania, to save their brethren through the most resourceful means.

The rapid change of events in the Balkans in the last weeks renders these data somewhat dated, but refer to certain activities connected with efforts to save the Jewish citizenry of Hungary, which still constitutes a paramount problem for the Board's representatives in Istanbul, and which we shall continue to explore until the situation is redressed.

The reference in the letter to the Joint Distribution Committee and its participation may be of interest to Mr. Boardwalk.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Mr. J. W. Ahle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

P. S. Considering the nature of the work described in the report, it is of course confidential.

Enclosure

IAH/b

9/5/44
Rumania
cc

Istanbul, September 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Filderman:

Mr. Charles Passman who, as you probably know, is now representing the Joint Distribution Committee in Istanbul in place of Mr. Benik, has been consulting with us following the receipt of your letter addressed to Mr. Benik and delivered through the kindness of Mr. Bratiano.

The United States War Refugee Board is actively and deeply interested in assisting refugees and oppressed peoples in German-occupied or satellite countries, and we were very much interested and impressed with the things that Mr. Bratiano had to say. The requests regarding relief contained in your letter are being carefully considered by Mr. Passman, and you will hear from him more directly about this. In the meanwhile, in relation to rescue work we find that we are lacking considerable information which, if in our possession, would assist us greatly in assessing the refugee situation in Rumania with reference to the programs which we are trying to develop. It would be of tremendous aid to us if you could advise us in a number of matters which are troubling us, and in which we would like to have your judgment.

1. Do you have any information as to the number of non-Rumanian nationals, such as Poles, Hungarians, etc., who are now in Rumania? Are these refugees concentrated in one place, and are they being cared for? What is the status of these people in Rumania, in view of present circumstances? Is their evacuation to other countries urgent? If so, for what reasons?

2. Is there any chance, as you see it, for any ships to leave Rumania in the near future? I refer especially to the Bayrnie and the Salahaldin. Under whose auspices would these boats leave?

3. Is there a need on the part of Rumanian nationals to depart for Palestine or elsewhere? I refer to

departure for emergency reasons, and not ordinary and voluntary migration. The desire of our Government is to help where rescue is urgently needed, and we are here to help perform that task.

4. We were greatly concerned over the reports of Mr. Bretiano concerning the delaying tactics of Mr. Vissau, and perhaps others in Bucharest, which, according to Mr. Bretiano, have resulted in the reduction by many thousands of those who might have been evacuated from Rumania. We cannot condone any such situation. Mr. Passman and I are both in agreement on this. Accordingly, we would appreciate having your suggestions as to the manner in which migration or relief work might be organized, without commitment on our part, pending such time as circumstances permit Mr. Passman and myself personally to come to Rumania to view the situation at first hand.

5. What present possibilities exist for conducting rescue operations through Rumania from Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, or elsewhere?

We sincerely appreciate the great personal efforts you have made and are making to meet the problems which lie close to you and to ourselves. We look forward to the continuation of this cooperation and are hopeful that it will be possible to establish direct communication with you. We are anxious to be kept informed of developments, and as to the manner in which the War Refugee Board can be helpful in refugee matters.

Faithfully yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
United States of America

P. S. I would suggest that, for the sake of quick communication, you telegraph to me such information which, in your opinion, should be imparted to us promptly, and which is of such a nature that it can be sent through open wires. My address is, care of the American Consulate General in Istanbul.

I. A. H.

IAH:HK:1B

NOTE

Mr. Katzki is communicating with Mr. Maxson, in the Military Attache's office in Istanbul, in order to attempt to have these questions answered by courier from Bucharest.

Mr. Wisnor has been supplying information to the OWI.

91514
Rumour

Swiss Legation
Ch. Richter
Swiss Secy
Ch. American Affairs

Frank Stevens

Rumanian
letter



TELEGRAM SENT

Sept. 9, 1944

8/5/44
Bucharest
Hungary
T.O.C.

WB 149

subject: advisability of circumstances of Katzi going to Bucharest
re refugees from Hungary. Passman requesting permission
from JEC.

9/5/44
Rumania
Kelley

Istanbul, September 5, 1944

Dear Earl:

I am planning to go to Rumania within the next few days. Mr. Kelley has asked me to forward you my passport (enclosed) to have it marked for aller et retour to Turkey by the Turkish Foreign Office, and to have it returned to me within the next few days as I will be jumping off at the first possible moment. Many thanks.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Earl L. Packer, Esquire
First Secretary of Embassy
American Embassy
Ankara

Encl: Passport

IAH:VH

Dan M. Brudiano

Lawyer

Aide Memoire

September 1, 1944

Conversation with Dan M. Bratiano of Bucharest

There was present in the first ten minutes of the conversation Mr. Frank Stevens. He left when Messrs. Katzki and Passman arrived. Mr. Bratiano handed me a letter for Mr. Resnik from Mr. Fildermann, at Bucharest.

Mr. Bratiano reported that the internecine quarrel between the Jewish organization representatives in Bucharest was the cause for the delay of the boats leaving Constanza between April and August. In addition, 10,000 refugees could have been evacuated instead of the several thousand, 300 of whom were sunk. He indicted with a broad stroke Mr. Zissu who, he maintained, was the main obstructing force.

Zissu was not accused of being personally dishonest.

The reasons cited for his tactics which caused the delay were:

- 1) His work exclusively for the Zionist organization;
- 2) His personal ambition to appear as a "Napoleon";
- 3) His desire to put the shipping operations under

Rumanian maritime control;

- 4) His desire to obtain a monopoly of a kind on the shipping for the Jewish Agency. (Pandelis was doing the same for his own financial reasons, but apparently not in opposition to Zissu.)

Mr. Bratiano suggests that a law or a decree be passed by the new Government so that the Jews will be put back in

11/9-
Rumanian
Memo

their normal state as before the war. Their property, of which they were deprived, must be restored.

After a meeting with Messrs. Barlas and Eliash, Mr. Bratiano made the following suggestions;

1) Supply medicines to Rumanians at once. These were originally provided by the Germans, and there is no supply for the winter;

2) Restore the normal civil and political rights of the Jews;

3) Assist those to leave who wish to do so;

4) Select a committee, which should include Fildermann, possibly Zissu if necessary, Benvenuto, Zimmer, and Pinchas, to be headed up by a British official. This latter point should be studied. This committee should be designated to settle the questions which might arise connected with the reconstitution of the Jewish population.

He stated that there were three or four thousand Hungarian and Polish refugees in Rumania, who should be evacuated. It is difficult to know how this will be done, in view of the fact that Rumanian boats will not be permitted to leave, although he believes the Smyrnie will be able to depart.

Bratiano insisted that whatever emigration now takes place should be free of charge, instead of on the basis of the large financial contributions that were necessary to be made by those who emigrated. Trains and trucks should be considered as the means of emigration. We should not confine ourselves to ships.

On the subject of personalities, he spoke with complete confidence of Mr. Rildermann, whom he had apparently known for a number of years. He maintained that a lot of the international Red Cross is not to be entirely trusted. Zissu, on specific occasions in which he participated, refused categorically to cooperate with Rildermann and certain Rumanian officials interested in assisting the emigration.

Bratiano made a strong plea for means of transportation for food, which could be used in Europe, namely France, Italy, Jugoslavia, and Greece. He maintains that there is plenty of food in Rumania, but most means of transportation have been shattered. He urged that this be done without delay, in view of the danger which he saw of the Russians' appropriating the food for themselves.

He made a plea for clothing and shoes, stating that there was no wool, no underwear, no fuel, wood or coal, in Rumania for the coming winter. Housing facilities are acutely limited, and medical supplies will be sorely needed.

Bratiano appears to be a man of 40. He states that he is the local office manager for the telephone company, and the delegate for emigration of the Rumanian Red Cross. He asserted that he had been interested in liberal politics in Rumania for a number of years. He impresses one as intelligent, honest, and forceful. His desire is apparently to secure funds and requisites for Rumania in the emergency, and, of course, is willing to assist the Jewish population as well in this endeavor.

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

*File
Rumania*

Translation

Bucharest, August 28, 1944

Monsieur Reuben Resnik
Park Hotel
Istanbul

Dear Monsieur Resnik:

It was ten o'clock at night when I learned that Mr. Bratiano is going to start out a four in the morning for Istanbul. I am hastening to write you ~~xx~~ upon several urgent questions:

Jews in Hungary: It is not impossible that the ceding back of Northern Transylvania to Rumania is provoking excesses against the Jews. Five hundred thousand Jews have been deported, 200,000 live still in Budapest, 70,000 are to be found in labor groups.

I think one might impose the intervention of the United Nations in order to warn the German and Hungarian Governments that for each Jew deported or assassinated from the date of the communication, the United Nations will execute after the war 100 Germans or Hungarians, taken primarily from among the relative of members of the Government and members of the parties which sustained them. It is the method of the Germans who have assassinated hostages for every German killed in France, Belgium, etc.

I beg of you to urgently intervene with your Ambassador as well as the Ambassadors of England and Russia.

Aid: Twenty-five thousand Jews who are working out of the country are soon going to return to their homes. They are naked. We must supply them. This will cost at least 700 million leis.

We must have, in order to take care of the Polish and Hungarian refugees, as well as the children and the repatriates in general, the condemned Jews or political prisoners who have just been granted amnesty, and 35,000 families of whom the heads are doing forced labor, at least two hundred million lei each month, a sum to which is added the other categories who need 150 million lei a month.

We beg you to urgently intervene in order that some money may be placed at our disposition.

With warm regards,

(Signed) W. Fildermann

6/20/44
1000000
1000000

Istanbul, August 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Peale:

For your information, and in the event that you
have not already received it from other sources, we
are enclosing herein a translation of the amnesty
decree issued by the new Armenian Government, which
relates in part to persons in Armenia who have been
interned or imprisoned on political grounds.

We call your attention particularly to the
special section decreeing the abolition of concen-
tration camps in Armenia.

We have no further information, as to this
moment, as to the manner in which the provisions
of the amnesty decree are being executed, but we
are pursuing the matter because of their connection
with the efforts of the War Refugee Board in behalf
of oppressed peoples in Armenia.

Cordially, yours,

I. W. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Mr. J. M. Peale, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Enclosure

HK/S

Translation

August 23, 1944

AMNESTY DECREE

Regarding Decree No. 3072 of September 7, 1940,
we decree:

Article 1. Amnesty is granted on all violations of law provided for by penal codes, military justice codes and special laws, brought to action (charged) or committed after January 1st, 1918, meted out on political charges, whether they have not been proved, are about to be investigated, or have been definitely tried, without regard as to whether they come under civil or military codes.

Article 2. Those persons do not benefit under the amnesty who, after January 1st, 1934, have been guilty of intention or execution of political infractions, either as moral or material authors or accomplices of political murders, murders, thefts, perpetrators or instigators of arson, or those who under the pretext of political activity have pursued such aims.

Article 3. Amnesty is granted for infractions committed by civilians or army men after January 1st, 1918, which are provided for by military justice codes, whether they have not as yet been discovered, are being investigated, or are now at the examining magistrate's, or have been definitely tried. These are:

Desertions, Article 545, 557 of the Code of Military Justice.
Non-submission to enlistment, Article 542, 544
Destruction of military objects, Article 552, 552 of the Military Code, as well as infractions provided for and punished under Articles 562, 570, 609, 611, 612, 615, 619, 617, 498, and 503 of the Military Justice Code.

