

Roumania, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria
and Hungary

1944-1946

**PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER**

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 139

BOX 36

FILE 2

ACC.

UNRRA

OUTGOING CABLEGRAM

Handwritten:
11/11/46
file
DP-Hungary

NUMBER: 17298
TO: London
RECEIVED CABLE SECTION: 21/11/46 - 4:43 p.m.
DISPATCHED: 22/11/46 - 4:36 a.m.

1. Reur 12706 and with further reference your 8392, it will be the firm policy that we do not develop any plan along lines proposed by Budapest and will restrict our DP obligations to present commitments.

2. Please advise Soumer accordingly

Prepared by:
S. Zin (Office of CEO)
November 1946

Cleared by:
Durinski
Rooks

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

ed:ls 212150
tp:bp 220450
6lc

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



TO
FROM
SUBJECT

Charlotte Lloyd ✓

A. E. Davidson aed

Draft Cable to London on DP Program
in HungaryDATE 18 November 1946
DPs Hungary

In connection with the draft cable to London on the DP program in Hungary, the first paragraph of the cable is in accordance with my own recollection.

As to paragraph 2, it seems to me that one person is all that would be necessary to make the investigations, and that the word "staff" is more than is required. I should think that if cable 224 from Budapest is substantiated, the Administration could dig up \$10,000 a month if the ACC will approve work in this field.

14 November 1946

To: Mr. A. E. Davidson

From: Charlotte T. Lloyd *CTL*

Subject: Draft Cable to London on DP Program
In Hungary

The first paragraph of this cable is based upon a report by Leslie Atkins of the Medical Supply Division of the discussion which Sommers had in Geneva with the Director General. Do you recall any discussion in Geneva which did relate to assisting DPs in Hungary? Fred Chait knows of none.

The second paragraph is a disappointing response to London and the Mission in Hungary. However, Alspach considers an investigation of the question by the DP consultant from Vienna, referred to in Budapest cable 224, would be insufficient and that no guidance can be given at this time as to the type or size of program which Headquarters might authorize.

FORM AD-2

(15 MAR 45)

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ROUTE SLIP

To:

Fred Chart

DATE

14 Nov.

ROOM NO.

☐ APPROVAL☐ INVESTIGATE☐ COMMENT☐ SIGNATURE☐ PREPARE REPLY☐ SEE ME☐ NECESSARY ACTION☐ AS REQUESTED☐ NOTE AND RETURN☐ FOR YOUR INFORMATION☐ NOTE AND FILE☐ PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

REMARKS

Do you remember any discussion
of helping DP's in Hungary while at
Geneva? This cable is not responsive
to request for emergency aid and
its suggestion re assigning staff seems
unnecessary as Budapest says a DP expert

From: is coming from Vienna.

C T Wood

ROOM NO.

UNRRA

INCOMING CABLEGRAM

NUMBER: 1879
FROM: Belgrade to Washington
REPEATED: London 2124; Athens 72
DATED: 24/7/46
RECEIVED: 24/7/46 - 9:25 a.m.

Reur 2900 repeated London 9553 Athens 3330

Information to Athens 63 repeated Washington 1040 London 2500 enables missing batter to define circumstances entry 160 European Jews to Greece between 16th December and 28th January last.

1. Between those dates no (repeat no) diplomatic representation Greece in Belgrade.
2. Transit DPs handled by Yugoslav repatriation commission rarely have documents sufficient legal proof claimed nationality. Commission therefore makes out DP twos on balance evidence available Balkan Jews do not (repeat not) always speak fluently language of country of citizenship. Commission issued DP twos in good faith at request of Jews claiming Greek citizenship but speaking Yiddish who in most cases had documents issued on release from concentration camp stating them as Greek.
3. Repatriation commissions always checks nationality with representation country of claimed origin. Greek Legation Belgrade confirms repatriation Commission now does this. Matter under discussion occurred before establishment Greek Legation.

4. Greek Legation here not (repeat not) acquainted contents Washington 2900 copy of which now handed to them. Present arrangements between Greek authorities and Yugoslav repatriation Commission would not (repeat not) provide opportunity for repetition abuse repatriation facilities for unauthorized entry Palestine.

5. Above plus our Washington 1748 repeated London 1953 Athens 63 offers full explanation period mission will not (repeat not) pursue matter unless requested.

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

* R & W

ed:ms 241535
tp:lrc 241900
70c

INBOWING CYBTECBYUW

011555

011555

WHITE REGION
INDICATIONS BY WHICH
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

noted as

Fig

22 July 1946

To: Mr. C. H. Alspach

From: A. H. Robertson

I regret that I do not agree with your cable to ERO which in effect pours cold water on the idea of assistance to DP's in Hungary. I am fully aware of the general policy consideration against undertaking new responsibilities at this time. But these are not the only considerations, and to my mind they are outweighed by the following:

1. We have been trying for 18 months to do something to implement Res. 57 in Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria. We have so far been unable to obtain the agreement necessary to do so. Now when we finally look like obtaining it, I think it would be a mistake to call the whole thing off.

