

UNRRA (EUROPEAN REGION).

WR. 24/9

ORIGINALLY W R 24/3.
FILE LOST, 1945.

Date of Paper	RECORD
Date Registered	SUBJECT EVACUATION OF CHILDREN FROM CONCENTRATION CAMPS TO <u>FRANCE.</u>

NOTE. This file must always be passed on VIA the REGISTRY.

(43102D) Wt P768/276 5m 8/45 H J R & L Gp 51

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
for Lubbock	30/10/2				
<u>PARIS</u> Pentz	16/4/47				

124 210

NOTE.—Do not retain this File unnecessarily.

(27628) Wt.P.470/22 5,000 7/44 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.745

WE 24/3 (1)

Reference

To: Mr. Van Hyning
 From: A. Delierneux
 25th March 1946.

INDEXED

Jewish Children of Undermined Nationality
Brought from Germany to France.

I received today the attached report relating to this question. From this report it appears:

- a) That UNRRA did not intervene at all in this operation
- b) The children (40 altogether), from one to seventeen years of age, were brought over to France by the U.S.A. Army accompanied by Welfare Workers (not UNRRA Staff).
- c) They were handed over to the Palestinian Office, Paris, and billeted with the assistance of "L'Entr'Aide Française" from the date of their arrival (5th November) until the date of their embarkation for Palestine (18th February).

From the 5th to the 7th November, they were billeted at the Centre Chaponay.

From the 7th November to the 4th January the children were sent to a home at Cailly sur Eure, near Evreux.

From the 4th to the 6th January at the Centre Benoit Malon in Paris, and from the 6th to the 18th February they stayed at a Centre in Marseilles.

The 18th February they were embarked through the Palestinian Office on board of the S.S. Cairo for Palestine, where they were taken over on their arrival by the "Aliah des Jeunes".

The whole operation seems to have been effected through the Palestinian Office in collaboration with the USA Army, the French Voluntary Agency only seeing to their billeting during their stay in France.

In any case U.N.R.R.A. did not intervene at all.

Delierneux
 A. Delierneux.

I take it we merely file the report
cliff

Jan 26 2.46

To: Registry:

INDEXED

7th June, 1945

To: Chief of Mission,
Deputy Director of Operations, E.R.O.
Dr. Langrod, D.P. Division, E.R.O.
Director, Welfare Division, E.R.O.

RECEIVED

14 JUN 1945

DP
68

From: Eyre Carter

UNRRA (REG.)

SUBJECT: Collection and Identification of unaccompanied children.

I had a visit from Lt. Mlle. Bernard, of the Mission Francaise de Rapatriement en Allemagne (an offshoot of the M.P.D.R.) who came to ask for fuller particulars of UNRRA's intentions in regard to unaccompanied children. She already had a copy of the form which has been worked out by the Welfare Division in ERO, headed "Registration of Unidentified Children". This form contains the particulars of all sorts of physical measurements and identification marks which should be used for registering children whose identity is unknown.

I repeated to Mlle. Bernard the substance of what I said to Mme. Thuillier-Landry yesterday (See my letter dated 5th June addressed to Colonel Schottland with copies to Head of Mission, D.D.G. Operations, M. Morin and Miss Bradford)

I also told Miss Bernard that we were in touch with the Don Suisse and through them with other Swiss organisations who had had some practical experience of identifying unaccompanied children and said that I had asked for a detailed report on the methods employed. Miss Bernard requested that when such a report was received by E.R.O. a copy of it might be sent to her administration. In this connection I attach a copy of a letter which I have just written to Mr. Kesselring, the Paris representative of the Don Suisse.

M. Eyre Carter
H.

DP 68/9.

Children to France ~~DP 68~~

Miss Zimmerman:

Mr. Kille said he was sorry to
renounce this on you at the last moment.
While in Frankfurt he will discuss
with Sharf Unrue's position in
respect to the French proposals.

R. Bradley

16/6/45

Registry

P.A.

2/745
82

Yoo.

Does it mean mutatis mutandi
that we would provide
financial assistance if we
were included. If so on
what authority and whose
imprii matus.

Mr. Velpey ✓

Does draft need
amending?

means as

Q.P.

It does not
place. says - Q.P.

Mrs
Zimmerman

I am sorry to send you this on
you at the last minute. While
in Frankfurt I will discuss with
Shaf Witten's position in respect
to the French proposal.

Stettin
1876

Registry
No.

Yoo

Despatched

M.

Draft.

Telegram.

SHAEF MAIN

NO:

EN CLAIR

Attention EDMISON.

French proposal for care of children from
concentration camps excludes UNRRA
participation. J.D.C. has now approached
UNRRA to meet financial cost of care in
FRANCE. In view of this will you secure
clarification of UNRRA's position in this
proposal from SHAEF. If exclusion of UNRRA
from participation in plan is to stand we
should be unable to provide financial
assistance.)

Let's answer

I don't think we

Mr. Kettle and
Sir George Reid
have agreed this.

P.B. Zimmerman.
7.6.45.

mm

*mutatis mutandis. This is
a need for financial
assistance if we were
included. If so on what
authority and where
impossible. D. D. D. D. D.
impossible*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

To: Dr. Langrod

Reference DP.68

From: P.B. Zimmerman *mm*(copies to: Mr. Kettle
Mr. Wankowicz)Subject: Evacuation of Children from Germany to France.

Confirming our discussion, we have been informed by Mr. Youngdahl, SHAEF, that an agreement has been reached between SHAEF and the French Government for the care of 1,000 children from the Buchenwald concentration camp, such program being carried out jointly by SHAEF and the French Government, and from which UNRRA is to be excluded.

I have reviewed all the material on hand to date and I am attached correspondence in which you may be interested. This includes:

1. A report from Mr. Youngdahl dated 7th May, addressed to Sir George Reid, Mr. T. Scott and Mr. Fletcher Kettle, indicating that plans were being formulated for the removal of non-repatriable children from Germany into allied or neutral countries. He indicated therein his conversation with SHAEF regarding the problems of such removal and the role which UNRRA should play. He asked that he be given immediate instructions on how to proceed.
2. A memorandum from Mr. Kettle to Mr. Parker dated 17th May, regarding telephone conversation which he had had with Mr. Youngdahl to the effect that the French Government was willing to accept 1,000 children from Buchenwald and that SHAEF was in agreement that an international agency should assume responsibility. The indications were that UNRRA was to have overall responsibility and that the I.G.C. would relate their activity to questions of resettlement. Mr. Youngdahl made some suggestions regarding staff and stated that the I.G.C. in London was being contacted regarding their agreement in this plan. Mr. Kettle stated that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Rhatigan who was planning to take it up with Sir Hubert Emerson.
3. A report from Mr. Youngdahl dated 17th May, addressed to Mr. Kettle, embodying the information included in his telephone conversation. He again discussed the various plans for the evacuation of children, and specifically mentioned the proposed plan of the French Government. He reiterated the suggestion that UNRRA contact the I.G.C. to work out formal relationships.
4. A memorandum from Mr. Kettle, dated 23rd May, forwarded to Sir George Reid apparently with a copy of Mr. Youngdahl's report of 17th May, arranging a meeting to discuss the designation of staff.

It is my understanding that such a meeting was held with Sir George Reid and members of his staff and that plans were made to send additional staff to the Welfare Officer assigned to SHAEF (Main) to assist with this problem.

5. A memorandum from Mr. Robertson (Legal Section), dated 25th May, forwarding to Mr. Kettle a handwritten report from Mr. Youngdahl dated 22nd May to which was attached:-

- (a) the French Government's plan for the "Repatriation of Deported Children Presently at Buchenwald Camp" specifically indicating that UNRRA had no participation in this plan
- (b) a memorandum from SHAEF Mission France recommending that the French proposal be accepted.

Mr. Youngdahl stated that SHAEF (Main) was considering this proposals and that there was a possibility that it would be accepted. In his note to Mr. Kettle, Mr. Robertson stated it was Mr. Youngdahl's belief that we should resist this exclusion of UNRRA as we had a moral obligation in relation to the unaccompanied children found in Germany. Mr. Robertson's comments were related to our legal responsibility.