Also, infractions intended or committed after January 1st, 1930, and provided for by special decrees:

Decree dated February 26th, 1940, and its amendments on requisitions; the decree for espionage of June 26th, 1930; the decrees on AA-defense; the decrees which deal directly with mobilization of the war, 1941-1944, as well as those provided for by military orders, regardless as to whether they are applied (meted out) to military men or civilians.

Article 4. Amnesty is granted for infractions committed after January 1st, 1918, whether they have been discovered or are by way of being investigated, or are now being tried, or even if they have been definitely judged:

a) for the peasants within the application of prestation tax, agricultural mobilization, the practical application of agricultural plans in war-time, as well as for infractions of public laws.

b) for workers in industries and employees of all categories for having supported their claims, on professional questions, or for infractions of the application of the decree regarding regulation in time of war.

c) all infractions provided for by the law on religion, in relation to the persecutions of religious sects, and the decrees having a racial character.

Article 5. This decree applies to the perpetrators, their accomplices, and all those who have favored any infractions, as well as to any additional accomplices. Those definitely condemned will be restored to their political and civil rights. The Minister of Justice will see to the application of the present Decree.

Bucarest, August 23, 1944. The President of the Council of Ministers, C. Sanatescu. The Minister of Justice, Lucretiu Patrascanu.

8/24/44
Rumania
M. Cretzianu
cc

file

August 24, 1944

Memorandum:

Subject: Conversation with M. Cretzianu
Rumanian Minister to Turkey

Place: 32 Abdul Hakhamid Gaddesi
Istanbul

Time: 12:30 p.m.

I immediately congratulated Cretzianu on the steps his Government has taken. He seemed pleased and excited. He expressed deep concern for his country during this interim period, stating that the Germans were bound to fight and tear his country to pieces. He stated that the Germans apparently knew that something was in the wind, for information reaching him indicated that they were poised to strike back hard. In the long run he felt that his country had made the wisest move, but during the next few days, and while the war lasts, Rumania, he felt, would be subject to enormous penalties and sacrifices. Cretzianu was concerned with the question of the number of German divisions now in Rumania. He stated that he had heard from the American Military Attache, General Tindall, that there remained some 30 German divisions. From another reliable source he had heard that there were 18 in Rumania. His guess was that the truth was somewhere between the two, but he was concerned with the fact that the German divisions occupied the important control centers in Rumania, such as the aviation fields, radio, transportation, etc.

Cretzianu referred to the new Rumanian Government and the inclusion of one Communist, which he said indicated the Government's sympathy in that direction. He said that the real leader was Maniu, who was a noble figure, the Grand Old Man of Rumania, but who was unfortunately old. Regarding Russia he said that this was the first time in Rumania's history that it had been at war with Russia, and Rumania feared that Russia's power complex might swallow his country up or dominate it; that under previous regimes their associations with Russia indicated that "She was not to be trusted." Considering that Russia had just become a new ally, I was somewhat surprised to hear the above, but only stated that I felt that Rumania had, of course, made the right step and in the long run history would justify it.

Regarding the refugees, Cretzianu stated that he had just received word from Antonescu recommending that the Alba Julia be permitted to sail. Now, of course, this was not in question, and he hoped that the Rumanian Jews would not want to leave Rumania. I concurred in this view. I questioned Cretzianu on the subject of the amnesty decree, asking whether it included minorities, Jews, etc., and he gave me his assurance on this. He emphasized the point that the so-called concentration camps had been broken up.

I inquired of Cretzianu what his status was, and he assured me that it was the same as before. He stated that the two Antonescues were definitely out of the new Government and would unquestionably have no place in the future Governments. He referred to M. Antonescu as having learned the error of his ways within the last year and come over to the liberal side. He said that King Michael wanted to make the move that was made yesterday long ago but he was living with a pistol at his head.

Referring again to the refugee situation, he stated that it was possible that some refugees might want to come out of Rumanian territory now occupied by Hungary (Transylvania), and that this might be a question for activity for us to consider, but that it would have to await news of developments.

Cretzianu was rushing off to Ankara, where he is to meet with Turkish officials, and stated that he would be returning to Istanbul within a few days.

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

51471
Roumanie

Decrets

Nous avons decrete et nous decretions:

Article I : Le General de Corps d'Armee Constantin Sanatescu est nommé President du Conseil des Ministres.

Donné a Bucarest le 23 Aout 1944. Signé Mihail I Roi de Roumanie.

Le General de Division Potopeanu Gheorghe est nommé Ministre secretaire d'Etat au Departement de l'Economie Nationale et des Finances.

Le General Dr Marinescu Nicolae est nommé Ministre secretaire d'Etat au Departement du Travail et de la Santé Publique.

M. Dimitrie D. Nigeti est nommé Ministre secretaire d'Etat au departement de l'Agriculture et des Domaines.

Le General Eftimiu Dumitru est nommé Ministre Secretaire d'Etat au departement des Travaux Publics et des Communications.

Le General Voiteanu Ion est nommé Ministre secretaire d'Etat a l'Education Nationale.

M. Lucretiu Patrascanu est nommé Ministres ad interim au departement de la Justice.

Ministres sous secretaires d'Etat:

Pour l'aviation: Gheorgiu Emile

Pour la Marine: le Vice Amiral Georgescu Ion

Pour l'Approvisionnement: le Vice Amiral Gheorgiu Alexandru

Pour l'Interieur: Le General Ildianu Gheorghe et le Colonel Damacianu Dumitre.

Vu les previsions du decret royal No 3072 du 7 septembre 1940

Nous decretions : Article I : Messieurs Iuliu Maniu, Constantin Bratianu , Lucretiu Patrascanu et Constantin Petrescu sont nommes Ministres secretaires d'Etat.

Article II : Le General de Corps d'Armee Renovita Mihail
est nomme Ministre Secretaire d'Etat au departement de la Defense
Nationale.

~~Max Gheorghideanu~~ Grigore Niculescu Buzesti est nomme
Ministres Secretaire d'Etat au Departement des Affaires Etrangere
Le General de Division Alde Aurel est nomme Ministre Secretaire
d'Etat aux departement de l'Interieur.

Donne en date du 23 Aout 1944 par le President du Conseil
General de Corps d'Armee Constantin Sanatescu.

Vu les previsions du decret loi 3072 du 7 Septembre 1940
Nous avons decrete et decretions:

Article I: Le General Mihail Gheorghe est nomme Chef du Grand
Etat Major de l'Armee.

Article II : Le Ministre secretaire d'Etat a la Defense Nationale
est charge de faire executer le present decret.

Bucarest 23 Aout 44 . Signe Constantin Sanatescu.

Vu les previsions du decret royal du 7 septembre 1940 No 3072
Nous avons decrete et decretions:

Article I : Le General de Brigade Anton Constantin est nomme
Inspecteur General de la Gendarmerie.

Article II : Le Ministres des Affaires Interieures est charge
de faire executer le present decret. Donne a Bucarest le 23 Aout
1944. Signe Le president du Conseil , General du Corps d'Armee
Constantin Sanatescu.

Decret d'Amnistie

Vu le decret loi 3072 en date du 7 Septembre 1940, nous avons decreté et nous decretons:

Article I : Jouissent de l'amnistie toutes les infractions prevues dans les codes penaux, les codes de justice militaire et les lois speciales, qui ont été, intentées ou commises apres le 1^{er} Janvier 1918 et dont les buts poursuivis ou les moyens employes sont politiques, soit qu'elles n'ont pas été decouvertes soit en cours de recherche ou d'instance ou de jugement soit qu'elles ont été definitivement jugées, indifferement si elles sont de la competence des instances civiles ou militaires.

Article II : Sont exclus du benefice de l'amnistie tous ceux qui apres le 1^{er} Janvier 1934 se sont rendus coupables d'intention ou de l'execution d'infractions politiques, en tant qu'auteurs materiels ou moraux ou complices d'assassinats politiques, de meurtres, de vols, d'instigateurs d'incendies et autres infractions ou qui sous le pretexte d'activite politique ont poursuivi de tels buts.

Article III : L'amnistie est accordée pour les infractions commises par des civiles ou des militaires apres le 1^{er} Janvier 1918 et prevues par les codes de justice militaire, qu'elles soient encore cachees, ou en cours de recherches ou en cours d'instruction judiciaire ou enfin deja definitivement jugées. et qui sont:

Les desertions, article 545, 567 du code de justice militaire

La non soumission a l'enrôlement, art. 542, 544.

La destruction des effets militaires, art. 558, 568 du code milit.

ainsi que les infractions prevues et punies par les articles 569, 570, 609, 611, 612, 615, 619, 617, 498, et 503 du code de justice militaire.

De meme les infractions intentees ou commises apres le 1er Janvier 1930 et prevues par les lois speciales:

Decret loi du 26 Fevrier 1940 et ses modifications ulterieures sur les requisitions, la loi sur l'espionnage du 26 juin 1930, les lois sur la defense anti-aerienne, les lois directement en rapport avec la mobilisation de la guerre de 1941 a 44 ainsi que celles prevues par les ordonnances militaires indifferemment si elles sont appliquees a des militaires ou a des civils.

Article IV : L'amnestie est accordee pour des infractions commises apres le 1er Janvier 1918 , qui n'ont pas ete decouvertes ou qui sont en voie de recherches, ou en instance de jugement ou definitivement condammee;

A) Pour les paysans , dans le cadre des lois et ordonnances prevues pour l'application des reglements de prestance, les obligations prevues par les lois de la mobilisation agraire et la realisation des plans agricoles de guerre ainsi que celles nees de l'infraction des lois publiques.

B) Pour les ouvriers industriels et les salaries de toutes les categories par suite de ce qu'ils ont soutenu leurs revendications professionnelles et celles touchant l'application des lois pour la reglementation du travail en temps de guerre.

C) Toutes les infractions prevues par la loi sur les cultes en relation avec la poursuite des sectes religieuses et les lois ayant un caractere racial.

Article V : Les dispositions de ce decret sur l'amnestie s'appliquent egalement aux auteurs, a leurs complices et a ceux qui les ont favorise ainsi qu'aux vedettes complementaires. Ceux qui ont ete condammee definitivement seront retablis dans leurs droits politiques et civils. Le Ministre de la Justice est charge de

de l'execution du present decret.

Bucarest 23 Aout 1944, Le President du Conseil , C. Sanatescu

Le Ministre de la Justice; Lucretiu Patashkanu .

Decret sur l'abolition des camps de concentration

Vu les dispositions du decret loi No 3072 du 7 Septembre 1940 sur un rapport du Ministre de la Justice, nous avons decrete et nous decretons:

Article Unique: En date du present decret loi , sont abolis sur tout le territoire du pays, tous les camps d'internement crees par n'importe quelle disposition administrative. Tous les internes seront liberes immediatement et sans autre formalite prealable. De meme sont suspendues avec un effet immediat, toutes les dispositions administratives relatives a l'obligation du domicile force. Les dispositions de l'article 26 du decret loi 236 en date du 5 fevr. 1941, le decret loi 552 du 2 Mars 1943 ainsi que d'autres decrets dont les dispositions sont contraires au present decrets sont abroges. Le Ministre de la Justice est charge de veiller a l'execution du present decret donne a Bucarest le 23 Aout 1944 par le President du Conseil Constantin Sanatescu.