2. Though UNRRA's DP work is nearing its end, the DP operation as a whole is only in mid-passage. We have responsibilities to our successor organization. If we can start something in Hungary, and turn it over as a going concern, we should do so. It is probably easier for us to start it up as we already have a Mission and a limited relief program there than it would be for the I.R.O. to start from scratch.

3. When the emergency program for Hungary was authorized we told the Hungarian Government that we intended also to do something for DP's.

4. We instructed the Mission to make recommendations for action in this field. We have sent them several reminders and shall look rather foolish if we now back out.

5. We have constantly told various Jewish groups that we were doing everything in our power to assist persecuted DP's in the Danube area. Though the group

it is now proposed to assist is not primarily of the persecuted categories, it is the thin end of the wedge and can probably be extended to cover persecutees.

In other words, I think we are already morally committed to this.

That does not mean that we should need either a large staff or large quantities of supplies. Most of the work could be done by local personnel or DP's themselves. A very few UNRRA personnel could be sent to Hungary and probably found in Germany, Austria or Italy. The quantities of supplies required would be small and some could probably come from the MERRA surplus.

I suggest we should cable to ERO on the lines of the attached.

CC: Van Hyning
Wm. Howell
H. Howell
Boykoff
Davidson ✓

Add

AHRobertson:ev

UNRRA

INCOMING CABLEGRAM

NUMBER: 1940 *DP Greece Robertson*
FROM: Athens to Belgrade 63 *File.*
REPEATED: Washington; London 2500
DATED: 12/7/46
RECEIVED: 12/7/46 - 8:36 p.m.

Reur 1748. Washington, repeated 1953 London, 63 Athens.

Re: Displaced European Jews, Greek Government is referring to the 160 European Jews, who crossed Yugoslav Greek Frontier in small groups, between 16 December and 28 January last. All (repeat all) carried official DP 2's made out in Belgrade by National Commission, for repatriation of Ministry Political Welfare, all cards bear this official Yugoslav stamp. All individuals had claimed to be Greeks, gave Greek names and indicated Greek towns and villages as final destination. After crossing frontier all came into assembly centre at Florina, where they indicated they were not Greeks, but Jews, from Hungary, Rumania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Slovinia and requested transportation Palestine. We would refer you to our signal No. 7 to Belgrade and your reply of 15-2-46 we have reported fully air mail Washington and London.

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION
*R&W

ed:bge 1205
tp:mtj 138
79c

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DP
Yugo

NUMBER: 395
FROM: Belgrade to London 450
REPEATED: Washington
DATED: 21/2/46
RECEIVED: 22/2/46 - 3:47 p.m.

1. Grateful for rapid reply to our 390.
2. Group of 110 persons of Jewish origin now at Bitolj in Southern Yugoslavia. This group had wished to proceed to Palestine via Greece but were stopped at Frontier.
3. Yugoslav Government requested that UNRRA bears cost of expenses incurred for maintenance this group pending receipt ruling as to proper method for their routing and disposal.

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

*DP

ed:jwa 236
tp:lrc 110
70c

Heben *D.P. - Rumanian*
Bulgarian

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

*File*

TO Alfred E. Davidson

FROM Oscar Schachter *OS*

SUBJECT

DATE 18 Jan 1946

I am doubtful about sending new cables to the Rumanian and Bulgarian Control Commissions for the following reasons:

1. We are already clearly on record that we are prepared to do the DP job under Res. 57 if called upon. It can safely be presumed that the Control Councils are aware of UNRRA and specifically of our willingness to do the job under Resolution 57. Moreover as the Hungarian request showed, we will be called upon for help when we are wanted.
2. At a time when everyone is complaining of inadequate budget allocations it does not seem right to go around looking for new customers, especially where we have been turned down before.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



TO Oscar Schachter
FROM Alfred E. Davidson
SUBJECT

DATE Jan. 3, 1945

Now that the agreements have been concluded with the Russian Republics and the Moscow conference has ended, I think we should move ahead on DP's in Bulgaria and Rumania. What would you think of getting up cables to the Allied Control Councils for each of these governments?

Rumania

Mr. Peter H. Bergson
Chairman
Hebrew Committee of National Liberation
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 8, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bergson:

In answer to your letter of 2 July 1945 which requests UNRRA's assistance for Hebrews in Rumania and Hungary and refers to earlier correspondence in which you made a similar request relating to those in Bulgaria and Rumania, I regret to say that UNRRA has not yet succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the appropriate authorities to enter these countries, though it has during the last seven months made several proposals to this end.

UNRRA Council Resolution 1 provides:

"If it appears necessary for the Administration to operate in an enemy or ex-enemy area, it will do so only from such time and for such purposes as may be agreed upon between the military command, the established control authority or duly recognized administration of the area on the one hand and the Administration on the other...."

Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania are each under an Allied Control Commission with a Soviet chairman, the Soviet army having the principal responsibility for the military occupation of these countries.

It should be borne in mind, however, that even if admitted to these countries, UNRRA would not be able to give general relief. Under Council Resolutions 10 and 57 it may assist only three groups of persons in enemy territory:

- (1) displaced persons of United Nations nationalities
- (2) stateless persons driven from their places of settled residence

- (3) persons, regardless of nationality, who were obliged to leave their country or place of origin or former residence by action of the enemy because of their race, religion or activities in favor of the United Nations.