6. A letter from Mr. Linder of the American Joint Distribution Committee, dated 28th May, addressed to Mr. Kettle, confirming a telephone conversation making a formal application for UNRRA to assume cost for the care of children to be evacuated from the concentration camps in Germany to France.
7. A cable from Washington, No. 1470, which discusses UNRRA's responsibility for the disposition and care of children in German concentration camps or assembly centres.

At your suggestion I contacted Dr. Kuhlman of the I.G.C. who at first wished to know what role we would play, but later informed me that he had received information that arrangements had been completed between SHAEF and the I.G.C. regarding I.G.C.'s responsibility for these children and that UNRRA was not to participate at the request of the French Government. He was under the impression that SHAEF was to select and move the children and the French Government, through the private agencies, would provide the care, I.G.C. to have the ultimate responsibility for resettlement.

In order to clarify the situation, Mr. Kettle contacted Mr. Youngdahl who, as previously stated, verified the fact that the French proposal had been accepted by SHAEF.

With the approval of Mr. Kettle I contacted the American Joint Distribution Committee in London and informed them that we were not assuming responsibility for the children sent to France and therefore would not be in a position to meet the financial cost. Dr. Schwartz was quite concerned and stated that their organisation was most willing to act as the agents of UNRRA and would like reconsideration of the whole problem and their request for financial assistance.

I think it is unfortunate that UNRRA was not permitted to participate in this plan and I am in agreement with Mr. Youngdahl's belief that we have an obligation to safeguard the interests of unaccompanied children found in Germany. I feel that everything should be accomplished to establish the status of these children prior to removal and that arrangements should be made to continue such activities while the children are in other countries; Moreover, that we approve the plans for such care, maintain some supervisory control and assist in the final disposition of the children.

Mr. Kettle.

D. Langrad.

We discussed this today and agreed to
Mr. Zimmerman would draft a telegram
to Shaefer reopening the question on the

strength of the JDC appreciation for funds. Mr. Kettle would
mention the matter to Shaefer. When he was seeing this
afternoon.

I cannot but regret that I have not been

6th June, 1945. acquainted with any part of this important
matter which has been agitated for just a month
except for the copy of Mr. Kettle's minute of 17th May in
which the action rested with Shaefer and telegram
1470 - on which I called this afternoon's meeting.

I will request my colleagues to point me in to cases for
the future more exactly. Even when my participation
does not arise it is essential that I should be kept
in command with all cases of any importance.

If I had known of the case, I should have proposed
the action of today on the strength of Mr. Linder's letter
of 28th - by which we should have saved a week.

I think too that when it had been decided to furnish
welfare staff (44) that would have been sufficient
evidence for our Division Officer at Shaefer to have intervened
in the Shaefer - French agreement which is dated the
19th. On of these was not time then, we could have
interventions earlier.

For it is quite clear that
it was ultra vires of Shaefer to conclude an agreement

excluding UNRRA when the Council of UNRRA representing the nations governing Shant. had decided that such functions are ours. However that is past history now.

We can certainly respond to the matter on the strength of the J.C. request. I understand, (though I have not seen any papers) that there is now an agreement with I.C. by which we assume full responsibility. If Shant will relieve itself by importing us, I do not see how the French Govt. can resist letting the children reach the French frontier. Thereafter they are bound to take full responsibility for the children: I hope for the children's sake that this will be discharged more effectively, than such were discharged in the camps at Verdun, and Trèves I hope too that these children will be provided with the things of which they stand in need, & which they would have received from UNRRA. I shall be grateful if I may be kept informed of the development of this case.

R.P. 6/6

Noted PR2. 11/6/55

it is a misunderstanding
it is explained
Mr. Parker
9/6

50/2

Miss Ladd

Miss Ames

Herewith minute from

the Little which follows your

conversation with Miss Jinnem

I believe that for 35 at 50/2

are with you and I am not certain
which one of them the attached is &
on without seeing the file. Will you
do the necessary, please.

6/6 Sir G. has not seen this minute
M.M.S.

TO: Sir George Reid

FROM: Fletcher C. Kettle *J.K.***INDEXED**

I have been informed by telephone through Mr. Youngdahl that the Displaced Persons Branch of SHAEF has approved the proposal of the French Gov't. to bring 1,000 children from camps in Germany to France for foster home care. The proposal as submitted to the SHAEF Mission to France by Monsieur Frenay, specifically provided that the project could be undertaken and carried on without assistance from UNRRA.

Mr. Youngdahl stated that General Mickelsen, in his approval, amended the proposal by inserting a clause to the effect that the responsibility of the children so moved would continue to be the responsibility of SHAEF and/or its successor.

There is apparently still some confusion in respect to this proposal, however, The American Joint Distribution Committee as you know through its subsidiary agency in France, O.S.E., was to have been the medium through which Monsieur Frenay and his Ministry would provide foster home care in France. I have recently received a letter from Commander Linder of the American J.D.C. in London in which he requests that UNRRA assume financial responsibility for the care of these children in France. I presume you will wish to follow up on this matter.

5th June, 1945.

Copies to: Mr. Scott
Mr. Parker
Dr. Langrod
Monsieur Morin

*Now does
when you see the little place
obtain Com's Linder's letter + any
other relevant documents. Subject to these
my new words ~~will~~ be that it is now
undesirable to assume financial
responsibility without administrative
responsibility also.*

9/5 6/6

Sir George Reid

DP-3

INDEXED *file*

TO: Sir George ~~Smith~~
FROM: Fletcher C. Kettle

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5th June, 1945.

Copies to: Mr. Scott
Mr. Parker
Dr. Langrod ✓
Monsieur Morin

Miss Zimmerman
By 2/6

Dr. Youngdahl

Reference.....

TO: Mr. F. C. Kettle

FROM: A. H. Robertson.

INDEXED

I attach a note from Mr. Youngdahl which he asked me to bring from Versailles about a French proposal for the care in France of unaccompanied children found in Germany.

Mr. Youngdahl discussed this question with me and he felt strongly that the deliberate exclusion of U.N.R.R.A. from this operation was something which we should resist strongly, on the ground that we had a moral obligation to watch over the interests of unaccompanied children found in Germany. He was afraid that if such children were cared for in France, they might well be permanently kept, and possibly adopted, in France, without adequate efforts being made to trace their parents. My own view, which I expressed to Mr. Youngdahl, was that if the very substantial burden that would fall on U.N.R.R.A. was going to be reduced by an agreement between S.H.A.E.F. and the French Government during the military period, we have no reason to object to a ~~determination~~ ^{limitation} of our own responsibility and would be completely protected by the fact that the military had taken the decision during the military period.

Avl.

25th May, 1945.

INDEXED ✓ (4)

TO: Sir George Reid

FROM: Fletcher C. Kettle

I am submitting for your information the attached memorandum from Mr. Youngdahl dealing with the various proposals for temporary care to unaccompanied children in concentration camps in Germany.

Mr. Rhatigan I believe is working on the matter of our relationship with the Intergovernmental Committee on work of this nature. I should like to discuss with you immediately, however, plans for the designation of staff to handle UNHRA's role of coordination in these moves on the Continent. This should be done soon as the French proposal is particularly imminent.

23.5.45.

Copies to: Mr. Rhatigan
Dr. Langrod

Miss Zimmerman

Mr. Burman ✓

Copies to: Sir C. Reid
Dr. Langrod ✓

TO: Mr. R. H. Parker

FROM: Fletcher C. Kettle

INDEXED

I received a telephone call today from Mr. Youngdahl, UNRRA Representative at SHAEF Main, and Mr. Patrick Malin, Representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees. Mr. Youngdahl informed me that the French Government had expressed its willingness to accept in France some 1,000 children from the Buchenwald Camp. In accordance with present negotiations a private Jewish Welfare Society in France named O.S.E., a subsidiary agency of the Joint Distribution Committee, would provide foster home care for these children in France.