Decret

Vu les previsions du decret royal No 1 du 23 Aout 1944 , nous avons decrete et nous decretons:

Article 1 : Le General de Brigade Dombrovsky Victor est nomme Maire General et Prefet de Police de la Capitale. Donne le 23 Aout 1944. Signe le President du Conseil C. Sanatescu.

26/11/44 23/8/44

DECLARATION DU NOUVEAU GOUVERNEMENT

Le Gouvernement qui represente aujourd'hui le pays forme par les representants des 4 partis politiques: National Liberal, National Paysan, Communiste et Social Democrate, unis dans le bloc national democrate, a ete charge par sa Majeste le Roi Michel I de prendre la conduite de l'Etat dans les plus dures et les plus decisives circonstances pour le destin du peuple roumain. Le regime dictatorial qui jusqu'a present violait constamment le desir du pays a mis en danger par sa nefaste politique l'existence meme de la Roumanie comme Etat. Aujourd'hui la dictature a ete remplacee, le peuple reprend ses droits. Le regime politique que nous realisons sera un regime democratique dans lequel les libertes publiques et les droits des citoyens seront respectes et garantis. Les premieres mesures prises par le gouvernement dans le domaine de la politique externe ont ete l'acceptation de l'armistice avec les Nations Unies. Les representants de l'Union Sovietique de la Grande Bretagne et des Etats Unis ont garanti l'indpendance de la Roumanie dans le cadre de la souverainete nationale respectee ainsi que de la non intervention dans notre vie comme Etat. Notre sortie de la guerre aux cotes des forces du pacte Tripartite ainsi que la cessation des hostilites contre l'Union Sovietique sont des decisions qui ont le but d'eviter a notre pays une catastrophe certaine. A partir d'aujourd'hui la Roumanie considere les Nations Unies comme des Nations amies. Le fait que les representants de Moscou, de Londres et de Washington ont reconnu les injustices causees a la Roumanie par le Dictat de Vienne creent la possibilite que les armees roumaines aux cotes des armees allies delivrent la Transilvanie du Nord de l'occupation etrangere. Dorenavant nous entendons etre maitres de notre destin

Discours de sa majeste le Roi Michel de Roumanie
radiodiffuse par le Roi meme a 20 h 20 GMT (23.20 heure de
Turquie)

Roumainsi

A l'heure la plus grave de notre devoir, j'ai considere en plein accord avec le peuple que le seul chemin de salut pour tirer le pays d'une catastrophe totale, est notre sortie de l'Alliance avec l'axe et la cessation immediate de la guerre contre les Nations Unies. Un nouveau gouvernement d'Union Nationale a pour mission d'accomplir la volonte du peuple et de faire la paix avec les Nations Unies. La Roumanie a accepte l'armistice qui lui a ete offert par l'Union Sovietique, la Grande Bretagne et les Etats Unis d'Amerique. A partir de cet instant la guerre et tout acte d'hostilite envers l'armee sovietique ainsi que l'etat de guerre avec la Grande Bretagne et les Etats Unis doivent cesser. Recevez avec confiance les soldats de ces nations. Les Nations Unies nous ont garanti l'indpendance du pays et la non-intervention dans nos affaires internes. Elles nous ont reconnu l'ingustice du Dictat de Vienne par lequel la Transilvanie nous a ete prise.

Roumainsi

Notre peuple sait etre maitre de son propre sort et n'importe qui s'oppose a notre decision prise librement et qui ne porte atteinte aux droits de personne, est l'ennemi de notre pays. J'ordonne a l'armee et j'appelle le peuple a lutter par tous les moyens et au prix de tous les sacrifices contre lui. Que tous les citoyens se rassemblent autour du trone et du gouvernement pour le salut de la patrie. Celui qui n'obeira pas au gouvernement et s'opposera a la volonte du peuple sera un traître envers le pays.

Roumains!

La dictature a pris fin et avec elle finissent toutes les oppressions. Le nouveau gouvernement equivaut au commencement d'une nouvelle ere dans laquelle les droits et les libertes de tous les citoyens du pays seront garantis et respectes.

Aux cotes des armees allies et avec leur aide, en mobilisant toutes les forces de la nation, nous franchirons les frontieres qui nous ont ete imposees par l'injustice du Dictat de Vienne, afin de liberer les terres de notre Transilvanie de l'occupation etrangere.

Roumains!

L'avenir de notre pays depend du courage avec lequel nous defendrons les armes a la main, notre independance contre toute atteinte au droit de decider notre propre sort.

Pleins de confiance dans le futur de la nation roumaine, marchons fermement dans le chemin de la realisation de la Roumanie de demain une Roumanie libre, forte et heureuse.

Signe : Michel I , Roi de Roumanie.

14036

Translation

8/19/44
Romania
Hungary
Reports

Bucarest, the 13th of August, 1944

Dear Brothers,

As leader of the underground relief work for Hungarian refugees in this place, I would like briefly to report to you on the situation here, as follows:

The Political Situation

The leading factors of the Rumanian government, especially the deputy Prime Minister Mihai Antonescu and the Minister of Police General Vasilin, are taking an interest in the refugee question as of with active good-will. In the last two weeks, Rumanian Jewry, especially also our refugee brothers, have lived through exciting days. Occasionally, the visits of Marshal Antonescu to the Fuehrer's headquarters have spread rumors that the same sort of decrees against the Jews as occurred in Hungary may be enacted by the Rumanian Government. Even though the Government has been able to resist these demands successfully, up to now, still the plans for the internment of all refugees would be perfected by the German-influenced high military authorities. This had to do not only with the recent Hungarian, but also with the former Polish refugees, as well as those Jews who fled here from Bessarabia, Bukovina, and northern Moldavia; in all, about seven to eight thousand people. If this danger is, currently, not to be feared, it is especially thanks to the successful efforts of Mr. Z., for the present at least, to procure a delay; and it

is to be hoped that, if there is no radical change in the course of the Government, these decrees will never be put through. This, essentially, depends upon whether we shall be able to carry through emigration of greater numbers of refugees in the near future.

As far as the political situation in Hungary is concerned, they have virtually stopped the deportations there--after foreign intervention, as well as the personal exertions of Regentorthy--since about the 15th of July. In spite of this, it appears from the letters of our friends R. that it cannot be said that there is, to any great extent, a real relaxation; it is much rather to be feared that the deportation will include even the Jewish citizens of the capital city, Budapest, who are practically the only ones left in the country.

There are also great difficulties in the way of the emigration scheme, for the German authorities refuse permission to leave the country. The Rumanian Government, for its part, had offered all simplifications which are necessary for the realization of this plan.

Relief and Illegal Emigration

During the last weeks, our relief work has greatly broadened in scope. We have set up five border representatives, etc., in Arad, Turda, Brasov, Timisoara, and Ighisoara. Among these, the greatest activity is developing at Arad, where around 70 to 75 per cent of all the illegal entrants are taken care of. A very self-sacrificing Commission works

here, chiefly made up of orthodox Jews, with whom is placed a delegation made up of representatives of all youth organizations. The work of our friends in Arad has earned highest praise, and we will see to it that the names of those who have taken upon themselves the burden and heavy risk of this work will be made known to the Jewish world and suitably honored.

Our representative in Timisoara, which has started work only in the last few weeks, is under the leadership of Mr. A. R. Their work promises good results. The representative in Turda is under the leadership of young A. R., whose exemplary and courageous action has set a new record for all illegal emigration work. We first made contact with him in February of this year, from Hungary, and through him we helped the first Polish brothers to illegal emigration.

The representatives of Brasov and Sibiu are still being built up, and their work is still in the beginning stages.

The illegal emigration, through these representatives, is worked out exclusively by means of footpaths with suitable couriers.

Besides this form of the illegal emigration, we have also succeeded in working out a legal form with the Rumanian Government--only to a limited extent, to be sure. The Rumanian Consulate in the capital city of Hungary was, as a matter of fact, directed by the Rumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to

deliver to every one who is able to make it credible that he is a humanian citizen, or was one, a so-called Repatriation Certificate, by means of which the legal entry into Rumania is made possible. In this manner about 200 souls, in round numbers, have come here, and it may be hoped that in the next few days 600 more will come. This is a safe, legal, and relatively cheap way.

The total number of refugees who have already arrived here through our relief work, comes to date to around 2000, of whom around 300 have already emigrated for Palestine (a part of them, unfortunately, were on the death-ship "Mefkura"). Enclosed I am sending you a list of names of 1310 refugees, who at present are in this country and are registered in our collection of refugees. Aside from these are about 400 refugees, whose names at present are not known to us, at our border representatives. Unfortunately, our illegal emigration work must principally limit itself to the capital city of Hungary, as well as to those few who can hide in the province, the tracking-down of whom with the object of helping them is one of the most important tasks of our representatives.

Financial Affairs

When I came here, on the 26th of May, the small funds of the underground relief had already dwindled to almost nothing. Mr. I., who took care of the financial affairs, had in a truly self-sacrificing manner spared no pains to make available, even so, the necessary means. But soon we were forced to the conclusion that our own means could not possibly do justice

to the necessary demands upon them, for which reason we soon began negotiations with the Joint, as the Joint had declared itself ready to participate half and half with the underground relief work for the Hungarian refugees. Unfortunately, however, there appeared in the course of this cooperation almost insurmountable difficulties, for the representatives of the Joint here (the circle around F.) had very little understanding of the methods and technique of financing the underground relief and emigration work. The gentlemen from the Joint desire, for example, the preparation of orderly receipts and reckonings of all money spent, which indeed is thoroughly counter to the spirit and possibilities of the underground relief and rescue work, and would finally end in making the work illusory. The leaders of most of the border representations have already explained that they must lay down their tasks if we insist on this kind of account-keeping. After all, this is an admittedly illegal work.

It is an inescapable fact that, for the continuance of the relief work, suitable funds must immediately be placed at our disposal. As a provisional minimum, I beg for the immediate transfer of \$200,000.

For immediate illegal emigration work the following sums (in round numbers) have up to now been expended:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Representation Arad | 60,000,000 Lei |
| " Turda | 5,500,000 " |
| " Timisoara) Brasov) | 10,000,000 " |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Representation Highisora | 1,500,000 Lei |
| Illegal migration of Youth | <u>7,000,000 "</u> |
| Total | 84,000,000 Lei |

Our total budget, including underground relief, amounted in the time from the beginning of the work to the 30th of June this year to 58,000,000 Lei. In the month of July to 80,000,000 Lei. For the month of August we have drawn up an estimate of 98,000,000 Lei, which amount is already partly spent. To this expenditure the Joint has to date contributed in all 27,000,000 Lei. (In July 12,000,000, in August 15,000,000.) An embarrassing circumstance was that the illegal relief fund could supply the rest only in part from its own means. As I am informed, a total sum of around 60,000,000 Lei had to be requested as a loan from private persons.

About 30 per cent of the total expenditures were for the care and clothing of the refugees--95 per cent of the refugees come here without any provisions, most of them own only the clothes on their backs. It is therefore absolutely necessary to fit them out with the barest necessities in clothing before the emigration to Palestine.

I beg of you, dear brothers, on the grounds of the above-mentioned, to do all that is humanly possible to further the continuance of our work. Truly, I have up to now found in Mr. Z. a complete understanding of all affairs in connection with the refugee question; still I must, so as to lighten the task of Mr. Z., beg of you to impart clear and

binding instructions to the representatives of the Z. O. here, that in the emigration to Palestine, refugees from Hungary are to be borne in mind and given priority, since their situation is endangered in the extreme.