UNRRA has not abandoned its endeavor to assist such displaced persons in these countries. The need that exists there, and the desire of UNRRA to afford relief, are matters which the Director General bears in mind in visiting the Balkan area this month.

Sincerely yours,

Roy F. Hendrickson
Acting Director General

WGRice/mh
24 July 1945

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: B/203
FROM: Belgrade to Washington
REPEATED: London B/255
DATED: 20 July 1945
RECEIVED: 21 July 1945 - 9:45 a.m.
Clear

1. Refer to cable from UNRRA Greece to UNRRA Yugoslavia number 31 which reported that there was much evidence of returning Greeks being stripped and robbed between Skoplje and Monastir, probably by pro-Bulgarian macedonians. This cable requests, "can you request preventive action." Refer to reply from UNRRA Yugoslavia cable number 3.

2. Informed Yugoslav authorities and requested preventive measures be taken. Was assured that immediate action would be taken to prevent a repetition of such occurrence. Yugoslav authorities requested detailed information about incident immediately. Exchange of cables was operational and not intended as news release. We have no knowledge of how such information came to Washington as news dispatch.

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PR - 2
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*DP - 3
GC - 2
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(SECRET BOOKS)

49

UNRRA

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

INCOMING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 336
FROM: Athens to Washington
REPEATED: London 232
DATED: 8 June 1945
RECEIVED: 3 July 1945 - 3:45 p.m.
Code - Confidential

From Maben.

Your 187 repeated London as 121.

1. I have twice discussed your proposed message to chairman of ACC Bulgaria with acting Foreign Minister Tsamados. He asks we express Greek Govt's appreciation of your offer but requests you take no initiative at present.

2. Soviet authorities have now agreed in principle to receive Greek military liaison officer in Sofia. But in practice this may entail long delay, and I doubt whether in any case a solution to displaced person problems will be found by this means. However, Greek GOVT view is that UNRRA intervention at this juncture might prejudice the chances of establishing direct relations between Athens and Sofia, which they are anxious for other reasons to bring about.

3. As foreshadowed in my despatch SO/DP/492 of May 10 addressed to ERO and copies to you, the delays and lack of forceful diplomatic action in dealing with this matter in ERO have destroyed the Greek GOVT'S confidence in UNRRA'S capacity to handle an international problem of this kind. Your message, the terms of which warmly approved, therefore came too late.

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(24)

UNRRA

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*DP
greek
yugo*

NUMBER: 461
FROM: Athens to Belgrade B/38
REPEATED: Washington; London 364; Caserta 166
DATED: 29 June 1945
RECEIVED: 29 June 1945 - 10:00 a.m.
Cipher

Your B/3.

1. Survey and interrogation of several hundred /GOF ?/, 4000 refugees now arrived through Yugoslavia suggests substantial amount baggage, clothing, etc. stolen from every refugee by Yugoslavs in Skopije, Velles, Monistir, Niki. Depredations left refugees no possessions minimum clothing arrival Greek frontier.
2. Specific examples: 28 May, Velles, Yugoslavian armed guards seized substantial possessions 900 Greeks refugees travelling one train. 1 June, 1400 hours, Skopije, 640 refugees similarly despoiled by armed local authorities. 300 lost more possession at 1730 hours, Velles, 2 June. 3 June, everything left was moved by armed guards Monistir.
3. Refugees interviewed Niki 18 June state officials at Skopije had seized nothing, stating had received specific instructions not to control Greek refugees baggage. Same group lost about half possessions secure Lonistir. Further depredations made under eyes of UNRRA officials Niki.
4. Submit above evidence of contravention UNRRA Council resolutions and agreements. Grateful your assistance.
5. Several hundred refugees stated received no food, shelter, etc. transit Yugoslavia, except shelter. No food assembly centre Belgrade. Arranged transit Yugoslavia selling possessions not seized.

Some babies died. Recent Washington telegrams clear failure receiving country provide care and maintenance United Nations nationals in transit regarded grave discriminations. Apart from this situation, grounds of common humanity require immediate remedy. Request your urgent assistance.

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*GC-2
DA-2
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DP-3
FILES-5

(27)

(SECRET BOOKS)

RECEIVED AT WASHINGTON
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*DP
h
Bulg*

NUMBER: 475
FROM: Athens to Washington
REPEATED: London 373
DATED: 27 June 1945
RECEIVED: 28 June 1945 - 10:45 a.m.
Clear

Your 341.

Negotiations proceeding. Information on final arrangements will be sent soon as position clarified.

DISTRIBUTION

DG - 2
SDDG - 1
*OCM - 2
GC - 2
Services - 4
DP - 3

(37)

(FREE BOOKS)

INCOMING CABLEGRAM

*DP's
Hungary*

No. 88
From: Budapest to London 13, Washington
Dated: 19/6/46
Received: 22/6/46

Reur 83.