SHAEF Main apparently would agree to the removal of these children to France providing some International Agency would assume responsibility for the overall direction of such a project. Mr. Youngdahl indicated that in his discussions with SHAEF and with Mr. Malin, they gave evidence that SHAEF would take the line that UNRRA should be the International Agency to assume responsibility in the overall direction of the project and the responsibility for seeing that proper care was provided and that the Inter-Governmental Committee would be responsible for any questions of resettlement that might arise.

Mr. Youngdahl suggested that a minimum staff of one Chief Welfare Officer, a Child Welfare Specialist and a Secretary might be needed by UNRRA to supervise this project. Mr. Malin was today writing Sir Hubert Emerson and suggesting that the I.G.C. agree to the plan as outlined.

I spoke briefly about this this morning to Mr. Ehatigan and he has agreed to discuss the matter with Sir Hubert Emerson.

17.5.45.

28th September, 1946.

WR249
24/101

To : Miss Selene Gifford
(Attention: Miss Rhea Radin)

From : Miss Deborah Pentz

Subject : Content of Information Releases regarding UNRRA's Participation in Facilitating moves of Jewish children for Ultimate Resettlement.

I have been concerned at the content of information releases in regard to UNRRA's participation in facilitating movement of emigree children and cite as specific examples :

1. CABLE NO.1373 FROM PRAGUE TO WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 1st.

"The photograph section covered the arrival of Jewish emigree children with Chief Rabbi Hertzog."

2. E.R.O. NOTES OF THE WEEK, SERIES NO.34, SEPTEMBER 14th 1946, PAGE 12 :

"Polish Children on the way to France and Belgium.

The first party of a total of 5,250 Polish-Jewish orphans arrived in Prague on 25th August, en route to France and Belgium. The group was led from Warsaw by Dr. Isaac Hertzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine, who with the assistance of UNRRA and the French and Belgian Governments had completed arrangements for the move.

During a rest period in Czechoslovakia, the children are being cared for in a camp near Prague organized by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Social Welfare, where they are being supplied by UNRRA with food and amenities. UNRRA is also responsible for all transportation arrangements, both from Warsaw to Prague and onward to France and Belgium.

France has agreed to admit 5,000 and Belgium 250 of these children, though the scheme envisages that only a minority will remain there; others will ultimately move to the United States and to Palestine."

3. UNRRA WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.101, SEPTEMBER 6th, PAGES 4 & 5 :

"Poland's Jewish Orphans going to France and Belgium.

The first group of Polish Jewish orphans -- part of a total of 5,250 who will find havens in France and Belgium -- arrived in Prague from Poland on 25 August. The party, comprising children through the 'teen ages, numbered 510, together with 20 adult escorts, and was in charge of Dr. Isaac Hertzog, Chief Rabbi of Palestine who, in co-operation with UNRRA and the French and Belgian Governments, completed arrangements for this movement.

The children are being cared for, during a period of about six weeks, by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Welfare, while UNRRA furnishes them with food and other essentials. UNRRA also arranged for their transportation by rail from Poland and has assumed responsibility for sending them on to France and Belgium. Further groups of orphans were expected to arrive in Prague within a few days and quarters have been provided near Prague by the Welfare Ministry for the entire group.

Of the 5,250 orphans coming under this emigration plan, France has agreed to admit 5,000 and Belgium 250 children. It is expected that a minority of the emigres will remain in the two countries and the rest ultimately will find homes in the United States and Palestine."

Cont'd -/I

I do not know the sources of the information stated in the E.R.O. Notes of the Week, nor in the UNRRA Weekly Bulletin. Washington, it does seem however, that UNRRA's participation in these moves can well be questioned and an exchange of cable from London to Prague 1669 24th September and Prague to London 17 in 25th September :

" CABLE LONDON-PRAGUE DATED 24/9/46 NO.1669

Attention Gates

UNRRA does not repeat nor sponsor scheme for movement of children to France undertaken by Vaad Hatzalah. Rabbi Wohlgelemer has merely been travelled through UNRRA Travel Branch London."

" CABLE PRAGUE-LONDON DATED 25/9/46 NO.1793

Reur 1669 for Gibbons from Gates

To date have had no authority to take responsibility for policy or procedure re movement of children collected by Vaad Hatzalah Rabbi Wohlgelemer for resettlement in France."

are specific in the statement that UNRRA is not to participate in movement of children.

Since the news reports noted above are reporting on activities that do not seem to be in line with UNRRA policy, and since notification of the movements so reported has never been a matter on which the Child Welfare Consultant in E.R.O. has been informed, and the only information received has been through the news reports, it seems important that some clearance be arranged between the Public Information Section and the Welfare and Repatriation Division, and that the same sources of information be available to both Divisions.

I should like to have an opportunity to discuss this, together with the questions raised in my memorandum of September 17th in regard to the movements of Jewish children.

Deborah B. Pentz

VS 156/36/8, 6m for UR24

DBP/NB

NO FOR FILE.

25th September, 1946.

Subject: Request of representative of "Vaad Hahatzala"
for UNRRA recommendation to purchase surplus
property from "Surprop" Paris.

VS 156/34/9

Mr. Rabinoff stated that Rabbi Wohlgelernter had been informed that it would be impossible for UNRRA to give approval for the purchase of supplies from "Surprop", as all supplies had been committed.

Deborah B. Pentz.

VS158/36/8 Copy WR 24/9 ✓

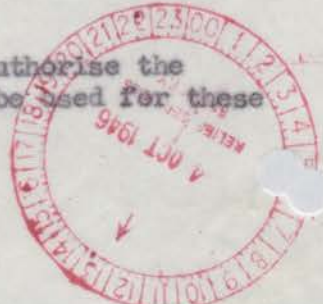
20th September, 1946.

To : Mr. Dudley Ward, General Counsel
From : Miss Selene Gifford, Director,
Welfare and Repatriation Division

INDEXED

Subject : Request of representative of "Vaad Hahatzala" for
UNRRA recommendation to purchase surplus property
from "Surprop" Paris. VS158/36/8

1. Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelemerter called at E.R.O. to ask if UNRRA would give approval authorising the purchase of equipment from Surprop, Paris. Said equipment to be used for furnishing establishments to be set up in France to provide care for emigree children and a limited number of adults from Poland en route to ultimate resettlement.
2. The move from Poland was agreed by the Polish Government with the Chief Rabbi of Palestine.
3. Rabbi Wohlgelemerter has discussed purchase of Surprop supplies with UNRRA Mission to France which reports that the items he requests are available.
4. The project to provide temporary care for children and adults in France has been approved by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is permitting temporary sojourn and will issue transit visas.
5. Care will be provided for the emigrees by the Jewish Vaad Hahatzala, and no UNRRA funds are requested.
6. There is some question as to whether UNRRA should give approval for the purchase of supplies for a project which UNRRA could not sponsor.
7. Will you advise urgently whether UNRRA can authorise the purchase of equipment requested which is to be used for these Jewish emigrees.



INDEXED

INCOMING CABLE

WR 4/6 & WR 12/10

WE 150/36/8

WR III

WE 24/9

WR 8

PRAGUE TO LONDON

ACTION: Dept R.S.
Div. WR.
C.R.S.

No. 1808
(En clair)

D.27th September, 1946.
R.28th September, 1946.
0913 hrs.

Attention Gibbons. Re your 1656^x and 1669^{xx} believe correction
of situation dependent on your acceptance our proposals in memo of
21st September carried by Glasjvty for discussion with you. Request
your earlisy confirmation of our decision.

x originated Mr Roger Carter.
xx " Sir Michael Creagh.

ES/JMB



INCOMING CABLE

WR 150/36/8

24/9 ✓

ACTION: Dept RS.
Div. WR.
Miss Gibbons.

PRAGUE ,.....TOLONDON

To. 1793
(En clair)

D. 25th September, 1946.
R. 26th September, 1946.
0924 hrs.

Re your 1669 for Gibbons from Gates. To date have had no authority to take responsibility for policy or procedure re movement of children collected by VAAD Hatzalah Rabbi Wohlgelemler for resettlement in France.