I greet you all most heartily, and remain in true friendship,

R. W. M.

Istanbul, August 16, 1944

Dear Bob:

Monsieur Simond telephoned today, stating that the Rumanian boat, Alba Julia, will be ready to sail from Constanza within ten days. I thought you would want to have this information.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Robert Kelley, Esquire
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
American Embassy, Ankara

MEMO OF TELEGRAM SENT

*File
Reference*
August 10, 1944

LRB

Subject: Washington's 6.3, which will be brought to the
attention of Cretzianu.

2/10/44
Rumania

PASADUNA 4 OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

August 10, 1944

and B.S.

Subject: Telegram from American Legation, Berne, re 40,000 persons
permitted to emigrate from Rumania via Turkey to Palestine.

1037

8/10/44
Wisner

August 10, 1944

Memorandum of conversation between
Mr. Hirschmann and Mr. Frank G. Wisner
held on August 10, 1944.

Wisner read from a memorandum allegedly from Giurescu in response to my query connected with the cooperation of Cretzianu and stated that he had a reply to the effect that: "Antonescu wanted to indicate to Mr. Hirschmann in the clearest way possible that he desired to give Mr. H. complete satisfaction in his rescue operations and that he was happy to hear that Cretzianu had been so helpful." Wisner reported that Giurescu was accepted as being an unofficial representative of Antonescu.

I. A. Hirschmann

IAH:VH

8/11/44
Burgas
Constantza
Hungary
cc

G
O
P
Y

To American Embassy

Copy of Telegram from British Embassy, Angora,
To Foreign Office, London, dated 9th August, 1944.

We have now reached agreement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the immediate institution of the following comprehensive arrangements which will cover admission into Turkey in transit of Jewish refugees from Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria.

2. Turkish consuls at Bourgas, Constantza and Budapest are today being instructed by telegram to the following effect: Turkish consul at Budapest is to issue Turkish transit visas on application to any number of Jews who apply for them provided that they hold one or other of the following documents:

(a) an American Immigration Visa issued in circumstances described in my telegram 1275;

(b) a letter from the Jewish Agency in Istanbul certifying that the holder has been granted a Palestinian ~~immigration~~ immigration certificate (a number of these letters have been sent to Hungary by various means);

(c) a certificate issued by the Swiss Legation in the terms set forth in your telegram 2459 to Bernes; or an endorsement on a child's passport under the "5000" scheme;

(d) a certificate issued by Arons, the Jewish Agency representative in Budapest, who now has his office in the Swiss Legation, to the effect that the bearer is a Jew: this last category was included at our request and should mean in practice that all genuine Jews will have the opportunity of leaving Hungary.

These Turkish transit visas will bear an endorsement saying that they are valid only for departure by sea from Bourgas or Constantza. Simultaneously Turkish consuls at Bourgas and Constantza are being authorized to grant, between them, up to 400 visas every ten days to persons bearing one or other of the documents described in paragraph 2. The Bulgarian Government has offered to allow the ships VITA and VIKING to be used for the transport of refugees and one or other of these ships will make the journey to Istanbul from Bourgas or Constantza every ten days carrying refugees to whom transit visas have been granted by the Turkish consuls. Thus, if a full complement of passengers is not available at Constantza the ship will call at Bourgas.

3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs are informing the Bulgarian Government of what they are doing.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs have undertaken to request Ministry of the Interior tomorrow to admit into Turkey henceforth without delay and without reference to Ankara any persons arriving at Turkey's land frontiers without Turkish visas provided they hold any of the four types of documents described in paragraph 2 above.

/This

This should mean in practice that almost every Jew arriving without a Turkish visa will be admitted, and will go a long way towards meeting our wishes. There may however still be a few Jews who are unable to obtain any of the four types of document required and who nevertheless attempt to enter Turkey by land without Turkish visas. Ministry of Foreign Affairs state they are still unable to authorize the entry of such persons unless we undertake formally to admit them into Palestine whether they turn out on examination to be Jews or not. To give such a formal guarantee would involve us in the possibility of having to receive non-Jewish Bulgarian and other refugees. No cases of persons trying to pass themselves off as Jews have actually occurred since the war so I recommend that we give guarantee. Pending receipt of your views on this point I have informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that in doubtful cases they may refer to this Embassy by telephone and a reply stating whether the person is a Jew or not will be given immediately since the Jewish Agency have complete lists of Jews in occupied Europe to which reference can be made. Turkish difficulty is that once a person has crossed into Turkish territory Bulgarian frontier guards will not allow him to return.

5. These new arrangements will embrace and supersede the system of monthly lists of returned Zionists, as well as the scheme whereby groups of 75 children receive visas every ten days.

C o p i e

LEGATION ROYALE DE ROUMANIE

Le 7 Aout 1944

EN TURQUIE

Cher Monsieur,

Comme suite a ma lettre en date du 23 Juillet dernier, je suis a même de vous donner maintenant, sur la base d'une communication signée par le Vice-Président du Conseil Mr. Michel Antonescu, que j'ai recue hier au soir, les détails suivants concernant la personne de Mr. Zissu :

Monsieur s est présenté comme unique représentant de l'Agence Juive donnant des assurances qu'il lui serait possible d'obtenir les visas d'entrée en Palestine. Ultérieurement des plaintes ont été portées contre lui parce qu'il manifestait, quant au choix des émigrés, certaines préférences sionistes. Mr. Fildermann s'est également montré mécontent de ces procédés.

A la fin de sa communication Mr. Antonescu exprime l'espoir qu'une collaboration étroite entre les associations de Juifs sionistes et non-sionistes sera réalisée sans délai afin que ces querelles n'entravent pas l'action d'émigration.

Je vous salue de bien vouloir faire part de ceci a Monsieur Simond.

Je vous prie d'agréer, cher Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération la plus distinguée.

H. CRETZIANU

Monsieur JAQUINET
Délégué de la Croix-Rouge Internationale

Istanbul

H.K.

Ankara, August 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Wisner:

Relative to yours of August 3, '44, for which I thank you, I presume by now that Mr. Kutzki has discussed with you the aspect of the letter which has disturbed me. Contrary to the view expressed therein, Cretzianu has been inordinately helpful to me and to the United States Government in the refugee situation. Without him the important steps of progress which have been made could not have been executed. Any implied criticism of him through any representative of our government will serve the cause negatively and may even break the fortunate relationship established between Cretzianu and me for the sole purpose of refugee rescue.

It is therefore essential that word reach Mihai Antonescu expressing our satisfaction with Cretzianu's efforts in behalf of the refugees. I question whether Giurescu is the right one to do this. Perhaps a letter addressed to the International Red Cross, to be delivered through your channels to Antonescu, would be the best way. I should be grateful for your judgment on this. I hope to be back in Istanbul by Wednesday, August 9.

With thanks for your cooperation,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

25/11
Luncheon

MEMO OF TELEGRAM T

August 5, 1944

REB

Subject: Conference with Cretzianu, August 5.

PARAPHRASE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

August 5, 1944

*8/5/44
Rumania
Russia*

WLB 89 (7)

Subject: Information sent to Harriman re refugees in Rumania.

Ch. Barlas
Pera Palas

2/1/44
Rumania

הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

Immigration Department

JERUSALEM
P. O. B. 92

Istanbul, August 1, 1944

Mr. Ira Hirschmann
American Consulate
I s t a n b u l

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I take reference to our yesterday's conversation and am sending you now copy of Mr. Zissu's cable, dated July 25, a.c., confirming that the Rumanian Government agreed to grant the Rumanian transit visa to Hungarian refugees en route for Palestine.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,


Ch. Barlas

1038

copy

urgent

barlas

perapalas

istanbul

bucuresti 25.7.1944

56 euriges 2965 regierung bewilligt prinzipiell transit
und hat budapester legation dementsprechend instruktionen
erteilt stop fortsetze detailverhandlungen werde sie
bei abschluss benachrichtigen hoffe totalen erfolg

zissu

038

Remains *Adrian*
Allen

56-45612965 Government
grants transit in principle and
has transmitted instructions accordingly
to the Funda. Post Negotiation Stop
Continuing detailed negotiations
until a date year at conclusion
hopeful of total results.

Simon.

Place on Amey. Transit -

John - rich man in O.K.
O.K. - chief of Transit
all together on

7/31/44
Raman

PANAPHRASE OF REL. AND RECEIVES

July 31, 1944

WRB 88

Subject: Gratification of the Board re negotiations with
Cretzianu, also further suggestions.

7/31/44
Rumania
Kelley

Istanbul, July 31, 1944

Dear Bob:

The newest development with regard to the delay of the movement of the Rumanian boats from Constanza with refugees is as follows: Mr. Schind called on Mr. Katzki this morning and read the partial text of a cable which he had received from a representative in Bucharest, Pandelis, which was sent on July 27, as follows:

"The Turkish consulate withholds the boat documents and is waiting for instructions regarding visas passengers stop Intervene immediately or boat cannot depart."

I feel duty bound to pass this on to you and do so with some trepidation and apology for I know the lengths to which you have gone in pushing for the release of these ships with refugees in your representations at the Turkish Foreign Office. I hesitated for sometime to even pass this on to you and finally decided that you would prefer that I send all the information to you rather than withhold all of the steps in the series of alleged crises.

It is altogether possible that the above telegram was dispatched after instructions were sent from the Foreign Office to the Consul in Bucharest before your consultation. There have been delays of five days to a week in the dispatch of telegrams from Bucharest to Istanbul.

We are informed in Istanbul in connection with the number of steps we were considering taking, even in the Bulgarian situation, that no one will make a move ^{yet} there is an announcement or clarification of the political situation after Wednesday's meeting in Ankara. Considering the bearing that any serious decision may have on our program, I may come to Ankara on Thursday of this week and shall let you know.

Again with thanks for all your kindness,

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

P.S.

I am enclosing a suggested telegram which I will appreciate ~~if~~ ~~you~~ your having relayed as promptly as possible.

Robert Kelley
Charge d'Affaires
American Embassy
Ankara

7-29-44
7/29/44
Lundholm
I.A.

Istanbul, July 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Schind:

Regarding the telegram of July 19, 1944 which you requested be sent to the Rumanian Government authorities through Mr. Kolb, via the International Red Cross, I wish to inform you that this was dispatched immediately and I have every reason to believe that it has arrived.

Cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache

Mr. Zeev Schind
48 Istaklal Caddesi
Istanbul, Turkey

Rumania

1944
Kelley

Istanbul, July 19, 1944

Dear Bob:-

I should be grateful if you could have someone relay the enclosed message to Mr. Simond of the International Red Cross, requesting him urgently to have its contents transmitted without delay to the Rumanian Government authorities through Mr. Kolb, Simond's representative in Bucharest.

It is possible that the delay in the embarkation of the Turkish ships in Constanza is now being caused by the situation implied in the contents of this attached memorandum.

With thanks, cordially yours,

I. A. Hirschmann

Enclosure

Robert Kelley, Charge d'Affaires a.i.
American Embassy
Ankara, Turkey

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

Copy

In connection with the telegram dated 17/7
from Orat and on the basis of the information
received from Messrs. Zissu and Silbermann,
we kindly ask you to inform the Rumanian
Government through the intermediary of the
Rumanian Legation or International Red Cross,
that all the expenses undertaken by Orat, Bucarest,
for the preparation and departure of the first
four boats (twice Maritza, twice Milka) and
passengers, have been approved and confirmed by
Mr. Anzer, representative of the Jewish Agency
in Bucarest, by Mr. Geiger in Bucarest, and by
Mr. Schindler in Istanbul.

