

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS - Y U G O S L A V I A

World Jewish Congress

VIA AIR

25 November 1944

Sir William Matthews
Chief of Mission
UNRRA
c/o American Legation
Cairo
Egypt

Attention: Harry Greenstein

Dear Sir William:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we have received from Mr. Kurt Grossman, of the World Jewish Congress, to which is attached a copy of a letter from Hugo Wollner. We are also enclosing a copy of our reply to Mr. Grossman.

We understand that the procurement of supplies for relief and shipment thereof to Yugoslavia is a combined military responsibility and that UNRRA itself has no shipping space, nor can it claim any currently.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad Van Hyning
Acting Director
Welfare Division

Enclosures 3

IBERG:src

24 November 1944

Mr. Kurt Grossman
World Jewish Congress
1834 Broadway
New York 23, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Grossman:

We have read your letter and the material attached thereto from Hugo Wollner with great interest and deep concern for the plight of the thousand refugees in Yugoslavia.

The information that you have received regarding the necessity to take up this matter with the Yugoslavian authorities and the military is correct, and we hope that you have by this time been able to reach some understanding with these two groups.

In the meantime, we have taken the liberty of advising our office in Cairo of the presence of this group of refugees in Yugoslavia.

Sincerely yours,

Courad Van Hyning
Acting Director
Welfare Division

IBRG:src

Copy to Harry Greenstein, Cairo, Egypt

L.I.

This letter has been kicked around for over a month. Since no one else will do anything about it, I guess it's up to us to reply. Perhaps Vidkun will have some ideas. As far as I know he has not seen it.

R.W.


Completely agree with
Sommerich. Both questions
— getting the people out
of Norway or bringing them
back — is a matter for
the military & Yugoslav authorities.
We should say so and that
the matter has been forwarded
to the Balkan Mission for information. (B)

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 November 1944

To: Lowell Iberg

From: W. G. Dominick 

Subject: Attached letter of 18 October from Kurt Grossman,
World Jewish Congress

It seems to me that this is not a Bureau of Supply matter at this stage. As you know, the procurement of supplies and shipment thereof to Yugoslavia is a combined military responsibility. UNRRA has no shipping space nor can it claim for any currently.

If these people are anxious to get supplies to Yugoslavia and cannot obtain shipping space through the International Red Cross, then I submit that their only other course is to approach the Combined Civil Affairs Committee

Attachment

18 November 1944

Rec'd 11/18
P.M.

TO: Dan West

FROM: Lowell Iberg *LI*

I have just received the attached material from the World Jewish Congress which is interested in sending some clothing into Yugoslavia. You will note from the attached memo that Mr. Xanthaky would like to have an answer to this letter. Since this seems to be a matter of supplies, I am wondering if you would be willing to write the reply. We should appreciate a copy of your answer.

Attachments

R903

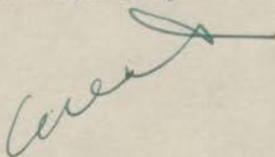
20 November 1944

To: W. Dominick

From: Dan West

This letter from Mr. Kurt Grossman although dated 18 October was just today referred to my office.

As it involves assistance in securing shipping space rather than supplies contributed to UNRRA, I think your office will want to answer it.

See a 

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION

NOV 20 1944

OCEAN SHIPPING BRANCH

17 November 1944

TO: Mr. Iberg, Welfare

FROM: George Xanthaky

Will you be good enough to reply to this letter and clear with us before it is transmitted. As you can see from Mr. Gordon's memorandum, the Bureau of Supply has indicated that there are no lend-lease transports to Yugoslavia and that they are not concerned with the matter.

George

1 November 1944

TO: George Kanthaky

FROM: Joel Gordon *JB*

Since this involves private agencies, I believe that this should probably be answered by Mr. Iberg of the Welfare Division under the Director General's order. I, therefore, suggest that it be routed to him with the request that the report be cleared with this Division. I have talked to the Ocean Shipping Division of the Bureau of Supply, which states that there are no lend-lease transports to Yugoslavia as referred to in the letter, and that ~~they~~ they are not concerned with this matter.

27 October 1944

TO: Joe Gordon

FROM: George Xanthaky

Please prepare a reply to this for my signature, and discuss with me this afternoon. I would suggest having copies made of documents to go to Displaced Persons in Camps Division as well as to the Bureau of Supply.