Careful research all agencies concerned indicated DP's eligible UNRRA assistance approximately following, Poles 1500, Greeks 500, French 4, Belgians 30, Czechoslovakians 500, Transient Jugoslavs averaged 50 monthly since January. Care these persons most inadequate with no well organized procedures. Branch of Austrian Polish Repatriation Mission doing best possible for Poles with most limited resources clearing and transporting small groups via Pressburg. Great need food, clothing, shoes, medicines. Recommend UNRRA establish reception centre for about 1500 persons for 3 months to register, maintain, clothe, administer necessary medical and sanitation care, also arrange orderly clearance and transportation. Believe centre could be operated with 2 or 3 qualified class 1 employees assisted by refugees and indigenous staff. Must import necessary supplies and equipment since local materials unavailable or exorbitant. Please advise Page what can be done. Reur 98 further information regarding persecuted following.

UNRRA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 371
TO: Athens
REPEATED: London 1880
DATED: 18 June 1945
DISPATCHED: 19 June 1945 - 11:16 a.m.
Clear

Our 341.

Reiterate urgency reply paragraphs 4 and 5 our 187.

Drafted by:
Kanthaky/Blinn (OCM)
18 June 1945

DISTRIBUTION

DG (2)
SDDG (1)
OCM (2)
DA (2)
GC (2)
SERV (4)
DP (2)

(43)

COPY

16 June 1945

To: George Xanthaky
From: V. J. Tereshtenko
Subject: Evacuation of Poles from Yugoslavia.

To-day's issue of the New York Times brings the following despatch of the Polish Telegraph Agency, London:

"The Telegraph Agency reported from Trieste that Marshal Tito had ordered the mass evacuation of Poles from Yugoslavia to Poland. The Agency said that the Order was in answer to a Soviet request. Most of the Poles now in Yugoslavia were brought there as slave laborers for the Germans; were prisoners of the German Army. The despatch said that many of the Poles refused to return to Poland."

Schulster
Flowers

F
DP
Yugo

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 390
FROM: Athens to Washington
REPEATED: London 291
DATED: 14 June 1945
RECEIVED: 15 June 1945 - 10:00 a.m.
Clear

Reur 341 repeated London 1748.

Our 336 repeated London 232 replies to your 187 repeated London 1210.

DISTRIBUTION

DG (2)
SDDG (1)
OCM (2)
DA (2)
GC (2)
Services (4)
*DP (3)

(39)

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*Return to
Hawes
514*

NUMBER: 248
FROM: Athens to Washington; London 127
DATED: 22 May 1945
RECEIVED: 23 May 1945 - 12:00 p.m.
Clear

British Embassy have received a telegram from the Foreign Office concerning the Greeks in Bulgaria and Bulgarians in Greece. The Foreign Office indicates they consider you are dealing with this problem. We understood the Director General was acting in this matter personally and on this basis we have been negotiating with the Greek Government. Please clarify the situation before any further action taken.

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman (2)
Jackson, R. (1)
*Faller (2)
Jackson (2)
Kanthaky (2)
Menshikov (2)
Hoehler (2)
Brown (2)

(38)

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*DP
Gr. Bulg*

NUMBER: 204
FROM: Athens to London 94
REPEATED: Washington
DATED: undated
RECEIVED: 21 May 1945 - 3.15 p.m.
Paraphrase - restricted

1. Filed reports state 400 Greek Refugees from Austrian Prisons have just arrived in pitiable condition at Florina Greco Yugoslav frontier. These refugees state they are advance guard of between 30,000 and 40,000 Greeks deported by Germans for work in Austrian factories who are now making their way across Jugoslavia.
2. Small numbers of Yugoslav Refugees are now coming into Greece, a movement which allied authorities believe may grow into many thousands. I am consulting with Embassies and Allied authorities on this problem and will cable shortly.
3. These problems together with early possibility repatriation of Greeks from Bulgaria as set out in Washington 187 repeated London as 1210, to which we will reply shortly, create problem in Macedonia of first magnitude which local authorities unable to handle without very much increased UNRRA staff, assistance and advice. Our displaced persons division able to handle these problems but they are discouraged by lack of action on various requests for information and personnel from ERO. Please immediately act upon our 16 repeated to Washington as 45 and also do your best to dispatch by air at least 3 displaced persons specialists, preferable make organizers, and inform me what further staff you can spare if situation develops as anticipated above.

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman (2)	Brown R.R. (2)
Jackson R. (1)	*Hoehler (2)
Xanthaky (2)	Feller (2)
Jackson H. (2)	Sayre (2)
Menshikov (2)	

35

NOTE: This cable previous distributed as 204 from Bari.

NOTICE: INFORMATION COPY ONLY. ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON ACTION COPY IN HANDS OF PERSON INDICATED BY (*) ASTERISK.
Please substitute.

UNRRA

Feller

1
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

INCOMING TELEGRAM

*D.P.
Greeks, Bulg*

NUMBER: 199
FROM: Athens to Washington; London 88
DATED: 12 May 1945
RECEIVED: 14 May 1945 - 11:00 a.m.
Clear

Before taking further action regarding Greeks in Bulgaria on which Embassy is consulting with Foreign Office await my letter SO/DP/492 despatched May 10th copied to Washington.