18/7/44

MEMO OF TEL GRAM SENT

July 28, 1944

9/25/44
Rumania

RB

Subject: referring to WnB 72, leader of 26 Jews in Rumania now
at liberty.

7/25/44
Rumana

It is kindest requested to send the following message to
Mr. Zissu and to Mr. Rubin, c/o ORAT, Bucarest in two seperated issues:

"TELEGRAMMBEZUG 23/7 UNKLAR LISTEN FÜR WELCHE OBJEKTE
"EINGEREICHT STOP VERLANGEN SOFORTIGE FERTIGSTELLUNG
"VERZEICHNISSE FÜR SAEMTLICHE VERFÜGBAREN OBJEKTE SOWIE
"HÖCHSTESCHLEUNIGTE ABWICKLUNG STOP DRAHTETEN GESTERN
"TÜRKISCHE SCHIFFE BEHÖRDLICH RÜCKBEORDERT UNTERNEHMET
"AUSSERSTES VERMEIDUNG RÜCKKEHR OHNE PASSAGIERE DURCH
"REIBUNGSLOSE RASCHESTE ABFERTIGUNG STOP HALTEN SIE FÜR
"VERANTWORTLICH WENN SCHIFFE LEER RÜCKKEHREN DRINGDRAHTET

SCHINDCO"

28.7.1944.

MEMO OF TELEGRAM : "T

7/29/44
Ruc.
July 25, 1944

WRB

Subject: Interview with Cretzianu, July 21.

23 Juillet 1944.-

Roumanie

Cher Monsieur,

Me referant à la conversation que j'ai eu avant-hier en votre présence, je vous serais très reconnaissant de vouloir bien communiquer ce qui suit à Monsieur Hirschmann :

Je n'ai pas manqué d'envoyer un télégramme à Bucarest a la suite de notre conversation. Je ne pourrais, je le crains, recevoir de réponse que d'ici quelques jours. En attendant, je crois cependant utile de transmettre a Mr. Hirschmann le contenu du télégramme ci-joint du 18 Juillet adressé par le Président du Conseil Roumain à notre Légation à Lisbonne. Ce télégramme dont je viens de recevoir communication par le courrier arrivé ce matin à Istanbul, contient la réponse a une demande de renseignements de notre Légation de Lisbonne au sujet de l'état actuel de l'émigration des juifs de Roumanie.

Le télégramme de Bucarest me semble clarifier la question "Zissu". Il me parait indéniable que ce monsieur, dont le nom revient deux fois dans le courant du télégramme, a une position reconnue par notre Gouvernement et semble jouer un role important en ce qui concerne l'organisation

./.

Monsieur
Monsieur JAQUINET
Délégué de la Croix Rouge Internationale
Istanbul

de l'émigration des réfugiés.

En vous remerciant d'avance , je vous prie d'agrèr
cher Monsieur, l'expression de ma considération la plus
distinguée.

Al. Crestman,

7 0 3 9

de l'émigration des réfugiés.
En vous remerciant d'avance, je vous prie d'agréer
l'assurance de ma haute estime et de ma parfaite confiance.

July 23, 1944.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the conversation which took place in your presence the day before yesterday, I would be grateful indeed if you were to transmit to Mr. Hirschmann, the following:

I did not fail to send a cable to Bucharest after our conversation, but the answer, I presume, will arrive only in a few days time. In the meantime I wish to transmit to Mr. Hirschmann the contents of a telegram addressed by the President of the Rumanian Council of Ministers to our Legation in Lisbon on July 18. This telegram, a copy of which I received in the pouch that arrived this morning in Istanbul, contains the answer to a request for information from our Legation in Lisbon with regard to the emigration of Jews from Rumania.

The cable from Bucharest seems to clarify the question "Zissu". In my opinion, this gentleman, whose name is mentioned twice in the telegram, doubtless occupies a position, officially recognized by our Government, and seems to play an important role in organizing the emigration of refugees.

Thanking you in advance,

I remain

(Signature)

040

Copie du télégramme du 18 Juillet 1944 adressé à
la Légation de Roumanie à Lisbonne.

Un navire battant pavillon neutre a quitté Constanța
il y a 3 jours, transportant un nombre important d'émigrés
juifs. 3 autres navires, qui se trouvent en rade de
Constanța, suivront.

Il a été question, il y a quelques mois, d'obtenir une
garantie allemande pour la circulation en Mer Noire d'un
grand navire neutre, mais la question est restée en suspens.

Une conférence ministérielle, que je préside, s'occupe
de la question de l'émigration et étudie la possibilité de
la faciliter en employant des bateaux de Service Maritime
Roumain.

Mr. Fildermann, Mr. Zissu (Centrale Juive) et le Com-
missaire général pour les questions juives, ont été reçus
plusieurs fois par moi, à ce sujet.

Je vous prie de démentir toutes les nouvelles inexactes
au sujet de la situation de M. Fildermann. Celui-ci jouit
d'une entière liberté et collabore avec la Centrale Juive
pour organiser l'émigration avec Mr Zissu.

Le fils de Mr Fildermann, qui se trouvait en France de-
puis le commencement de la guerre aurait, paraît-il, été
transporté en Pologne. J'ai fait une intervention person-
nelle auprès du Gouvernement du Reich pour sa mise en li-
berté, qui m'a été promise.

(ss) MIHAI ANTONESCU

Copy of telegram dated July 18, 1944, addressed to the Rumanian Legation, Lisbon.

Three days ago a ship, flying a neutral flag, left Constanza having on board a large number of Jewish refugees. Three other vessels, which are in the port of Constanza, will follow.

Several months ago the question of obtaining a German guarantee for the safe passage of a neutral vessel in the Black Sea was raised, but negotiations were suspended.

A ministerial committee, over which I preside, is handling the question of Jewish emigration and is examining the possibility of facilitating the departure of the emigrants by using Rumanian ships.

Mr. Fildermann, Mr. Zissu (Jewish Central) and the Commissioner General for Jewish questions discussed the matter with me several times.

I beg you to refute all false information circulating with respect to Mr. Fildermann's case. The latter enjoys full freedom and is collaborating with the Jewish Central, with a view of organizing, together with Mr. Zissu, the emigration of refugees.

Mr. Fildermann's son, who has been in France since the outbreak of the war, has apparently been deported to Poland. I have personally intervened on his behalf with the German Government and was promised that he would be set at liberty.

(Signed) Mihai Antonescu.

Istanbul, July 20, 1944

Dear Mr. Magnes:

I thought you would like to see a copy of a letter which I have dispatched to the enigmatic Mr. Zissu. I am sending this with Joe Schwartz, who has kindly agreed to hand it to you. It will give you a broad and detailed picture of the situation here. While we are working in better harmony and there are symptoms of progress, I will not be satisfied until we see the boats coming in with our sorely oppressed people.

Joe Schwartz will tell you of our conversations with regard to the J.C. representation in Turkey. I am afraid we pressed Joe rather hard on this, but I know that you, of all people, will understand why I have been impatient to see a change, and why I am now alarmed at the prospect of another one of those "compromise arrangements." Joe is thoroughly conversant with the situation. I only hope between all of you it will be possible to send a strong, incisive representative here without delay.

Joe has also promised to return to Istanbul as soon as his mission in Lisbon is completed. This will mean a great deal to us here, and I think will be highly evaluated in terms of people rescued.

I trust this finds you well. Please give my warm regards to Mrs. Magnes.

As always, cordially yours,

I. A. Mirschmann

Dr. Judah Magnes, President
Hebrew University
Jerusalem

COPY

July 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Zissu:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you on behalf of the victims of the war who are desperately seeking refuge from Rumania. I understand that you are giving your devoted efforts to assisting them, and in this respect we have a common interest.

May I identify myself as the special representative of the War Refugee Board of the United States of America. This Board was created in January, 1944 by a special order of President Roosevelt and consists of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury of the United States. Our orders are to initiate and assist in the rescue of people who are seeking havens of refuge, whoever and wherever they may be. As of this date and by virtue of the powers vested in me by my Government, and with the cooperation of existing relief agencies such as the United States Joint Distribution Committee, the Palestine Jewish Agency and others, we have had some partial success.

I am informed that the Rumanian government is not opposed but in fact is helping to facilitate, through its Ministerial Committee, the transportation of refugees from Rumania via sea, and that following the successful voyage of the S.S. Kazbek there are four additional vessels now prepared to embark. Our Government is watching with great interest the plans for the quick movement of these vessels, and may I urge that nothing be done to obstruct the immediate embarkation of these four ships,

esberg
SIFIDR

as well as the movement of other ships whether they carry a Rumanian flag or any other flag, provided passages are arranged without delay. The ideal situation that could be created would be a so-called "bridge of ships" at this time, which would contemplate not alone the Rumanian ships, which, we understand, you can be instrumental in organizing without delay, but other ships, so that a constant flow of refugee traffic may continue without interruption during these months, when every day is critical for those whose salvation we have at heart.

I am also informed that there have arisen a number of questions regarding those who should be chosen to make these voyages to safe havens. In this connection, may I say that it is not the province of my Government to make or influence such determinations. The bases for these choices are not our special concern. We are deeply interested, however, in not permitting this question in any of its aspects to interfere with the prompt embarkation of these and additional ships by even so much as a single hour. You undoubtedly are more conscious of the acuteness and danger of the situation for these innocent citizens than we can be from here, and you will forgive me for emphasizing again the essential importance of not permitting anything, especially of jurisdictional or technical nature, to stand in the way of the immediate release of these vessels.

0 4 0

I am confident that, in your broad humanitarian efforts (which will be remembered long after these difficult days have passed) you will manage to bring into your councils, on a productive and a cooperative level, the services which Mr. Fildersmann can render with skill and effectiveness. Mr. Fildersmann is also regarded with deep respect by the great agencies operating in the rescue field, as well as by the representatives of the Government of the United States. Certainly, it would be unfortunate not to utilize fully his experience, sincerity, and representative power.

Again may I offer my assurance of our high regard for your efforts in the field of human welfare at this crucial time in the history of all peoples, but especially for the minorities and the Jews, who are suffering so sorely.

Faithfully yours,

I. A. Hirschmann
Special Attache
United States of America

P.S. I have just read a copy of the letter from Mr. E. Kaplan of July 17 addressed to you and wish to assert that I subscribe completely with the views expressed by him.

JUL 20 RECD

Istanbul, July 19, 44

Dear Mr. Katzky,

I send you herewith a translation of Mr. Kaplan's letter, dated July 17 to A.L. Zissu in Lucarost and I beg you to send it over to Mr. Hirschman.

I hope that this letter will be helpful to Mr. Hirschman when he is writing his letter to Mr. Zissu.

I should like to know whether Mr. Hirschman will send his letter to Mr. Zissu through his channels or through mine.

Sincerely yours

L. H. G.

1040

Translation from Mr. E.Kaplan's Letter dated July 17 to A.L.Zissu

I have come here for a short visit in order to clear up the "Esra" and "Hazala" questions, and especially to find ways and means for the enlargement of the emigration possibilities.

At the same time the people from the Joint as well as the representative of the War Refugee Board, Mr. H.Hirschman, are here. The War Refugee Board is a special government department which President Roosevelt established for the help of the European refugees, mainly for the Jewish people.