AC/JMB

OUTGOING CABLE

ORIGINATED BY: Relief Services Div.
Vol. Socy. Liaison Unit Br
Mrs. P. Marks

WE 150/ 36 18

24/9 ✓

LONDON..... TO.....PRAGUE

No. 1669
En Clair

D. 24th September 1946
DES: 1912 hrs

Attention Gates.

UNRRA does not repeat not sponsor scheme for movement of children to France undertaken by Vaad Hatzalah. Rabbi Wohlgelernter has merely been travelled through UNRRA Travel Branch London.

ES/IF

561
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

48, Boulevard Maillot,
Neuilly s/Seine.

WR
24/3

12th March, 1946

INDEXED

To: M. Delierneux
Chief of Repatriation Planning Branch,
Division of Repatriation and Welfare,
E.R.O., London.

From: Brigadier General W. Fraser, D.S.O.,
Chief of UNRRA Mission to France.

In accordance with your request made on
the occasion of your visit to Paris, I am sending
you herewith Mademoiselle Roche's report on the
Jewish children sent from Germany.

RECEIVED

19 MAR 1946
U. N. R. R. A.
MAIL UNIT

W Fraser

Brig. Gen. W. FRASER,
Chief of UNRRA Mission to France.

Encl.

--- ENFANTS ISRAELITES VENANT D'ALLEMAGNE. ---
=====

A la demande de Monsieur DELIERNEUX, lors de son passage a Paris, une enquete faite dans les services ayant eu a s'occuper des enfants venant d'Allemagne a donne les resultats suivants:

Origine du Convoi.

L'Entr'Aide Française, qui s'est occupée de l'hebergement des enfants a leur passage en France, nous communique les notes ci-dessous:

"29 Octobre, 17 heures - L'Office Palestinien, 83, ave. de la Grande Armee (PAS.62-51) telephone pour demander si nous aurions la possibilite d'accueillir pour un jour et peut-etre une nuit environ 50 enfants venant d'Allemagne, sans nationalite et destines a la Palestine. Ces enfants arriveraient en principe le 31 a la gare de l'Est a Paris. Mademoiselle JESROYKIN de l'Office Palestinien a ete elle-meme prevenue par telephone de Francfort - n'a pu avoir d'autres details.

"18 heures 20 - L'Office Palestinien rappelle pour donner quelques nouvelles informations. Les enfants arriveront probablement le 30 par avion - l'aerodrome n'est pas encore connu. Les autorites americaines se chargeront du transport. Les enfants seront accompagnes de 6 convoyeuses."

Arrivee du Convoi.

Les enfants, au nombre de 40, de 1 a 17 ans, arrives le 5 novembre a la gare de l'Est a Paris ont ete heberges par les soins de l'Entr'Aide Française au centre Chaponay, 7 rue Jacquin, Paris, en attendant leur transfert dans un autre centre.

Hebergement.

Le 7 novembre - les enfants ont ete transfères par les soins de l'Entr'Aide Française dans une propriete de la W.T.Z.O. a Cailly s/Eure, a une dizaine de kilometres d'Evreux, en attendant que les demarches permettant leur embarquement soient terminees.

Le 4 janvier - les enfants, accompagnes d'une convoyeuse, quittaient le centre de Cailly par camion de l'Entr'Aide pour etre amenes au centre Benoit Malon a Paris ou ils devaient demeurer jusqu'a leur depart pour Marseille le 6 janvier.

Ils ont ete dans ce centre heberges par les soins de l'Entr'Aide Française qui les a fait accompagner a la gare de Lyon le 6 janvier ou ils devaient prendre le train pour Marseille a 17 heures 30. Ils etaient munis de provisions suffisantes pour le long voyage qu'ils avaient a effectuer.

Le delegation de l'Entr'Aide Française de Marseille devait accueillir ces enfants jusqu'a leur embarquement.

2.

Embarquement: - a eu lieu le 18 fevrier a bord du
s/s "CAIRO". Une visite a Mademoiselle JESROYKIN de l'Office
Palestinien confirme ces informations.

Les enfants ont ete accueillis a leur arrivee en
Palestine par "l'Aliah des Jeunes" qui doit pourvoir a
tous leurs besoins.

HR

11/7/45
Extract
"Displaced
Children in
Germany"
File 50/2
draft.

FRANCE: The French Government made an offer to SHAEF to give temporary asylum to 1,000 unaccompanied children from Concentration Camps, and according to our present information about 500 children have been moved from Buchenwald Concentration Camp to France under this scheme. These children are said to be mainly 15, 16 and 17 year old Jewish boys and are all said to have been identified. Under the original terms of the agreement with SHAEF, direct U.N.R.R.A. participation in the scheme was excluded, but the proposal was later amended to the effect that the responsibility of the children so moved would continue to be the responsibility of SHAEF and-or its successor. The Joint Distribution Committee, a subsidiary of which, the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (O.S.E) in France, has taken responsibility for the temporary care of these children, and it is understood is making plans for their permanent care. We now await further details.

INDEXED

ice

Extract from Friends Relief Service News No.4 August 31st 1945

Russian camp on the outskirts of Marseilles

"Early in the month we were called in to supply clothing and supplementary food for approximately 70 Jewish children and adolescents from German concentration camps, who were waiting for transportation to Palestine".

GE. CDPX. 383.7 (2.21)

16 July 1945

COUNTRY OPERATIONS

INDEXED

France

Repatriation and Reception

e. 815 Jewish refugees, including 361 children sailed from Marseille 8 July for Palestine. A large number of these refugees had been liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp. The Inter-governmental Committee recommended this movement and the necessary approvals were secured from the French and British Governments. Responsibility for the care of these refugees in Palestine was accepted by the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Telephone: GRO. 4636-7-8-9.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

Our Ref.: IC/530/96.

MWB/DLD.

Your Ref.: DP.68.

19, HILL STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

29th June, 1945.

INDEXED

DP68

DP68/9
Dear Miss Zimmerman

Thank you for your letter of the 21st June. Inasmuch as I expect to be leaving for Spain and Portugal in a few days I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. Michael Hacking, who will be dealing with various matters involving the relationship between this office and UNRRA, when concrete proposals arise to be taken up in connection with the subject of your letter.

Sincerely,

M. W. Beckelman

M. W. Beckelman
Assistant Director.

Miss Pearl Zimmerman,
Auxiliary Services Section,
Displaced Persons Division,
UNRRA, 11, Portland Place,
LONDON, W.1.

RECEIVED

30 JUN 1945
U. N. R. R. A.
MAIL UNIT

Noted
P13
4/7/45

Dr. Langford

For your information & action.

*M. Kettle
12/6/45*

Miss Zimmerman

13/6

DP68.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division
Displaced Persons Branch

INDEXED

SHAF/G-5/DP/ 8426/2

8 June 1945

SUBJECT: Welfare Matters Affecting UNRRA.

TO : Mr. Edmison, Chief UNRRA Liaison Officer.

I am enclosing herewith a letter to Mr. Kettle,
(Attn: Sir George Reid). I should be grateful to you,
if after perusal, you would kindly forward it to ~~Sir~~ Kettle.
Mr.

HPP

H. P. POLLAK
UNRRA Officer

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division (FWD)
Displaced Persons Branch.

SHAW/G-5/LP/2726/2.

3 June 1945.

TO : Mr. Fletcher G. Kettle, USHRA, LEO (Attn: Sir George Reid).

SUBJECT : Welfare matters affecting USHRA.

1. With regard to the matters you requested, I follow up, I herewith submit the following information:-

1. Agreement with French Government concerning care of Buchenwald Children.

An agreement has been signed between SHAW and the French Government which does not, however, make provision for USHRA supervision of the care of these children nor for USHRA accepting the responsibility for their repatriation and/or resettlement. This has been, by agreement, referred to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

It will consequently not be necessary to deploy Miss Pearce for negotiation and supervision of this project.

2. Child Welfare.

In view of the agreement with the Swedish Government, and the present proposals of the Don Suisse, it is imperative to get USHRA child welfare experienced workers into the field as soon as possible. The essential requirement is that these workers have language qualifications in order to make it possible for them to work with the children.