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman (2)
Jackson, R. (1)
Kanthaky (1)
Feller (2)
Sayre (2)
*Hoehler (2)
*Menshikov (8)

(40)

UNRRA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 187
TO: Athens
REPEATED: London 1210
DATED: 10 May 1945
DISPATCHED: 10 May 1945 -- 5:10 p. m.
Clear

Return to
Hanes
514

Reur 32 to London.

One. Apparently you were unaware, at time of sending your 32 to London, of reply of ACC Bulgaria which states quote the Soviet High Command does not see the necessity for UNRRA to send its representatives to Bulgaria as relief to previous mentioned categories of people is an obligation of Bulgarian Government in conformity with the Armistice Agreement unquote.

Two. In view of urgency of problems Director General proposes to send following cable to General Biryuzov, Chairman of ACC Bulgaria. Quote. One. The Greek Government has requested UNRRA to assist in arranging for the return of Greeks now resident in Bulgaria and is anxious to assist in returning to their country Bulgarian nationals now in Greece. Two. The Greek Government, which does not now maintain communications with the Bulgarian Government has requested that the good offices of ACC Bulgaria and of UNRRA be utilized to achieve the objective outlined in paragraph one. Three. I am anxious to respond cooperatively to the request of the Greek Government and I hope that you and your organization will join me in this humanitarian objective. Four. I would propose, if you are willing, that you conduct the communications with the Bulgarian Government, as necessary while I will conduct the communications with the Greek Government. Five. As a first step I would suggest that you seek to establish at what dates and at what points the Bulgarian Government would be willing to present Greek nationals for repatriation. I will request from the Greek Government similar information with respect to the repatriation of Bulgarian nationals. Six. As you know, UNRRA is, and has been,

- 2 -

prepared to provide personnel for the care and movement of Greek nationals in Bulgaria. However, in the light of your previous communication we assume this is unnecessary since you have assured us that adequate care and supply arrangements are being provided by the Bulgarian Government pursuant to its obligation under the terms of the Armistice Agreement. Unquote.

Three. Before transmitting the above Director General would appreciate your reactions to text and any changes you deem essential.

Four. Before cable can be sent you must secure from Greek Government a formal request to UNRRA for assistance in repatriation of displaced Greek nationals Bulgaria and Bulgarian nationals Greece along lines mentioned in proposed cable and, in addition, request should also contain a general statement to allow for future operational exigencies.

Five. Cable soonest date and verbatim text of Greek request. Pending transmission and receipt of answer to above cable would you begin discussions with Greek Government and assemble data necessary under paragraph five of proposed cable.

Drafted by:
Hendrickson
9 May 1945

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Gill (5)
Hoehler (2)
McGeachy (2)
Sawyer (2)
Xanthaky (2)

File
ABX
DP

9 May 1945

TO: Roy Hendrickson
FROM: George Xanthaky
SUBJECT: Greek-Bulgarian Displaced Persons

We thought you might want to mention the matter of Greek-Bulgarian Displaced Persons to Commander Jackson in your phone call today.

The questions are:

1. Has ERO taken any further action with the Russian authorities with respect to the problem since the turn down by ACC Bulgaria.
2. Prior to Jackson's departure the matter was discussed with him and he agreed that it would be best if the approach were made through the Director General directly to General Biryusof, Chairman of ACC Bulgaria.
3. Before doing so we require certain information which we have requested in the annexed cable. The cable has been cleared by all concerned but Mr. Menshikov. He feels that ACC Bulgaria having rejected the first offer, the matter should be considered closed. This is contrary to the view of all others who have worked on the problem.

Attachment

CHouse/jkr

C O P Y

To - Mr. A.B. Hawes - 514
FMH - ORL

Back - Bulgarian info file ABA
11 Portland Place,
LONDON, W.1.
30th April, 1945

Dear Mr. Weisl,

You will have received U.N.R.R.A. Athens cable no. 86 of 14 April, 1945 and a copy of our cable no. 929 of 27 April, 1945.

I now enclose a copy of our letter, arising from the above cables, to Mr. I.A. Iliuschenko, U.S.B.R. representative on the C.C.E., dated 27 April, 1945, for your information.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) (Maj. Gen. K.J. Martin)
Head of Eastern European Section

Mr. Frank Weisl,
Chief, Central & Eastern
European Division,
U.N.R.R.A.,
1344 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington 25, D.C.

27th April, 1945

Mr. Iliuschenko,
32, Highgate West Hill, N.6.

Dear Mr. Iliuschenko,

May I refer you to your letter addressed to Sir Frederick Leith Ross of 28 Mar. 1945, in which you state that "in accordance with the Armistice Agreements with Rumania (Articles 5 & 6) and with Bulgaria (Articles 4 & 5), both the Rumanian and Bulgarian Governments and their Military Commands undertook an obligation to provide the necessary relief of food, clothing, medical supplies and services, etc., for the groups of population mentioned in your letters, there seems to be no evidence that it is necessary for U.N.R.R.A. to send its representatives to Rumania and Bulgaria in order to acquaint themselves with the situation of the displaced persons in these countries, or to extend the assistance to them by U.N.R.R.A.".

