

Portugal

Displaced persons

640

Portugal DP'S

640

Portugal 640 (Jews.)
K

17 JUL 1945

Dr. Leopold Rosenblum
Mr. Friedrich Lehmann
Caldas da Rainha
Rua Bordallo Pinheiro, 14
Lisbon, Portugal

Gentlemen:

I regret that by oversight an undated petition concerning German and Austrian Jewish refugees in Portugal which the Director General received from you about two months ago has not been acknowledged before now. It deals with matters beyond the competence of UNRRA, but, we believe, at least to some extent within that of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, to which also your petition was addressed. We trust therefore that it has already received due consideration from those who may be able to assist the group of refugees, on whose behalf you have written.

The Agreement setting up UNRRA states its function to be "to plan, coordinate, administer or arrange for the administration of measures for the relief of victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations." None of the resolutions of the Council under which UNRRA operates has therefore authorized assistance in neutral territory, such as Portugal.

It is also doubtful how far UNRRA has authority to transport refugees to new lands or assist them to settle there, since its authorizing resolutions relate to repatriation and return and not to settlement elsewhere.

Your request that these refugees should receive identity papers of international validity asks something which, though not within the competence of UNRRA, is the subject of a treaty now signed and ratified by Great Britain, Belgium and France (Convention Relating to International Status of Refugees, Feb. 10, 1938), and of a resolution of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees (August 1944) based on

- 2 -

a "Memorandum on Travel Documents for Stateless Refugees or for Refugees who do not in fact enjoy the Protection of any Government", that was prepared by the Assistant Director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees.

I am told by the representative of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees at this office that another assistant director of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, Mr. Moses Beckelman, is now in Lisbon to make arrangements with the Joint Distribution Committee for assistance of such groups as yours.

Sincerely yours,

Roy F. Hendrickson
Acting Director General

WGRice:3mh
12 July 1945

WGRice
ABHaw



18 May 1945

TO: Governor Lehman
FROM: Fred K. Hoehler
RE: Petition from Jewish Refugees in Portugal.

I attach a communication, which came to our office from two individuals on behalf of the Jewish Refugees in Portugal, formerly of German and Austrian nationality. The location of these people in a neutral country puts them outside of the reach of UNRRA's authority and responsibility. This is obviously a job for the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, and inasmuch as a copy of this petition went forward to the IGC, I presume that they will proceed to accept their responsibility under the authority which has been granted to them.

I would suggest that if you think it advisable to acknowledge receipt of this document, saying that this is obviously an IGC responsibility, that a copy should be sent to Sir Herbert Emerson.

There is also attached a suggested reply.

ATTACHMENTS

FKHoehler:ert

Hawes

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 May 1945

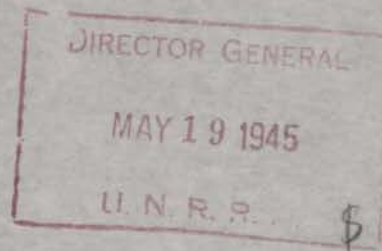
TO: Governor Lehman
FROM: Fred K. Hoehler *Fred K 74*
RE: Petition from Jewish Refugees in Portugal.

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I would suggest that if you think it advisable to acknowledge receipt of this document, saying that this is obviously an IGC responsibility, that a copy should be sent to Sir Herbert Emerson.

There is also attached a suggested reply.

ATTACHMENTS



*Received
by A.B. Hansen
10/7/45*

DRAFT

Suggested reply to Dr. Rosenblum and Friedrich Lehmann

This will acknowledge the receipt of your petition addressed to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Inter-Governmental Committee, and others.

Inasmuch as the people on whose behalf you have sent this petition are located in Portugal, a neutral country, they are outside the realm of UNRRA responsibility. It comes within the definite authority of the Inter-Governmental Committee, and I am sure Sir Herbert Emerson, the Executive Director of that Committee, will proceed as early as possible to meet their needs and to assure you that their interests will be protected.

P E T I T I O N .

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Fred

DP

The end of the War is in sight and in view of the various preparations for post-war matters, the undersigned, in the name of the comparatively small number of stateless German and Austrian Jews in Portugal, submit the following suggestions to the Governments of the United Nations as well as to those official and semi-official organizations occupied with the refugee-problems and ask for the consideration due to these problems on account of their importance for that peace and liberty for which the United Nations have fought and suffered for over five long years:

1. Among the refugees who, at present, are living in Portugal and who are, most of them, confined at Caldas da Rainha, where they are not enjoying any civil rights whatever, there is a small number of former German or Austrian nationality. These refugees, deprived of the right to work for the last 6 years and forced to report to the International Police of Portugal every month, do not enjoy any such protection as those of French, Polish, Belgian etc. nationality.
2. These stateless refugees are referring to repeated assurances given by the United Nations, that no Jew can be expected or directly or indirectly will be forced to return to Germany or Austria if he does not so desire. If these assurances are to have any real value at all, those concerned should be given that protection which was denied to them in the past.
3. The undersigned suggest therefore that such refugees should, after the end of hostilities, be provided with a provisional document issued jointly by the United Nations, thus enabling them to appeal for protection in any of the countries to which they would be admitted after the War, and this protection to be granted until the time when they acquire citizenship of that country.
4. The protection granted should include: guarantees against political or religious discrimination, difficulties with the police in questions of residence and measures against their right to work and live as free people.
5. The four great Allied Governments, The United States of America, Great Britain, Russia and France shall instruct their Legations and Consulates to act as "Protectors" in the same manner as Legations and Consulates are acting in cases of their own citizens appealing to them for help.
6. The United Nations will appeal to the Government of Portugal to contribute to the solution of the refugee-problem in granting permissions of residence to those refugees who are living in Portugal at the present time and who have the desire to remain there after the War.

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MAIL ROOM

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Petition cont'd.

These suggestions are made in the firm conviction that all the United Nations are doubtlessly willing to settle, once and for all, a problem the gravity of which cannot well be over-emphasized. The undersigned are therefore expecting that comprehension for their deplorable situation which it deserves. They are moreover sure of a positive and favorable decision.

For the Jewish Refugees in Portugal
formerly of German and Austrian
Nationality.

Leopold Rosenblum

Dr. Leopold Rosenblum
Caldas da Rainha
Rua Bordallo Pinheiro, 14.

F. Lehmann

Friedrich Lehmann
Caldas da Rainha
Rua Bordallo Pinheiro, 16.

This Petition was submitted at the same time to:

The Government of The United States of America
His Majesty's Government of Great Britain
The Government of the U.S.S.R.
The Government of France
The Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees
The Director General of U.N.R.R.A.
The World Jewish Congress.

Form AD-1
(11 Sept 44)
(Revised)

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

DATE: June 8, 1945

CROSS INDEX NO: Portugal - 640

Incoming telegram

400 - Beckelman, Moses

" "

TO:

FROM: London No. 16 dated June 8, 1945 (Beckelman)

FILED: Spain - 640

SUMMARY: Re: assuming financial responsibility of Spain and Portugal
on 1 July.

ATTACHMENTS:

TYPIST: MBH

DATE: July 23, 1945