Miss Maria Liebeskind (Polish) and Miss Odette Despaigne have been strongly recommended by Capt. Patterson and Mr. Fisher and are being held at Granville. As I left for Frankfurt I was unable to interview them but have approved their nominations.

In order to expedite matters Mr. Edmison is endeavouring to get clearance to have one assigned to Belsenbergen and the other also to the 21 Army Group, to be deployed in accordance with specific need.

Endeavours will be made by Mr. Edmison to have Miss Pearce assigned to the 12 Army Group, although this may take some little time.

3. Supplementary Registration Card.

From information available at the present, it would appear that there is practically no "unidentified child" problem. In Buchenwald Mr. Youngdahl advised that all of the Jewish children (including the unaccompanied ones) had been identified. In his opinion, while there might eventually be a few isolated cases, it was not anticipated that this would constitute a major problem. As soon as the proposed supplementary registration card and instructions are received from ERO, the matter will be taken up.

4. Location Unit.

Mr. Barber is shortly returning to ERO and will personally advise you of the progress made regarding the setting up of the Location Unit and its relationship to the National Training Bureau and International Red Cross.

Tracing

5. Negotiations with Voluntary Societies.

The present stage of development regarding the agreements reached with the British Red Cross and BRILY has already been advised to ERG. The present anomalous situation is viewed with considerable misgiving and constitutes one of the most urgent UNRRA problems in this operation.

Mr. C. Ernst who was responsible for negotiations with voluntary societies, has now assumed a Field appointment. On the urgent request of Col. Schottland who considered that an experienced UNRRA officer assume the duty of contacting and negotiating with voluntary societies regarding the content of their projects etc. the services of Miss M. Bradford were requested for this duty. She will be assisted by Miss C. Ernst who will be responsible for all the administration work regarding the mobilisation, equipment and sailing forward of voluntary society personnel.

It was the strong request of Col. Schottland that this function of liaison with voluntary societies be undertaken by one UNRRA officer, who will be mobile and able to move to Brussels, Frankfurt, Holland, where required. In this way agreements can be expedited, co-ordination of all voluntary societies projects ensured and active contact maintained with field requirements.

6. Deployment of Army Group and Area Welfare Officers.

The following welfare personnel has been deployed:-

Mr. A.E. Braunbridge	-	PI Army
Miss M. Backstrom	-	PI Army
Miss E. Blackey	-	12 "
Mr. D.B. Woodlinger	-	12 "
Miss G. Kelly	-	12 "
Miss O. Bigger	-	12 "
Miss Grace Jewell	-	12 "
Mr. Martin Sherry	-	6 "

The decision whether the above will be assigned to Army Group or Area posts will be made by the military authorities in each Army Group.

H. P. Pollak
H. P. POLLAK
UNRRA Officer.

Maillet 019

48, Boulevard Maillot
Neuilly-sur-Seine

5th June, 1945

Colonel Schottland,
G-5 D.P. Division;
SHAEP Main,
Versailles

Dear Schottland,

Yesterday I was asked by M^{me}. Thuillier-Landry of the French Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees, to go and see her with reference to reports which they have received about groups of French or semi-French children in Germany.

The French Government is anxious to receive back into France all unaccompanied children who have any French blood in them, i.e. born of French parents on both sides or a French D.P. man or woman mated either legally or otherwise with a non-French partner, whether German or otherwise; also all unaccompanied children who, whatever their nationality, were previously resident in France. These children may be found in one of three places: (a) in Assembly Centres, (b) in children's institutions (day nurseries, orphanages, etc.) possibly mixed with German children, (c) in German families. The reports so far reaching the French ministry give no precise information as to numbers or location, but the indications are that a certain number have been discovered by accident in class (b).

I explained to M^{me}. Thuillier-Landry that so far as class (a) (children in Assembly Centres) was concerned, they would probably be handled very soon through the ordinary machinery, although I knew that you yourself had not yet received sufficiently accurate information to be able to say how many such children there are.

As to class (b), I said that it would probably take a certain number of weeks to discover these children, because it would mean deliberate enquiries by the Allied occupying authorities. I promised to pass on to you the request that these enquiries should be made as soon as the administrative machine of the occupying armies was working sufficiently smoothly. As to the third class, I said that these would probably require an even longer period, but that I would ask you to bear the point in mind.

The question is obviously one which affects other nationalities besides the French. You may know what the attitude of the different governments is with regard to children of mixed marriages. We tried to get some guidance on this during the planning stage in London last year but I do not think we reached definite conclusions.

I am sending a copy of this to our London office. Perhaps you would see that a reply is sent to M^{me}. Thuillier-Landry as soon as there is something definite to tell her Ministry. I am not sure what the channels between you and the French Ministry will be now that you are moving to Germany.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) EYRE CARTER

Distribution:

Head of Mission
Deputy Director-General Operations
Mr. Morin, D.P. Division
Miss Bradford, SHAEP

for information

copied from WP/68/962

*rec June 19th
W. J. J. J.*

*(received 8 June 1945
Anna Reynolds)*

Copy

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

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

on file 68
May 28th, 1945.

Fletcher C. Kettle, Esq.,
Deputy Director, Displaced Persons Division,
U.N.R.R.A.,
170a, Great Portland Street,
W.1.

Dear Mr. Kettle,

This is to confirm our telephone conversation on Friday last, in the course of which I told you that I had received a cable from New York which stated that our people there had discussed with Mr. Fred Neehler the assumption by UNRRA of the financial responsibility for the care of the children - presumably Stateless, German or Austrian - who are to be evacuated from the concentration camps in Germany to France. It is my understanding that the French Government has agreed to permit the entry of approximately one thousand children. I was also informed that Mr. Greenleigh in Paris will be in touch with your Organisation there for the same purpose.

The children are expected to arrive in France in the course of the next few days. Unfortunately, I am not advised as to the probable cost of their maintenance, but, Dr. Schwartz, who no doubt will be informed, is expected to arrive in London from Paris on Thursday, May 31st, and should be in a position to furnish you with any additional information which you may require.

Will you therefore be good enough to regard this as a formal application for UNRRA to assume these costs. With thanks in advance for your cooperation and with cordial greetings, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) HAROLD E. LINDER,

Vice-Chairman.

DP68-
whitelake
8322
AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

11D REGENT STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1,
ENGLAND.

INDEXED

May 28th, 1945. (6)

DP
Fletcher C. Kettle, Esq.,
Deputy Director, Displaced Persons Division,
U.N.R.R.A.,
170a Great Portland Street,
W.1.

RECEIVED

30 MAY 1945

Dear Mr. Kettle,

U.N.R.R.A. (REGY.)

This is to confirm our telephone conversation on Friday last, in the course of which I told you that I had received a cable from New York which stated that our people there had discussed with Mr. Fred Hoehler the assumption by UNRRA of the financial responsibility for the care of the children - presumably Stateless, German or Austrian - who are to be evacuated from the concentration camps in Germany to France. It is my understanding that the French Government has agreed to permit the entry of approximately one thousand children. I was also informed that Mr. Greenleigh in Paris will be in touch with your Organisation there for the same purpose.

The children are expected to arrive in France in the course of the next few days. Unfortunately, I am not advised as to the probable cost of their maintenance, but, Dr. Schwartz, who no doubt will be informed, is expected to arrive in London from Paris on Thursday, May 31st, and should be in a position to furnish you with any additional information which you may require.