2. On 17 Jan. 1945, Sir F.W. Leith Ross sent you a copy of a letter addressed by him, under instructions from Washington, to the Chairman of the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria, on the proposal to send two U.N.R.R.A. representatives into Bulgaria to ascertain what assistance could be rendered by U.N.R.R.A. to "displaced persons" and in the control of epidemics in that country.

3. On 4 April 1945, the following reply from the Chairman of the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria was received by the Administration at E.R.O.:-

"The Soviet High Command does not see necessity for UNRRA to send its representatives to Bulgaria as relief to previously mentioned categories of peoples is an obligation of Bulgarian Government in conformity armistice agreement."

4. I am now to inform you that the Acting Chief of the U.N.R.R.A. Mission in Athens reports that he is under considerable pressure from the Greek Government to use his influence in accelerating the return to Greece of Greek nationals now in Bulgaria; and the removal of Bulgarian nationals intruded into Greece.

5. This matter, as far as I am aware, is not covered by the terms of the Bulgarian Armistice, but you will appreciate that the two questions are linked closely together. As these Bulgarians were intruded into Greece as a result of enemy action, Greek people naturally press strongly for their early return to their own territory.

6. In view of the renewed requests of the Greek Government and of the strong feelings shown by the Greek people, I am to ask you whether the U.S.S.R. Government would use their good offices to obtain from the Chairman of the A.C.C. in Bulgaria a modification of his opinion as to the necessity for the entry of two U.N.R.R.A. representatives into Bulgaria as originally requested? These representatives should be able to assist in co-ordinating the action of the Bulgarian Government under the terms of the Armistice with that of the Greek Government in removing intruded Bulgarians. The entry of U.N.R.R.A. representatives into Bulgaria would have the added advantage of allaying Greek feeling, and facilitate the action of the U.N.R.R.A. Mission in Athens in their dealings with the Greek Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Maj. - Gen. E.J. Martin)

UNRRA

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

*Bruck-
Bulq*

NUMBER: 1050
TO: London
REPEATED: Athens 148
DATED: 28 April 1945
DISPATCHED: 28 April 1945 5:45 p.m.
Clear

Reur 929 ✓

If you have not yet approached U.S.S.R. representative
do not repeat not do so. Action to be taken here.

Drafted by:
Hawes (Acting General Counsel)
28 April 1945

DISTRIBUTION
Lahman (2)
Jackson, R. (1)
Feller (2)
Sayer (2)
Jackson (3)
Menshikov (7)
Kuo (3)
Hoehler (2)

(43)

UNRRA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Bul & Greece
DP Bulg-Greek

NUMBER: 929
FROM: London to Athens 42
REPEATED: Washington
DATED: 27 April 1945
RECEIVED: 27 April 1945 - 7:00 p.m.
Clear

Your 32.

Replies have been received from ACC that necessity for sending UNRRA representatives into Bulgaria is not appreciated as obligation rests with Bulgarian Government in conformity with Armistice Agreement. This is also view of USSR representative on CCE. In view of representations now made by Greek Government and by you fresh approach is being made to USSR representative on CCE stressing that conditions of return of displaced persons also involve return of Bulgarians introduced into Greece. Will advise you of result.

DISTRIBUTION

Latham (2)
Jackson, R. (1)
*Feller (2)
Sayre (2)
Jackson, H. (3)
Menshikov (7)
Kuo (3)
Hoehler (2)

Cellu 5/2

UNRRA

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

INCOMING TELEGRAM

NUMBER: 86
FROM: Athens to London 32
REPEATED: Washington
DATED: 14 April 1945
RECEIVED: 15 April 1945 - 5:00 p.m.
Cipher

UNRRA Cairo 78 to London repeated to Washington as 160 refers.

It is now of utmost importance to this mission that greater progress be made on problems of Greek deportees to Bulgaria and Bulgarian intruders in Greece. I fear that preoccupation of public opinion here with those unsolved national problems will prejudice the Greek Government's attitude towards other refugee questions in which Greek co-operation is essential. Appeals of successive Greek Government to us are becoming increasingly insistent and I feel as an international organization we must respond energetically to this challenge.

2. Since no reply has been received by UNRRA from ACC I must ask you to exert further pressure with regard to UNRRA's request for small exploratory UNRRA mission to Sofia. I have put this to General Scobie and to British Ambassador Athens, who agree so far as they are concerned it is important to avoid suspicion that UNRRA's desire to enter Bulgaria springs from any particular national interest /channel/ influencing administration, a point to be borne in mind when selecting changes of communication with Sofia (see para. 3 below). You might also consider proposing to ACC that UNRRA exploratory mission should consist of Russian sponsored chairman with 1 British and 1 American member appointed by you in consultation with us here.

3. In my view next step should be renewed request from ERO handed to Soviet Ambassador at London for telephonic transmission to Sofia for Colonel General Biryuzov, Chairman of ACC, Bulgaria. Foreign Office could then be asked to telegraph copies of message with appropriate explanations to British Ambassador Moscow requesting him to secure the support of his U.S. colleague in joint attempt to interest the Soviet F.O. I believe request would be most likely to succeed if confined to problem of Greeks in Bulgaria and Bulgarian in Greece. Epidemic experts mentioned in your 37 London to Cairo could be summoned later if required.