After holding consultation we decided that only complete coordination will make the emigration possible or rather enlarge its possibilities.

but the real value of our decision depends upon the organization, activity, and coordination in work and mind of our friends in the Gola.

We have talked much about Rumania because that is the most important "starting-point" at the present time. The remainder of the Polish Jews as well as our Hungarian brothers might be saved by way of Rumania. This is a sacred duty.

We care and work for every single Jew that might be saved --for him--and for us.

We have fought years to make a rescue possible, but only very recently affairs have been facilitated, like the procurement of visas for Palestine and Turkish transits.

We have to make the most of every possibility, especially now that the international situation may change any day, any moment. Every day may bring surprises, and we may lose the few possibilities that we have right now.

This is the reason why we decided to take advantage of every, but every single opportunity that exists, even of those that we would not have taken during more normal times.

We gladly accepted the emigration possibility by means of Rumanian boats, but that does not mean that other opportunities will be excluded; it does not mean that the boats are instead of other possibilities. We know that you as well as we pay a high price, but in spite of a high price and hard conditions, only one duty exists: Emigration at any cost.

That is why we sent you a cable asking you to work together with "Orat" in order to take advantage of every emigration opportunity.

(2)

Many months we tried to find ways and means for emigration, by land and by sea, but without any success. Only a few months ago a small and narrow door was opened for refugees; 1800 people passed through that door and were saved, but we should not underestimate this miserable success.

We were glad to hear the news about the Rumanian boats, and we would like to know some details as the day of departure and price.

Besides, I should like to mention that many different people doubt whether a boat, like the "Alba-Yulja" will be able to start her journey, and if so, whether she will be able to return to Rumania. And what about the political difficulties which might turn up? But that is something that we shall not be able to decide. The important part of the affair is, that this should not be the only emigration possibility, that the emigration does not only depend on these boats, and thus hinder other projects to be taken. No matter what it cost; Much Jewish property and money has been lost, here, at least, we get something in return: Jews.

I know about 4 boats existing in Rumania; three Turkish boats and the "Smirny". Why don't these boats start? We heard that the "Smirny" received the permission to leave. What is the delay?

We can hardly believe that the impediment is due to inner quarrels and discussions. If the situation demands the coordination with other people, it must be done; no matter who they may be. The present law and duty is: EMIGRATION!

We cannot accept the refusal for coordination of Mr. Fielderman. You may say that you know the situation there better than we do, but you must understand that other conditions exist also. Mr. Fielderman as a delegate of many Jewish circles abroad and as a help to these people is an absolute necessity.

Without the official as well as the unofficial help of the people of the Stefanland this emigration would hardly be possible. Are we allowed to risk losing this possibility? We shall never agree to that.

Also the formal demand of Mr. Fielderman, concerning the Jewish Agency is very serious. The government does not acknowledge the Zionist organization for emigration, but the spread Jewish Agency to which Mr. Fielderman belongs also.

The same is true for the "Aguda". We sent them a cable yesterday, saying that the Aguda has to get her share as was agreed.

There are two possibilities. Outside and inside a united front in the Hazala-work, even if a compromise has to be made. Or every circle of the Jewish people must fight separately.

Even if the Rumanian government acknowledges only one single organization for emigration, the other Jewish circles and organizations

(3)

won't give in quietly. This we have observed here, and they are right too.

A short note on how to choose the people. From Palestine's point of view, children and youth should be the first; an explanation for this is not necessary. But we can also understand other view-points; as that of the Nazis. After the children and youth, refugees should be chosen next. These are in great danger. The moment refugees leave the country others may take their places.

LETTER OF TELEGRAM T

7/19/44
Remainder
July 19, 1944

WRB

Subject: Communication received through Simond from Cretzianu,
re interministerial commission.

041

7/18/44
Rumania
T.A.

Copy of telegram dated July 13, 1944, addressed to the
Rumanian Legation, Lisbon.

Three days ago a ship, flying a neutral flag, left
Gardouza having on board a large number of Jewish refugees.
These other vessels, which remain in the port of Constanza will
follow.

Several countries are in the position of obtaining a large
quantity of the Jewish refugees of a neutral vessel to the lack
of a permit, but which they are supporting.

My first studies, which, as far as possible, are sending
the location of the Jewish Legation and to the Jewish
responsibility of the Jewish Legation of the migration by
means of the ship.

Mr. Filderman, Rumanian (Jewish Central) and the
President of the Jewish Legation discussed the matter
with several times.

I have tried to refute all false information circulating
concerning Mr. Filderman's case. The latter enjoys full
freedom and is collaborating with the Jewish Central, with a
view to organizing, together with Mr. Ziss, the migration
of a ship.

Mr. Filderman's case, who has been in France since the
beginning of the war, has apparently been deported to Rumania.
I have personally interviewed on his behalf with the German
Government and has promised that he could be set at liberty.

(signed) Ighai Antonescu

1944
Rumania

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

July 17, 1944

NRB 82

Subject: purchase of Transylvania and Bessarabia for evacuation
from Rumania by sea.

J.A.H.

william fildermann

sfintzi apostoli 16

bucarest

your cable received and gratefully acknowledged stop
 also discussed situation with Saraga who furnished
 some details stop have been discussing entire
 program with Kaplan and Barlas as representatives
 of Jewish Agency stop they are making further
 effort bring about unity in rescue work by
 insisting that you be added as a member of
 emigration committee stop Refugee Board also
 requesting your active participation this work stop
 important you know joint participation important
 element entire program since we furnishing major
 portion all funds required stop in the hope that
 unity may still be achieved and that the urgent
 advice of the Jewish Agency and the Refugee Board
 will be heeded we have decided against setting up
 any independent or separate service stop the interests
 of the work demand a united approach which we
 sincerely hope will now be attained stop we gratefully
 appreciate all your splendid efforts and hope you
 will continue to keep us advised of situation
 as it develops.

Joseph Schwartz
 Reuben Resnik
 Park Hotel

Joseph Schwartz
 Reuben B. Resnik
 Park Hotel
 Istanbul, July 17, 1944

1141

7/14/44
SECRET

translation of Telegram sent by Jacob Griffard to
Bucharest, July 16, 1944

With reference to the requested authentic confirmation that acceptance in Istanbul is assured without qualification advise you as follows: am authorized in name of American War Refugee Board whose official representative in Turkey is diplomatic attache Ira Hirschmann to confirm to you officially that should your transport arrive the people will be able to land in the same way as the passengers on earlier ships stop The authority of this confirmation can be verified through the Rumanian Ambassador in Ankara.

URGENT

PANDELISCO

BUGURESTI

WURDE INTERVENIERT ANKARA MINISTERIUM MITTEILT STOP UEBER VORHANDENE
SCHIFFE COSTANZA INFORMIERT STOP KEINE EINWENDUNG GEGEN ABFAHRT OBJEKTE
GLEICH KOSBEK UND KEINE ORDER MEHR NOTWENDIG JEDOCH VERSPRACHEN
KONSUL TELEGRAFIEREN STOP DRINGDRAHET SACHVERHALT BESCHLEUNIGET ABFAHRT

SIEM SCHINDCO

Z. Schind
Istiklal cad. 48/4

13/7/44

Handwritten:
Bureau

U.S.O OF TELEGRAMS

Jul. 15, 1944

MB

Subject: Change of name of humania authorities.



GILBERT E. SIMOND
DÉLÉGUÉ DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
with his best regards

14. VII. 44 ANKARA

2/3/44

11/11/44
Roumanie

Communication reçue le 13 juillet 1944
par le Ministre de Roumanie en Turquie, Mr. Al. Cretzianu,
de la part du Vice-Président du Conseil des Ministres
Mr. Mihai Antonesco.

"Je Vous informe qu'une Conférence interministérielle a été, en effet, constituée dès le début du mois de mai, sous ma présidence, qui s'occupe d'une manière directe et officielle de l'organisation de l'émigration des Juifs. Dans le cadre des travaux de cette Conférence on a entendu les représentants des Juifs de Roumanie, MM. Fischer, Filcermann et Zimmer, puis le Commissaire aux questions juives, arrêtant ensuite de commun accord les modalités pratiques d'organiser l'émigration juive, tant à l'aide de bateaux de tonnage moyen battant pavillon étranger (qui ont effectué dernièrement des transports), que par des bateaux de plus grand tonnage que l'Agence du Service Maritime Roumain pourrait louer à cet effet.

Cette décision gouvernementale a été officiellement communiquée aux Légations de Suisse, de Suède, de Turquie, du Portugal, aux Délégués du Comité International de la Croix Rouge, ainsi qu'à Son Eminence le Nonce Apostolique, à Bucarest.

La Conférence interministérielle poursuit son activité. J'espère que les organisations internationales qui se sont occupées jusqu'à présent de l'émigration juive lui donneront tout leur appui."

1

file

Communication received on the 13th of July 1944 from Mr. Al. Cretzianu,
Rumanian Minister to Turkey, written on behalf of Mahai Antonesco, Vice
President of the Council of Ministers.

"I wish to inform you that an inter-ministerial commission has been constituted since the beginning of the month of May, under my chairmanship, for the purpose of organizing officially and efficiently the emigration of the Jews. During the sessions of this Commission Messrs. Fischer, Fildermann et Zimmer, the representatives of the Jews of Roumania, have been consulted, as well as the Commissioner for Jewish Affairs. These persons have jointly established the practical means for organizing the Jewish emigration, either with the help of medium-size ships flying a foreign flag (which have recently effected transports), or with ships of greater tonnage that the Service Maritime Agency may charter to that effect.

"The decision of the government has been officially communicated to the Swiss, Swedish, Turkish, Portuguese Legations; to the Delegates of the International Red Cross Committee; as well as to His Eminence the Apostolic Nuncio at Bucharest.

"The inter-ministerial commission is in full activity. I hope that the International organizations, which have dealt with the question of the Jewish emigration, will assist in giving their full support."

704
Balabanoff

July 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Referring to our discussion of yesterday, in February 1944, I met with Alexandre Cretzianu, Minister to Ankara from Rumania acting under the power vested in the by President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board permitting me to deal with "enemy territory". I made three requests of the Rumanian Minister:

- 1) To disband the disease-ridden camp at Transnistria containing 48,000 Jewish refugees.
- 2) To release 5,000 children and facilitate their passage to Constanza; and to expedite the debarkation of ships containing these refugees from Constanza to Istanbul and Haifa.
- 3) To arrange to have Antonescu issue an order which would cause a cessation of all forms of persecution and repressive acts against Jewish citizens.

Within less than a week Cretzianu brought back a message from his government categorically agreeing to the above steps. Confirmation of the break-up of the camp in Transnistria was containing a telegram to us by the International Red Cross in Rumania.

As a result of these moves, I believe the door has been opened for good will by the present Rumanian government and our government. The above steps were publicized dramatically and extensively in the United States. On my visit to the United States in April I took the occasion to emphasize and to have placed on record in the State Department the affirmative steps which were taken by the Rumanian government in connection with the above. On my return to Ankara I reported these results to Minister Cretzianu and have requested further steps of the Rumanian government which he is now transmitting to Bucharest.

Following the success of these efforts an interview was arranged for similar purposes in February with the Minister to Sofia, Mr. Balabanoff. Mr. Balabanoff was pleasant and friendly and agreed to transmit my request to the then Bulgarian government. He has received no reply and so informed me before I left for the United States. The comparison between the attitudes of the Rumanian and Bulgarian governments with regard to the humanitarian appeal made by our government - namely the rejection by Bulgaria - made a strong impression in Washington.