Will you therefore be good enough to regard this as a formal application for UNRRA to assume these costs. With thanks in advance for your co-operation and with cordial greetings, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Harold F. Linder
HAROLD F. LINDER
Vice Chairman

ACTION COPY

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: MR. SCOTT
MR. PARKER

INDEXED

U.N.R.R.A. WASHINGTON.....YTO.....U.N.R.R.A. LONDON

NO. 1470

Dated: 26th May, 1945

Rec'd: 29th May, 1945

1. Referring to IGCR and voluntary agency projects for care of children now in Germany concentration camps or assembly centres, essential UNRRA assume responsibility for preliminary care and clearance with military on any projects of this sort proposed.
2. This raises important questions UNRRA responsibility and concern for orphaned and unaccompanied children. Essential movement be best interest of children. Urge immediate assignment child welfare specialists take responsibility with military for determining disposition and care children. Particularly concerned that status of children be established in Germany where best sources of information exist to identify them, that they not be moved nor turned over to any authority until full information on their status and proposed plan for care secured. Staff assigned should implement Shaeff directive YAG 363.7/1 GE: ACM which has as objective careful consideration of child's status. As long as UNRRA-Military retain joint responsibility, they are in position to release together authorities only when fully satisfied that best interest of children is served. Qualified child welfare staff from U.S. assigned DP in Europe, and who could be assigned this work, are Eileen Blackey, Joan Kain, Dorothy Pearce, Olive Biggar. These should be augmented by other nationals. Prepared to assign at once HDQS person to take over all responsibility.

DW 743

Reply drafted 7/6/45 and passed to Dr. Langford for approval

PB 2
7/6

copy received by
Miss Ames for Col. Schellin
on Oct 5

COPY

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE - G - 5 DIVISION
DISPLACED PERSONS BRANCH.

May 25, 1945

SHAEF/G-5/DP/2314

SUBJECT: Plan for Care of Children.

TO: Head, Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France.

1. Reference is made to memorandum from Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France, AC 383.7-8 GE dated 20th May, 1945, recommending the acceptance of a proposal by the French Government to care for children found in Germany who are unaccompanied by parents.

2. The proposal of the French Government under date of 19 May 1945 was attached to the memorandum from Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission, France and set forth the general conditions under which the children would be accepted.

In connection with the specific proposal of the French Government this H.Q. agrees to arrange for the movement of children now at the Buchenwald camp and such other children as may be agreed upon later subject to the following conditions:

- a. All children will be accepted up to and including 16 years of age who are citizens of Allied or co-belligerent nations, stateless, or German Jews found in camps or prisons.
- b. These children whose nationality can be determined will be subject to such disposition as their own Government wishes to make.
- c. Those children who are stateless will be subject to final disposition by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.
- d. The entire plan for the care and resettlement of such children will be subject to the supervision and approval of Supreme H.Q., AEF or its successors, namely Control Commission for Germany (British Element) and the U.S. Group Control Council.

4. Specific arrangements for the care of these children in France, including housing, medical examination and general welfare will be arranged between the French Government and its cooperating organizations and Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission, France.

5. It is anticipated that those children may be moved shortly and it is requested therefore that Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France follow through with the arrangements as soon as possible.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

S.R. Mickelsen
Brigadier General, USA,
Chief, Displaced Persons Branch.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT ON CARE OF UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN DISPLACED IN GERMANY PREPARED FOR COL.
SCHOTTELAND TO TAKE TO U. S. A.

Placement of children in countries for temporary care.

The French Government extended an invitation to a group of children who were in the Buchenwald Concentration Camp at the time of liberation. Under this offer, 535 children have already been moved to France and are being cared for under the auspices of the French Red Cross and the Oeuvres des Sociales des Enfants. Final plans for the repatriation or resettlement of these children will be made by the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees at a later date. No time limit has been set by the French Government on the length of stay for these children.

The Swedish Government extended an invitation for six month's haven to 10,000 displaced persons in Germany who were in need of hospital care, convalescence, recuperation or rest. Of this number, 1000 invitations were reserved for children. To date 402 children have been sent to Sweden under this offer. Since this invitation is limited to children in need of health care, it is more difficult to use up the quota of spaces. UNRRA retains its responsibility for the ultimate repatriation or removal of these children from Sweden at the end of their stay. Joint arrangements will be made between UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees for plans involving the non-repatriable group.

Switzerland through its Don Suisse and the Swiss Red Cross has extended haven to 2000 children for a six month's period. This offer includes children under twelve years of age who are most urgently in need of rehabilitative services. Preference is given to children unaccompanied by parents or guardian, but may also include children who are with their parents if the children are in need of care and if the parents agree to a period of temporary stay in Switzerland.

In June, 350 children were removed from Buchenwald and taken to Switzerland for six month's of recuperative care. The final disposition of these children and of any others who may go to Switzerland in the future will be the responsibility of UNRRA. For those who can be repatriated, plans will be made with their respective governments. For those who are non-repatriable, UNRRA will work jointly with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees.

England has approved an offer extended by the Jewish Refugees Committee and the Friends Committee for Refugees to accept for permanent care a group of 1000 ex-concentration camp children under 16 years of age. These children will be cared for in England until permanent resettlement plans can be made for them in Palestine or Australia. The screening of children for this invitation will need to be very carefully done since their placement in England is the first step in plans for permanent care. For this reason, only children

who are definitely without parents or relatives and preferably those who are non-repatriable will be selected for placement in England.

Three hundred children have already gone to England from Czechoslovakia. The remaining 700 places will be filled by children selected from the British, American and French Zones of occupied Germany.

The offers as extended by these countries do not take into consideration the older adolescent group of unaccompanied children, principally between the ages of 16 and 20. Our reports from centers reveal an increasing number of these young people whose whole future has been jeopardized by years of confinement in Germany. These boys and girls present a major problem from the standpoint of their need for education and vocational training if they are to be prepared to take their places in normal community life again. Considerable thinking and planning is being done by USIA and voluntary agencies to meet this problem in the assembly centers where groups of these young adults are living, but it must be pointed out that facilities and supplies are extremely limited for carrying out such re-training programs in Germany. It is important to interpret the needs of these young people to other countries in the hope that similar invitations may be extended to them.

①

Miss Wood

Mr Berger

You should see this

②

Mr Nathan

If this responsibility is
accepted by VNRPA we have
better be ready with names
for the Welfare Officer and
Chief Secretariat posts.


24/5

22 May, 1945

NOTED

Subject: French Proposal for Care of
Children

To: Mr. Fletcher Kettle
Ururra

1. The attached copy of material which has just been sent by the Shaef Mission France to Shaef Main is self-explanatory. It represents a reversal of the earlier tentative plan & indicates what France thinks of Ururra. I have been informed informally that the decision on Ururra was made by the whole French Cabinet.
2. Shaef Main now has this proposal under consideration. There is a strong disposition to get the children out of Germany at the earliest and there is a good possibility that the plan will be accepted or approved. However, it may be submitted to the Combined Chiefs of Staff

Copy

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

(b)

AG 383.7-3 ON

INDEXED

APC 757
20 May 1945

SUBJECT: Plan for Care of Children

TO : Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force (Main)
APC 757, U.S. Army (Attn: G-5 Division, Displaced Persons Branch)

1. Attached is a translation of a letter from the Ministry of Prisoners, Deportees and Refugees which embodies a plan for the care of certain specified children to be brought from Germany to France.
2. Although this letter embodies most of the essential points covered in conferences with representatives of the Ministry, an agreement had previously been reached that provided for the designation of UNRRA as the supervising agency in France, which portion of the agreement was disapproved by the Minister, who substituted the Inter-Governmental Committee as the sole agency to deal with this matter.
3. It would appear therefore, that in order to expedite action under this plan it may best be handled by having UNRRA and the Inter-Governmental Committee arrive at an agreement as to how the Inter-Governmental Committee will function in making ultimate plans for these children and/or incorporating in your approval of the plan a condition that the governments of the Nationals (children) concerned have the final determination regarding the ultimate plans for the children.
4. This Mission recommends the acceptance of this plan and urges that it be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

For the Head of Mission:

/s/ F.W. Jones
Major, AGC(ELJ)
Adj. General

1 Incl - Copy of letter from
Ministry of PMR, dtd
19 May 1945, subject as above.

Copy

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

19 May 1945 (a)

Ministère des Prisonniers de Guerre
Déportés et Réfugiés
Direction des Affaires Sociales

Minister des Prisoners, Deportees
and Refugees

Cabinet A.S.C. No. 211

INDEXED

to
SHAEP, Mission (France)
Attention: Lt. Col. WITTE

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Deported Children Presently at Buchenwald Camp.