Please inform me as soon as possible of what fresh steps you are to take so that I can prepare to seize the opportunity when it occurs and also reassure the Greek Government that UNRRA is doing everything in its power to resolve this problem.

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman (2)

Feller (2)

Sayre (2)

Jackson (2)

*Menshikov (7)

Hoehler (2)

Sawyer (2)

DRAFT
13 Feb 1945
Aickin:hh

To: Mr. Herbert H. Lehman

From:

Subject: Jewish Refugees in Rumania and Bulgaria

The British government has made informal inquiry of UNRRA as to whether it would be prepared to accept in Philippeville or other UNRRA operated camps Jewish refugees who may reach the Turkish border, having come from Rumania and Bulgaria.

It appears that when those countries were occupied by the Germans, the British government informed the Turkish government that any Jewish refugees contriving to escape over the Turkish border would be given Palestine visas and therefore might be admitted by the Turkish government without fear that they would have no ultimate destination and become a charge upon the Turkish government. On the liberation of Rumania and Bulgaria by the Russian forces, this guarantee to the Turkish government was withdrawn by the British government on the ground that the immediate need for the refugees escaping from German-occupied territory had disappeared, and that the normal procedure for application for Palestine visas could be reinstated.

However, numbers of these refugees continued to reach the Turkish border and it appears that in mid-January some 600 refugees reached the Turkish-Bulgarian border and were turned back by the Turkish authorities, since they lacked Palestine visas. This particular incident was solved by the issue of

Palestine visas to those 600 but the British government is unwilling to adopt this course in future cases and is anxious that some other arrangement be made for the temporary care of refugees coming out of Bulgaria and Rumania so that some assurance may be given to the Turkish government that refugees crossing their border will be moved on elsewhere.

The use of the Philippeville camp has been suggested by the British government for the accommodation of such refugees, and the British Minister Resident at Caserta was instructed to inquire of AFHQ whether, provided the U.S. government and UNRRA agreed, such refugees could be accommodated at Philippeville. In December, the British Minister Resident at Caserta stated that AFHQ had agreed to the proposal, subject to the consent of the U.S. government and UNRRA. The Minister Resident also stated to the Foreign Office that the UNRRA liaison officer at AFHQ and the UNRRA displaced persons representative were both present at the meeting when this proposal was discussed and expressed agreement to the suggestion that the refugees be accommodated at Philippeville, subject to the agreement of the U.S. government and of UNRRA headquarters.

In the meantime the guarantee to the Turkish government has been withdrawn and, in view of figures which have recently been received by the British Embassy in Washington, it seems possible that the problem may assume considerable proportions. The British Embassy states that according to their information, there are already some 16,000 Jewish refugees in Rumania who have come from

Hungary, as well as some 2,000 from Poland to Czechoslovakia, and that in view of the widespread devastation in Hungary their numbers are expected to increase as the Russian armies advance, and at least 20,000 more can be expected within the next six months. All these refugees have come through the fighting lines and the majority are destitute and have no permits to reside in Rumania, and cannot be absorbed there in view of Rumania's present economic condition.

The British Government has therefore inquired whether such of these refugees as may reach the Turkish border and be permitted to leave Bulgaria could be looked after by UNRRA and accommodated at Philippeville. If so, the Turkish authorities could be informed that any such refugees permitted to leave Bulgaria could be admitted in Turkey without fear of there being no other place to which they could then proceed.

The problem of these refugees who may on their own initiative reach the Turkish border is a separate one from that of general displaced persons operations in Rumania or Bulgaria under Resolution 57. For these latter operations, a request from the appropriate civil authorities and the consent of the military authorities are required, but in the case of these refugees who reach the Turkish border and who are otherwise within the scope of UNRRA's authority, UNRRA could undertake their reception and care at Philippeville without these formal requirements, though of course as a matter of policy the interested authorities should be kept informed. The issue is, however, a separate one from that involved in the present

inquiries being made of the Allied Control Commissions in Rumania and Bulgaria. These refugees would of course have to be otherwise within the scope of UNRRA's authority, and in these circumstances the relevant criterion, at least for those originating in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, is that they should have been displaced because of their race or religion. Those of Polish or Czech nationality, or who are stateless, would be within UNRRA's jurisdiction without the necessity of meeting that test.

UNRRA's care of these refugees should, of course, continue only until it is possible for arrangements to be made for their repatriation. For those who cannot be repatriated, UNRRA's care should continue for a reasonable period while the Inter-Governmental Committee deals with their resettlement. The question of those who do not desire repatriation is dependent on the settlement of the issue raised by the Standing Technical Committee on Displaced Persons. However, it is clear that UNRRA can undertake the temporary care of displaced persons within its jurisdiction until it is ascertained whether they can be repatriated and whether they wish to be repatriated. Thus no formal or technical difficulties stand in the way of UNRRA in the immediate care of these refugees.