Upon my return to Ankara in June I requested a further interview with Mr. Balabanoff with the view of suggesting that the same requests be put before the new government of Bulgaria. I understand that the Minister is now in Sofia. I am strongly of the opinion that good will which can be highly evaluated at the proper time, can be won by the present Bulgarian government if they can see advantages to them of making the following steps:

1) Permitting and helping facilitate refugee movement from or through Bulgaria to Turkey by rail to the extent of not less than 500 people a week. In order to give assurances that there will be no penalty from loose conversations at the railway terminals, we will guarantee that these refugees will be well immunized from outer contacts. We will agree that these refugees may in the early stages consist of children and possibly old people. But the traffic must be an uninterrupted flow.

2) Cooperation in permitting and helping facilitate the debarkation of refugee ships from Bulgarian ports.

Mr. Balabanoff, I am informed by Mr. Simond, of the International Red Cross in Ankara has carried with him to Sofia a memorandum concerning a proposed voyage of Turkish s/s Tari from a Bulgarian port to a Turkish port. The s/s Tari is now under charter agreement between the United States government with the Turkish government and the cooperation of the Bulgarian government in permitting and arranging for the movement of refugees through one of their ports by this ship would be a dramatic stroke which would be reported in a highly publicized way throughout the United States.

3) A statement by the present Bulgarian government that all persecuted and repressive measures against Jews will cease and that henceforth they will be treated like other Bulgarian citizens.

In return for the above, I can give assurances that such action on the part of the Bulgarian government would constitute an important contribution toward reestablishing good-will with the government of the United States and that the American people will be made aware of these steps through publicity of an effective nature.

I. A. Hirschmann

*10/8/44
Revised*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

July 11, 1944

WHD 78

Subject: Information sent to McClellane in Berne re Jews in
Rumania.

1042

715/44
Rumania

MEMORANDUM TO MR. KELLEY

Conversation with Alexandre Cretzianu, Rumanian Minister
to Turkey - July 5th

Acting under the authority vested in me by the War Refugee Board permitting me to deal with "enemy territory", I resumed my conversations here on my previous incumbency in Ankara with Alexandre Cretzianu, Rumanian Minister to Turkey with a view to exploring further opportunities for rescuing victims of persecution in Rumania by arrangement with Mr. Simond pursuant to my discussion with you. I met the Minister at 5:10 PM at the home of Gilbert Simond, Ankara representative of the International Red Cross.

After the usual formalities in which Mr. Cretzianu requested information regarding the life in America at this time which I replied was very gay and optimistic, I interrogated him about conditions in Rumania. Cr. ascertained that the bombing had created great confusion in Floesti, Bucharest and elsewhere and that the refugee movement was assuming large proportions. I referred to my conversations with Mr. Pehle and Mr. Berle regarding the cooperation which had been afforded me by Cr. in our previous efforts and showed him the exchange of memoranda between Mr. Pehle and me dated May 23rd and May 24th (attached). I brought Cr. in addition to this evidence of good-will a memorandum from Davila, former Minister from Rumania now in Washington, and a copy of a letter to the New York Times by Davila, which I left with Cr. (copies attached).

I requested further information regarding the Rumanian attitude toward minorities and in reply was informed that the present Rumanian government was more than ever determined to assist in the transportation of refugees from Rumania in spite of increasing technical difficulties. Cr. asserted that since my absence from Turkey he had received two additional telegrams from M. Antonescu to the effect that "I am doing my utmost to assist in the transportation of Jewish refugees".

I questioned Cr. regarding the formation of the so-called Inter-ministerial committee to deal with the refugee movement, which alleges to include Mr. Zissu. Cr. was not aware of this committee but made notes of the points I referred to and stated that he would request detailed information regarding it from Bucharest, warning me at the same time that due to the confusion in his country such information might be delayed. I then showed him copies of two newspaper reports released from Zurich, Switzerland dated May 3rd, which enlarged upon increased persecution of Jews in Rumania. Cr. showed surprise at these stories and was quick to emphasize his opinion that he doubted seriously their credibility. He took the stories and promised a report on their allegations.

At this point Cr. launched into a soliloquy on the "impossibly difficult" situation with which the Rumanians now found themselves. Again I interrupted and stated that I could only discuss matters relating to refugees and he replied that his disclosures were concerned with that question. He asserted that it was the "unanimous desire of his government" to withdraw from the war, but any such decisions now would "make another Italy of Rumania"

and force them to fight the Germans. "I fear", he added "that Rumania may become another Hungary where the Jewish refugees are concerned if we were to withdraw from the war and bring about German complete occupation which we could not avoid". I handed him a copy of a declaration made by our government in protest of the Germans' brutality in Hungary which he stated he would send to his government.

Cr. continued to emphasize that the Rumanian government feared only the Russians now and that he was of the opinion that many of the refugees formerly bottled up in Transnistria had gone over to the Russians. "If we were nearer to the United States as is Italy and we could expect their help we would get out of the war, but what about Russia?" Again I impressed on Cr. the fact that I could speak only on matters relating to the refugees and that I should be grateful for prompt information on the following questions:

- (1) How expeditious and complete had the movement from the Transnistria camps been?
- (2) Detailed information regarding the so-called Inter-ministerial Committee.
- (3) Confirmation or denial of the reports contained in the Zurich dispatches.
- (4) Information concerning methods to facilitate refugee movement by boat from Constanza.

Cr. promised to communicate with Simond as soon as he had received information and Simond will communicate with me either in Istanbul or in Ankara for further conferences. My previous impression of Cr. was confirmed in this meeting, namely that he was honorable and sincerely concerned with the problem of his people and sympathetic to the objectives of liberal governments and our efforts towards the rescue of persecuted peoples.

July 5th, 1944.

I. A. HIRSCHMANN

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON

July 4, 1944

RRB 72

Subject: 26 Jews arrested in Bucharest, efforts for their
release.

512744
K. 20001. 6.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

June 27, 1944

WRB 60

Subject: Gratification of Board by results in "umania, and request
for information on further developments.

COPIES OF TELEGRAM SENT

June 21, 1944

NRB 78

Subject: interministerial commission in Rumania.

6/12/44
6/19/44
Rumania

Ch. Barlas
Pera Palas

Istanbul, 19.6.1944

H.E.
Laurence A. Steinhardt
Ambassador of the United States
A n k a r a

Excellency,

I have pleasure in sending you herewith copy of a cable received from Mr. A.L. Zissu, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Bucarest, dated June 6 ac., informing me of the decision of the Rumanian Government with regard to Emigration of Jews.

It appears from this communication that the Rumanian Government took the following decision in order to centralize the emigration work :-

- 1) The creation of an Interdepartmental Board for Emigration under the supervision of the Prime Minister
- 2) The establishing of an Emigration Office under the direction of Mr. A.L. Zissu.

The Rumanian Government is furthermore prepared to facilitate the emigration of Jewish refugees, allowing the transportation of 10,000 Jews by the s/s "Alba Iulia" and other Rumanian vessels.

I asked Mr. Zissu for further details on the plan of work, and as soon as more precise information will be available, I shall inform you without delay.

Hoping to be able to discuss the matter with you in the next days, I remain, Excellency, with best regards,

Respectfully yours,

(signed) Ch. Barlas

A b s c h r i f t

urgent barlas perapalace istanbul

Bucarest 10.6.44

32 regierung genehmigte gruendung eines emigrationsoffice
unter meinem vorsitz stop demselben allein steht das
recht zu die durchfuehrung der jeweiligen beschlusse
der eben eingesetzten regierungskommission fuer emigration
unter vorsitz des herrn ministerpraesidenten stop die
vor einer woche beschlossene emigrations sistierung ist nunmehr
aufgehoben und die abfahrt der schiffe mit meiner
garantie freigegeben stop regierung bereit rumaenische
schiffe zur verfuegung stellen und zwar staatspassagierdampfer
alba iulia 7000 plaetze und zwei kleinere je
1500 zusammen zehntausend plaetze stop bitte mitteilt
familie zuhause^x) obige bedeutende beschlusse um
massnahmen sowie anbot und erzielt erforderliche
zustimmung und schiffssicherheit seitens zustaendiger
stellen stop bitte dringdrahtet ergebnis eurer
verhandlungen obigen projektes von dem die ganze
emigration abhaengt und insbesondere fuer fluechtlinge
von hoechster bedeutung und rettendem charakter stop
die rumaenischen staatschiffe mit juedischen emigranten
koennen sicherheitshalber rumaenische rotkreuzflagge
haben

zissu

x) means Jewish Agency Jerusalem

4/10/44
Refer to this present
to be made

Mr. Davidovic who left Budapest on the 21st June a.c. announces the following on behalf of our trustees:

I - Amongst the numerous jugoslavian Jews who are in Budapest, there are about 600 who have an almost legal status.

1 - Hungary is not at war with Jugoslavia.

2 - The Swiss Legation protects now also the Jugoslavians. For this reason the jugoslavian Jews were granted Swiss protective passports and the German Authorities declared that the exit into another country would be granted to them until the 1st July 1944, in case they obtain till then entry and transitvisas. If they do not obtain these visas until the fixed term, then they will be sent into a concentration camp for civilian internees.

The head of the respective department in the Swiss Legation hopes to be able to extend this fixed term (1st July), but he requires that urgent steps should be immediately undertaken to obtain the transitvisa through Rumania to enable these persons to reach one of the boats leaving from there.

II - The Swedish Legation in Budapest declared that they are willing to grant entry to Sweden to women and children (Jews) on condition that an adequate great power would give the guarantee that these refugees would leave Sweden latest after 3 years for Palestine or United Kingdom or U.S.A.

The Swedish Legation is also the protecting power for Iran and a respective department gave a hint that they would be prepared to give documents to a certain number of persons, enabling them thus to live in security in Hungary, should the Iranian Authorities also give an affirmative hint.

12th June 1944

1. Rumania must stop thinking in terms of hostility to Soviet Russia and friendship to the Anglo-Saxons; she must agree directly with the Russians and not embarrass the Anglo-Saxons with demands of protection or guaranties; she must trust Soviet Russia. In the last analysis, only thus can satisfactory solutions be attained for every territorial question.
2. Even if there was an Anglo-Saxon lever in Eastern Europe against Soviet Russia it would not be advisable to use it because this would result in the continuation of distrust and hostility between Rumania and Soviet Russia. Future collective security will provide guaranties for every State.
3. (For Cretzianu personally) There is no objection whatsoever to his coming, after the war, to the USA as Rumanian Minister. But for that he must be a true representative of the Rumanian democracy of tomorrow and break completely with yesterday's set-up. If that is not so, a favorable opinion of or sympathy for him in the United States will not be enough for his appointment.

June 9, 1944

June 9th, 1944

*File
Rumanian*

*6/9/44
Rumanian
to be sent*

Editor, NEW YORK TIMES,
New York, N.Y.

When last March the War Refugee Board was created, President Roosevelt addressed a stirring appeal to the peoples of Europe and Asia to help the victims of Nazi and Japanese brutality. Lately a statement, signed by fifteen prominent Senators, has been broadcast by the OWI to the people of Hungary, as a sequel to the recent anti-Semitic measures taken by the new Hungarian Government. It would thus appear that, in spite of the President's appeal and his warning that "all who share the guilt shall share the punishment", and in spite of the efforts of the War Refugee Board, the plight of the Jews has become more desperate in certain European countries. The "peoples" to whom all the appeals are being addressed are themselves oppressed by Fascist governments; how much the Hungarian people could help the Jewish population already interned by the new government in ghettos and concentration camps can be surmised.