1. Pursuant to the requests which were made to SHAEP, for the repatriation of the deported children found at the Buchenwald Camp, I have informed you that the French Government was willing to receive in France temporarily these children, even foreigners.

2. The purpose of this letter, prepared in agreement with the Ministry of Public Health, is to confirm the approval of the French Government, to ask you to undertake as soon as possible the repatriation of those children and to specify under what conditions France will grant them hospitality.

3. Categories of Beneficiaries: The French Government accepts that children who have not yet reached their 17th Birthday and who belong to the Following categories may enter the country:

- a. Children who are citizens of Allied or co-belligerent nations.
- b. Stateless.
- c. German Jews abandoned in camps or prisons.

4. Only those children who were found in Germany unaccompanied by parents capable of caring for them will be considered. However, children found in Germany accompanied by one of their parents but who have to be transferred to France for care which cannot be given to them in Germany will also be accepted.

5. Conditions Applicable to Children to be Received:

- a. The natural rights of the children in these groups will be respected and their final disposition will be decided in agreement with the Inter-Governmental Committee of Refugees.
- b. The children who enter France will receive a medical examination and will be hospitalized whenever necessary.
- c. These children will be entrusted to organizations such as Ouvre des Sociales des Enfants and the French Red Cross; these organizations come under the jurisdiction of French Administration.
- d. The children will be given in France all the care their condition requires.

6. Practical Methods of Operation: The French Government agrees to make available to SHAEP, for the repatriation of these children, the medical trains at the disposal of the Ministry of PDR, insofar as they are not used for the repatriation of French political deportees. These trains will carry qualified

personal and special food for children. Moreover, it should be specified that:

- a. the above measures are not applicable to French deported children for whom the French Government is asking immediate repatriation and who will remain under the sole authority of the French Government, neither is it applicable to children who are citizens of the United States, the United Kingdom. These latter children will be immediately taken over by SHAHF and will travel through under that organization's authority.
- b. The French Government is considering favorably the granting of similar advantages to other deported children but, before it agrees to other repatriation, it wishes to be informed by SHAHF of the number of deported children presently in Germany and of the number of children which Allied nations and neutral countries intend to receive.
- c. The French Government considers that UNRRA does not have the authority to be concerned with children even foreigners who are on French territory.

For the Minister of Deportees,
Refugees and Prisoners.

W E 24/3

W E 24/3

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Mission (France)

AG 383. 7-8 GE

INDEXED

AFO 757
20th May 1945

SUBJECT: Plan for Care of Children

TO : Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force (Main)
APO 757, U.S. Army (Attn: G-5 Division, Displaced Person
Branch)

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3. It would appear therefore, that in order to expedite action under this plan it may be handled by having UNRRA and the Inter-Governmental Committee arrive at an agreement as to how the Inter-Governmental Committee will function in making ultimate plans for these children and/or incorporation in your approval of the plan a condition that the governments of the Nationals (children) concerned have the final determination regarding the ultimate plans for the children.

4. This Mission recommends the acceptance of this plan and urges that it be implemented at the earliest possible moment.

For the Head of Mission:

1 Incl - Copy of letter from
Ministry of FDR, dtd
19th May.1945, subject as above.

/s/ F.W. Jones
Major, ACD (ELJ)
Adj. General

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

Copy

Ministere des Prisonniers de Guerre
Deportes et Refugies

Direction des Affaires Sociales

Cabinet A.S.C. No. 211

19th May 1945

Minister des Prisoners, Deportees
and Refugees

to

SHAEF, Mission (France)
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- d. The children will be given in France all the care their condition requires.

6. Practical Methods of Operation: The French Government agrees to make available to SHAEF, for the repatriation of these children, the medical trains at the disposal of the Ministry of PDR, insifar as they are not used for the repatriation of French political deportees. These trains will carry qualified Personnel and special food for children. Moreover, it should be specified that:

- a. the above measures are not applicable to French deported children for whom the French Government is asking immediate repatriation and who will remain under the sole authority of the French Government, neither is it applicable to children who are citizens of the United States, the United Kingdom. These latter children will be immediately taken over by SHAEF and will travel through under that organizations authority.

- b. The French Government is considering favorably the granting of similar advantages to other deported children but, before it agrees to other repatriation, it wishes to be informed by SHAEF of the number of deported children presently in Germany and of the number of children which Allied nations and neutral countries intend to receive.
- c. The French Government considers that UNRRA does not have the authority to be concerned with children even foreigners who are on French territory.

For the Minister of Deportees,
Refugees and Prisoners.

COPY

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE

INDEXED

May 19, 1945

WE 24/3
Why received by Min
Aves to Col Schultland
on Oct 5/45

Ministere des Prissoniers de Guerre
Deportes et Refugies

Direction des Affaires Sociales

Cabinet A.S.G. No. 211

Minister des Prisoners, Deportees
and Refugees

to

SHAEF, Mission (France)
Attention: Lt.Col. Witte

Subject: Repatriation of Deported Children Presently at Buchenwald
Camp.

1. Pursuant to the requests which were made to SHAEF, for the repatriation of the deported children found at the Buchenwald Camp, I have informed you that the French Government was willing to receive in France temporarily these children, even foreigners.

2. The purpose of this letter, prepared in agreement with the Ministry of Public Health, is to confirm the approval of the French Government, to ask you to undertake as soon as possible the repatriation of those children and to specify under what conditions France will grant them hospitality.

3. Categories of Beneficiaries: The French Government accepts that children who have not yet reached their 17th birthday and who belong to the following categories may enter the country:

- a. Children who are citizens of Allied or co-belligerent nations.
- b. Stateless
- c. German Jews abandoned in camps or prisons

4. Only those children who were found in Germany unaccompanied by parents capable of caring for them will be considered. However, children found in Germany accompanied by one of their parents but who have to be transferred to France for care which cannot be given to them in Germany will also be accepted.

5. Conditions Applicable to Children to be Received:

- a. The natural rights of the children in these groups will be respected and their final disposition will be decided in agreement with the Inter-Governmental Committee of Refugees.
- b. The children who enter France will receive a medical examination and will be hospitalized whenever necessary.
- c. These children will be entrusted to organizations such as Oudre des Sociales des Enfants and the French Red Cross; these organizations come under the jurisdiction of French Administration.
- d. The children will be given in France all the care their condition requires.

6. Pracitcal Methods of Operation: The French Government agrees to make available to SHAEF, for the repatriation of these children, the medical trains at the disposal of the Ministry of PDR, insofar as they are not used for the repatriation of French political deportees. These trains will carry qualified personnel and special food for children. Moreover, it should be specified that:

- a. the above measures are not applicable to French deported children for whom the French Government is asking immediate repatriation and who will remain under the sole authority of the French Government, neither is it applicable to children who are citizens of the United States, the United Kingdom. These latter children will be immediately taken over by SHAEF and will travel through under that organization's authority.
- b. The French Government is considering favorably the granting of similar advantages to other deported children but, before it agrees to other repatriation, it wishes to be informed by SHAEF of the number of deported children presently in Germany and of the number of children which Allied nations and neutral countries intend to receive.
- c. The French Governme nt considers that UNRRA does not have the authority to be concerned with children even foreigners who are on French territory.

For the Minister of Deportées,
Refugees and Prisoners.

C O P Y

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE - G-5 DIVISION
DISPLACED PERSONS BRANCH

WE 24/3
copy received by Miss Aves
from Col Schuler
on Oct 5th

SHAEP/G-5/DP/2814

May 25, 1945

SUBJECT: Plan for Care of Children

TO: Head, Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France

1. Reference is made to memorandum from Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France, AC 383.7-8 GE dated 20 May 1945, recommending the acceptance of a proposal by the French Government to care for children found in Germany who are unaccompanied by parents.

2. The proposal of the French Government under date of 19 May 1945 was attached to the memorandum from Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission, France and set forth the general conditions under which the children would be accepted.