SX

Date: 2,

TO -

Routing Order	Name	Room No.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Serge Xanthasty	312
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bureau of Supply	817

The attached is forwarded for reasons shown below:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Required | <input type="checkbox"/> Concurrences Incomplete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Approval Lacking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Enough Copies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of Dispatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Choice of Communication Medium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Files | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Remarks:

RETURN TO COMMUNICATIONS SECTION ROOM 323 ☐FROM: Communications Section, Bureau of Supply *BB*

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

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

October 18th, 1944

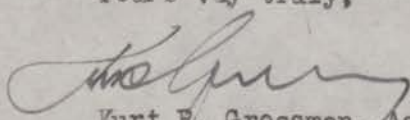
U.N.R.R.A.
DuPont Circle
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We would like to inform you that we received a report concerning the situation of about 1,000 Jewish refugees in Topusko from our Yugoslavian Jewish Representative Committee. We attach this report for your information. In this matter, we approached the Foreign Economic Administration, the War Refugee Board, and the International Red Cross, asking them whether it is possible to send clothing to these distressed people. Yesterday, we were told that it will be possible for the International Red Cross to distribute clothing in this area, provided we can get shipping space on boats that the American Red Cross is loading for the International Red Cross in Geneva. Before approaching the American Red Cross, we have to take this matter up with the Yugoslavian authorities, asking them whether this clothing could be loaded with lend-lease transports going to Yugoslavia.

We know you are interested in these matters, and for this reason, we are informing you about it. For any assistance you can give us in this, or similar matters, we are extremely grateful.

Yours very truly,


Kurt R. Grossman, Assistant
Rescue Department

KRG:t
Enc.

NOV 01 1944

RECD

84152

Letter from Topusko in which help
is requested for about one thousand
Yugoslav Jews isolated in the woods
of Croatia June 28, 1944

Dear friend,

You probably know that there are 2.700 Jews from Yugoslavia who saved themselves from Ustashi terror and found refuge in a camp on the Island of Rab held by the Italians. After the Italians capitulated, about 600 of our people succeeded in getting to the British in Bari, while the remaining 2.100 were transported to Lika and the Kordun -- territories liberated by Marshal Tito. The entire youth, male and female, joined the Partisans in their fight against the enemy and are still fighting heroically shoulder to shoulder with the Army of Liberation. Unfortunately a great number of them have already met a heroic death.

Approximately one thousand persons, mostly aged men and women, and children unfit for fighting, are settled under the most difficult conditions between Slunj and Glina, in the territory liberated by Tito, and unanimously wish to be transferred to a more secure place. -- We are living together with the peasants often in communities burned down and looted by the enemy, in the most primitive way. We sleep on dirt floors without straw and are fed mostly on corn and beans. The most difficult problem, however, is that we are surrounded by the enemy. Frequently attacked by his bands we have to escape in order not to be captured and killed. Unfortunately 300 of our group have already lost their lives. Partly because they were unable to move quickly enough, partly because they were not familiar with the surroundings and fell into enemy hands. In such instances we were forced to flee for our lives and to hide in forests until the enemy withdrew from his robbing expedition. For the aged, the sick and the young ones, such excursions were catastrophic, because they meant physical suffering, hardship and hunger. During the

Wollner

- 2 -

last Ustashi robbing expedition, many of us had to flee 250 kilometers on foot and for 16 long days had to live and sleep in rain and storms in the woods. Many among us have taken their own lives because they could no longer endure the sufferings. All our possessions were lost during such flights. We lack the most elementary needs, particularly suits, underwear and shoes, especially the last which are worn out. Literally many of us are barefeet. Our money is gone and hunger is spreading. There is no help from anywhere. The Liberation Army is fighting under most difficult conditions and has enough trouble without us. I beg you urgently to describe our desperate situation to competent authorities with the plea that suits, underwear, boots and food as well as money be send us by airplane and that they also try to evacuate us to Bari, because one thousand of us are threatened with extermination.

Very close to us we see Allied planes bringing food, clothing and medical supplies for the Partisans. Such planes could gradually evacuate our group on their way back. Our authorities would like to help us, but they do not possess the means. There is no other way to get out from this place. Please help us urgently. One thousand souls await help.

With kindest regards

Yours

Hugo Wollner
Topusko, c/o Joka Gregoric via Bari

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1945
U.S. AIR FORCE

RECEIVED