On the other hand it is to be expected that now, when the invasion has begun, all means of transportation on which the War Refugee Board counted will be unavailable. We know

Page 2

already that an agreement with the Rumanian Government could not be carried out because the Germans refused to clear a Turkish boat chartered for the first batch of Jewish refugees.

Under these circumstances, it may be advisable to examine what steps could be still taken to give protection to the Jews within Europe, or at least in the Axis satellite countries. The governments of those countries have, as a rule, yielded to the pressure of the Nazis or the local anti-Semites because they are convinced, notwithstanding the President's reference to the "leaders", that in the eventuality of Allied victory their explanation that they were actually prisoners of the Germans will be readily accepted. They obviously believe that the President's words do not apply to them personally, but only to those directly responsible for the acts. Otherwise, how could Horthy have stood for the recent anti-Semitic measures?

It seems to me that the only means of forcing these governments to take a risk and to resist the German pressure is to make them fear the Allies more than the Nazis. This ought to be easier now when Germany's ultimate defeat is obvious. A new warning addressed personally to the heads of the satellite states and all the members of their governments could specify that (1) it has been decided, for humanitarian reasons out-ranking any other consideration including that of sovereignty, to break all precedents in order to prevent that helpless

Page 3

people should face annihilation not for what they have done, out for what they are; (2) the heads of the states and all the members of their governments will be tried, and capital punishment demanded, if from now on, while they are formally in power, any Jew dies because of direct or indirect measures taken by any authority in the respective country; and (3) no excuse or alibi will be accepted, and extradition from neutral countries of such chiefs of state or members of government will be demanded and obtained.

Such a warning would not only force the satellite governments to resist the German demands, but would provide them with a convincing arguments for the Nazis, as these can hardly pretend any more to be certain of victory and, on the other hand, they have no interest in replacing precious collaborators enjoying a certain local prestige with desperadoes bound to bring trouble, at a time when Hitler has his hands full. Another effect of the warning would be that the heads of the governments would lose their collaborators if the anti-Semitic measures were maintained.

If for military reasons certain arrangements, following the Italian pattern, with the Fascist heads of satellite states are being considered, the above warning would serve the double purpose of speeding them up and of extending to the Jews the only possible protection in the present circumstances. The best way of donvincing Fascists and opportunists is to make oneself feared. Hitler has got the general idea.

CHARLES A. DAVILA, Former Rumanian Minister

09/44

5/29/44
Roumanian
cc

Memorandum of conversation with Carol Davila at the Lotus Club,
May 28th, 1944 at 6:15 PM

Mr. Davila was emphatic in asserting that the only way we could move the Roumanian government to take concrete action in instituting a new policy towards the Jews in Roumania was to threaten them. This threat was to come from two sources - (a) from the President, (b) followed up by me.

Davila contended that the government cliques in the three Balkan countries, namely, Roumania, Bulgaria and Hungary, where they have been led to believe that they will find a graceful way out of their predicament after the war ends by blaming all of their acts of persecution on the Germans. In this they must be disabused in no uncertain terms. The statement from our government should clearly affirm, according to Davila, that unless the Roumanian government takes an unequivocal position with the Germans they will not participate in a policy which means the persecution of minorities and Jews that they will be traced down to their last lair, extradited and shot.

Faced with this alternative there is nothing they can do now but abandon their cooperation with the Germans in these acts of persecution.

Davila further asserts that these temporary government heads are encouraged in the belief that they can escape their "day of reckoning" by the British and American governments treatment of Bagdolio and the Italian King.

The new Roumanian government will unquestionably be headed by Manlu, now in Bucharest, who is beloved by most of the Roumanian citizens. The Russians, who will inevitably sweep through Roumania,

May 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Hirschmann:

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 23 with regard to the situation of the Jewish population in Rumania.

This will confirm your understanding that all of the information you have given me on this subject has been conveyed by me personally to the various officials of this Government mentioned in your memorandum, and that this information has been duly noted. I should like to add that this Government continues to have a deep concern with respect to the situation of the Jews in Rumania. Accordingly, I should appreciate your advising me of any further steps which are taken by the Rumanian Government to protect these people, in order that I may pass this information on to the appropriate officials of this Government.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Ira Hirschmann,
Special Representative,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

JWP bbk - 5/24/44

177-1000
100-1000
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May 23, 1944

Mr. Fehle

Mr. Hirschmann

On April 21, 1944, I handed you a memorandum with regard to Alexandre Cretsiann, Rumanian Minister to Ankara, and his cooperative attitude towards the work of the War Refugee Board in Turkey. I also handed you a communication dated March 15, 1944, said to be from Michel Antonescu, stating the position of the Rumanian Government with regard to the Jewish population in Rumania.

I now understand from our conversations that you have conveyed to Mr. Adolph Berle, Assistant Secretary of State, and to other interested officials of the Government, my memorandum of April 21 and the substance of my conversations regarding the friendly attitude manifested by Cretsiann. I wish also to thank you for bringing this information to the attention of the three members of the War Refugee Board, and particularly to Mr. Hull, Secretary of State.

177-1000

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Heretofore and on divers occasions the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, separately and acting together, have warned the Nazis and their associates of all nationalities that those who share the responsibility for the deportation and murder of Jews and other civilians will be held to strict account and punished for their crimes. Recent reports from Hungary make it clear that these warnings are not being heeded.

The Government of the United States now repeats that warning: No one who shares the guilt can escape punishment. To this we add a further warning: Justice will not wait until the final victory of the United Nations. In good measure it can be meted out now. It will be meted out now unless immediate and satisfactory assurances are given that the plan to persecute, imprison, deport and slaughter the Jews in Hungary, whether of Hungarian or other origin, has been abandoned.

Secretary of State

Secretary of the Treasury

Secretary of War

Constituting the War Refugee Board

LSL:VMing 5/22/44

1044

Extract From JTA Daily News Bulletin

VOL. XI. NO. 106 (26th year)

Tuesday, May 9, 1944

Published By The Jewish Telegraphic Agency

106 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

RUMANIA ORDERS YELLOW BADGES FOR JEWS IN MOLDAVIA; ARRESTS EMIGRATION LEADER

ZURICH, May 8. (JTA) -- Jews in the Moldavian section of Rumania, who have been exempt from wearing yellow badges, were ordered to don the yellow Mogen Dovid this week, the official German news agency DNB reports today from Bucharest.

The order was issued by the Rumanian Minister of the Interior on the pretext that the measure was necessary "because of frequent collaboration between Jews and Russian parachutists."

The German news agency also reported the arrest in Bucharest of a Jewish leader named Dr. Hentzer, whom the report describes as "president of the Zionist Emigration Organization." Dr. Hentzer was charged with bribing Rumanian officials in order to facilitate the emigration of Jews from Rumania.

5/3/44
Romania

Extract From J T A Daily News Bulletin
Published by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency
106 East 41st Street, New York 17, N. Y.

VOL. XI. NO. 101 (26th year)

Wednesday, May 3, 1944

ANTONESCU BARS JEWS FROM ALL EMPLOYMENT; RUMANIAN AND FOREIGN JEWS AFFECTED

ZURICH, May 2. (JTA) -- In a sweeping decree which completely eliminates Jews from all economic spheres in Rumania, the Antonescu Government yesterday announced that henceforth all Jews, native and foreign, are barred from industrial, commercial, agricultural and professional pursuits.

The decree, which is reported in a Bucharest dispatch of the Nazi Transocean news service, provides that only persons belonging to "professional organization" are permitted to work. Jews are specifically barred from membership in these organizations, which is open to both employers and employees.

It is learned here that many prominent Rumanian political figures have benefited financially from the "Rumanization" of Jewish property. At a recent meeting in Bucharest of directors of the Banca Romaneasca, Rumania's largest commercial bank, called to distribute profits made from participation in the "Aryanization" of Jewish enterprises, more than 100 prominent politicians were present to receive a portion of the spoils.

EMIGRATION STATISTICS

Rumania:

Number of persons who arrived in Istanbul in transit from Rumania.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 1944 | - | |
| February | 12 | |
| March (1) | 252 | |
| April (2) | 337 | |
| May (3) | 340 | |
| June | <u>2</u> | |
| Total: | 1273 persons | |
| (1) n/s <u>Milca</u> (first trip) | 239 | |
| Railway | <u>13</u> | |
| Total: | 252 | |
| (2) n/s <u>Maritza</u> (first trip) | 234 | |
| n/s <u>Bellacita</u> | 133 | including 130 Transnistrian children |
| n/s <u>Milca</u> (second trip) | 272 | |
| Railway | <u>6</u> | |
| Total: | 318 | |
| (3) n/s <u>Maritza</u> (second trip) | 318 | |
| Railway | <u>22</u> | |
| Total: | 340 | |

Statistics

I. Roumania has 320,000 Jews

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Transnistria | 50,000 |
| rest of Roumania | <u>270,000</u> |
| | <u>320,000</u> |

II. Roumania has 266,000 Jews

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Bucharest | 100,000 |
| Galati | 25,000 |
| Jassi | 25,000 |
| Various | 25,000 |
| Bukovina | 16,000 |
| Transnistria | <u>75,000</u> |
| | <u>266,000</u> |

III. March Deportees to Transnistria: 64,000

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Chernowitz | 25,000 |
| Bukovina | 12,000 |
| Bessarabia | 12,000 |
| Autochthone | <u>15,000</u> |
| | <u>64,000</u> |

IV. IHC letter, 3/20/44: Jewish population of Roumania:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1919 | <u>787,340</u> |
| 1942 | 202,149 |
| Deportees to Transnistria | <u>54,000</u> |
| | <u>346,149</u> |

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|---------|
| Transylvania: | 1919 | 101,340 |
| Roumanian Transylvania: | 1930 | 44,680 |
| | 1942 | 40,000 |

No Jews so to speak in Bessarabia.
 Bukovina: 16,000
 Number in Old Kingdom about stationary.
 Transnistria: 1960 orphans whose repatriation is authorized by Roumanian government.

Statistics

Note: The figures below were received from reports. They are not necessarily self-supporting.

1 9 4 2 J E W S

Old Rumania

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Oltenie | 2,484 |
| Muntenie | 108,761 |
| Dobroudja | 2,239 |
| Moldavia | 118,815 |
| | <u>232,299</u> |
| Dorohoi district | <u>2,316</u> |

234,615

as against 264,038 in 1930

Transylvania (without territories ceded to Hungary)

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Transylvania | 15,122 |
| Banat | 14,009 |
| Cusana | <u>10,497</u> |

39,628

as against 44,860 in 1930

Bessarabia (including Hotin)

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Bessarabia | 101 |
| Hotin | <u>126</u> |

227

as against 206,132 in 1930

Bukovina

as against 93,101 in 1930

17,033

Missing between 1930 and 1942

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Bessarabia | 206,371 |
| Bukovina | 76,068 |
| Dorohoi | 12,558 |
| Old Rumania (without Dorohoi) | 16,865 |
| Transylvania | <u>5,032</u> |
| | <u>317,254</u> |
| In Transnistria | <u>55,000</u> |
| Disappeared | <u>262,254</u> |