3. In connection with the specific proposal of the French Government this H.Q. agrees to arrange for the movement of children now at the Buchenwald camp and such other children as may be agreed upon later subject to the following conditions:

- a. All children will be accepted up to and including 16 years of age who are citizens of Allied or co-belligerent nations, stateless, or German Jews found in camps or prisons.
- b. These children whose nationality can be determined will be subject to such disposition as their own Government wishes to make.
- c. These children who are stateless will be subject to final disposition by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.
- d. The entire plan for the care and resettlement of such children will be subject to the supervision and approval of Supreme H.Q., AEF or its successors, namely Control Commission for Germany (British Element) and the U.S. Group Control Council.

4. Specific arrangements for the care of these children in France, including housing, medical examination and general welfare will be arranged between the French Government and its cooperating organizations and Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France.

5. It is anticipated that these children may be moved shortly and it is requested therefore that Supreme H.Q., AEF Mission France follow through with the arrangements as soon as possible.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

S.R. Mickelsen,
Brigadier General, USA,
Chief, Displaced Persons Branch

INDEXED

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division
Displaced Persons Branch

SHAEF/G-5/DP/2814

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Unaccompanied Children from Germany.

TO : Mr. Fletcher C. Kettle, 170 A Great Portland Street, London.
(thru Chief UNRRA Liaison Officer).

1. As you know many informal and formal proposals are being made to give temporary care to unaccompanied children now in concentration camps and assembly centers in Germany. The plans that have come to my attention are one from the French Government, the Swedish Government - proposal on which UNRRA is working, proposals in process from the International Red Cross, Swiss Government, and the Don Suisse. In addition it appears some plans are being discussed in Belgium and Great Britain.

2. Informally the Army has established a policy of removing children from concentration camps as quickly as possible and it is suggested that UNRRA, London, should acquaint itself from that end with the proposals being discussed there and should submit to SHAEF firmed plans with governments or agencies with which it desires to cooperate. This end--I am attempting to represent UNRRA in this area as best I can.

3. The plan of the French Government is the farthest along and I understand that the written proposal is being forwarded from SHAEF Mission France this afternoon. While I haven't seen the proposal in writing I learned that it calls for the transfer of 1,000 children from Germany to France under the official sponsorship of the French Government which plans to delegate the responsibility of care to private welfare agencies - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. As I understand it the proposal gives UNRRA the privilege of observation and also gives UNRRA the decision of the disposition of the children. The general principle accepted at SHAEF is that UNRRA's function is care and the function of Intergovernmental Committee resettlement. These children's projects therefore immediately bring up the matter of relationships between these two organizations. May I urge you to make certain that the appropriate person in UNRRA contact Sir Herbert Emerson to work out formal relationships. At this end, Mr. Malin and I informally agree on administrative relationships but it is useless for us to continue to discuss them until some kind of a formal statement has been arranged in London.

4. Inasmuch as the French project is likely to get started in the relatively near future I should like to propose the following functions for a small UNRRA unit which would take care of UNRRA's responsibility.

- a. Maintain minimum records of children for UNRRA.
- b. Observe the care of children and work cooperatively with the agencies.

c. Encourage procedures for continued effort to identify nationals and to accumulate additional information which might be necessary for repatriation and resettlement.

d. Recommendation on repatriation in individual cases.

e. Regular reporting to UNRRA on status of children.

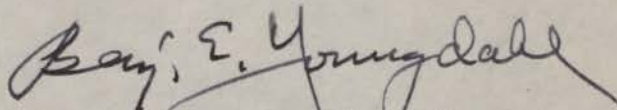
f. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee representatives on plans for the non-repatriables and recommend to UNRRA on the time of notification to the Intergovernmental Committee of the transfer of responsibility.

5. Some of the above functions might not apply precisely to the specific plan which is being suggested, but in general these seem to be the broad functions that will be UNRRA's responsibility. It is suggested that a small staff of perhaps two professionals and one secretary-stenographer be attached to the UNRRA Mission to France to assume this responsibility for UNRRA. One of these persons should be a general welfare person and the other a child welfare specialist.

6. It is my recommendation that the present welfare ~~and~~ personnel in our Paris Mission not be used, as very poor relationships exist with the SHAEF Mission to France and with the other agencies with whom they would have to work. From UNRRA's standpoint the project will have a very much better chance of success if new personnel are provided.

7. For your information Mr. Patrick Malin and I are planning to take a trip to the Buchenwald concentration camp next week for the purpose of getting specific information on the children there and for making preliminary plans with respect to the proposed movement into France.

8. Will you please see that the appropriate persons in UNRRA are provided with a copy of this memorandum.



BENJ. E. YOUNGDAHL (UNRRA)
Processing Center Section.

WE
WR 24/26.
Copy 24/3(9)
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division (Main)
Displaced Persons Branch

7 May 1945

SHAEF/

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Children from Germany

TO : Sir George Reid
Mr. Tom Scott
Mr. Fletcher Kettle

1. I should like to report on certain proposals that are now being discussed for the immediate removal of presumably non-repatriable children (large proportion unaccompanied Jewish stateless) from Germany into Allied or neutral countries. The planning is being done by various private welfare agencies with the knowledge of military authorities and with some encouragement by them. The present plans deal solely with the children in the three large concentration camps that have been uncovered recently.

2. OSE, a Jewish welfare agency operating in France, is now coordinating with the French government on a plan to bring Jewish stateless children from Buchenwald to France. The J.D.C. is cooperating in this planning. The plan will be submitted to SHAEF Mission to France and will be sent to SHAEF for approval.

24/6
3. The J.D.C. is working on a plan to remove Jewish stateless children from the Belsen concentration camp to England. This planning has not proceeded very far and has not been coordinated with the government but the "pressure is on".

Dr. Olgiati, the Executive of the Don Suisse, has discussed with Colonel Schottland and me the possibility of using Switzerland as a temporary refuge for children. Dr. Olgiati was asked to present a plan in writing indicating the number they could take and under what conditions.

4. I have had several conferences with representatives of SHAEF Mission, France and of the Joint Distribution Committee, and have argued (a) that the disposition of stateless children should not be left either to a private welfare agency or a single government, (b) that an international organization or authority should have general direction over such disposition, (c) that "statelessness" is not such a simple thing and must not be assumed without proper efforts to determine nationality and proper documentation, (d) that the "urgency" of immediate removal (before proper protecting planning can be developed) has not yet been established and that the first effort should be directed toward the ascertainment of the facts. How many ~~stateless~~ unaccompanied children are there in these camps? How many are presumably stateless? How many are Jewish? Are they now getting reasonably adequate care? Et Cetera.

5. Military authorities, both at SHAEF Mission, France, and at SHAEF now agree with my arguments and are making an effort to get the facts.

6. I should like instructions (a) Is there agreement by UNRRA on the approach as in para No. 4? (b) Is UNRRA in a position to act as a matter of urgency in dealing with the appropriate governments and in providing staff if immediate action should become necessary? (c) Would UNRRA agree to a plan whereby overall supervision would be given by UNRRA personnel but care and maintenance by private welfare agencies? (d) Does UNRRA have any firm plans for removing unaccompanied probably stateless children from Germany into refuge areas or countries?

While the planning is in its initial stages, the broad policies are now being established informally in the thinking of military personnel and it is essential that UNRRA's policy, if any, be clarified at once. In a period of "fluidity" many things might happen which ought to be avoided.

7. I suggest: (a) If immediate removal is indicated as a matter of urgency, UNRRA should act as the overall planning agency and should assume basic responsibility for the children until the responsibility is shifted to the Intergovernmental Committees. The temporary care and maintenance could be delegated to responsible welfare agencies that have the desire to perform this protective service. (b) if immediate removal is not indicated, UNRRA should draw up its policies and plans at once and coordinate them with the appropriate agencies including the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

8. It should be noted that this memorandum deals only with unaccompanied "stateless" children found in the three concentration camps. Later on, there will be the problem of unaccompanied children, who after careful investigation are determined to be stateless, found in the various assembly centers in Germany. The scope of this problem is not known now and will not be known for some time. It is felt that the three concentration camps of Belsen, Buchenwald and Dachau may present problems for immediate action of some kind. May I have appropriate instructions?

signed Benj. E. Youngdahl
Processing Center Section.