Although the refugees referred to above are clearly within the scope of UNRRA's authority, it is probable that they would be mixed with others with whom UNRRA is not authorized to deal. Rumanian and Bulgarian Jews who simply desire to leave their present places of residence now that the opportunity to do so has arisen, do not fall within UNRRA's scope, but it is probable that

there will be some such persons amongst any groups of Jewish refugees seeking or obliged to leave Rumania and Bulgaria. Those who had been displaced by the Germans from their places of origin in Hungary, Poland or Czechoslovakia, and left behind in the wake of the retreating German armies, would clearly fall within UNRRA's authority and no formal difficulty would prevent UNRRA's caring for them. This possibility, or perhaps probability, may lead to administrative difficulties.

It is recommended that UNRRA's policy should be to take care of these refugees insofar as they fall within its jurisdiction and that the United States and British Governments be informed accordingly. It is also recommended that UNRRA's staff in the field should be authorized to screen these refugees so as to determine which of them UNRRA is able to care for and to inform all interested private agencies so that arrangements might be made for the care of those who are outside UNRRA's jurisdiction.

To: *En. Lehman*
From: *[Signature]*

Drift
Aickin:hh
5 Feb 1945
(4)

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PROBLEM CONCERNING JEWISH REFUGEES
IN RUMANIA AND BULGARIA

The British government has made informal inquiry of UNRRA as to whether it would be prepared to accept in Philippeville or other UNRRA operated camps Jewish refugees who may reach the Turkish border, having come from Rumania and Bulgaria.

It appears that when those countries were occupied by the Germans, the British government informed the Turkish government that any Jewish refugees contriving to escape over the Turkish border would be given Palestine visas and therefore might be admitted by the Turkish government without fear that they would have no ultimate destination and become a charge upon the Turkish government. On the liberation of Rumania and Bulgaria by the Russian forces, this guarantee to the Turkish government was withdrawn by the British government on the ground that the immediate need for the refugees escaping from German-occupied territory had disappeared, and that the normal procedure for application for Palestine visas could be reinstated.

However, numbers of these refugees continued to reach the Turkish border and it appears that in mid-January some 600 refugees reached the Turkish-Bulgarian border and were turned back by the Turkish authorities, since they lacked Palestine visas. This particular incident was solved by the issue of Palestine visas to those 600 but the British government is unwilling to adopt this course in

future cases and is anxious that some other arrangement be made for the temporary care of refugees coming out of Bulgaria and Rumania so that some assurance may be given to the Turkish government that refugees crossing their border will be moved on elsewhere.

The use of the Philippeville camp has been suggested by the British government for the accommodation of such refugees, and the British Minister Resident at Caserta was instructed to inquire of AFHQ whether, provided the U.S. government and UNRRA agreed, such refugees could be accommodated at Philippeville. In December, the British Minister Resident at Caserta stated that AFHQ had agreed to the proposal, subject to the consent of the U.S. government and UNRRA. The Minister Resident also stated to the Foreign Office that the UNRRA liaison officer at AFHQ and the UNRRA displaced persons representative were both present at the meeting when this proposal was discussed and expressed agreement to the suggestion that the refugees be accommodated at Philippeville, subject to the agreement of the U.S. government and of UNRRA headquarters.

In the meantime the guarantee to the Turkish government has been withdrawn and, in view of figures which have recently been received by the British Embassy in Washington, it seems possible that the problem may assume considerable proportions. The British Embassy states that according to their information, there are already some 16,000 Jewish refugees in Rumania who have come from Hungary, as well as some 2,000 from Poland to Czechoslovakia, and that in view

of the widespread devastation in Hungary their numbers are expected to increase as the Russian armies advance, and at least 20,000 more can be expected within the next six months. All these refugees have come through the fighting lines and the majority are destitute and have no permits to reside in Rumania, and cannot be absorbed there in view of Rumania's present economic condition.

The British Government has therefore inquired whether such of these refugees as may reach the Turkish border and be permitted to leave Bulgaria could be looked after by UNRRA and accommodated at Philippeville. If so, the Turkish authorities could be informed that any such refugees permitted to leave Bulgaria could be admitted in Turkey without fear of there being no other place to which they could then proceed.

The problem of these refugees who may on their own initiative reach the Turkish border is a separate one from that of general displaced persons operations in Rumania or Bulgaria under Resolution 57. For these latter operations, a request from the appropriate civil authorities and the consent of the military authorities are required, but in the case of these refugees who reach the Turkish border and who are otherwise within the scope of UNRRA's authority, UNRRA could undertake their reception and care at Philippeville without these formal requirements, though of course as a matter of policy the interested authorities should be kept informed. The issue is, however, a separate one

from that involved in the present inquiries being made of the Allied Control Commissions in Rumania and Bulgaria. These refugees would of course have to be otherwise within the scope of UNRRA's authority, and in these circumstances the relevant criterion, at least for those originating in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, is that they should have been displaced because of their race or religion. Those of Polish or Czech nationality, or who are stateless, would be within UNRRA's jurisdiction without the necessity of meeting that test.

*Take in
fact p. 5* ~~In determining UNRRA's policy with regard to this request, there are three points to be borne in mind:~~

1. Although the refugees referred to above are clearly within the scope of UNRRA's authority, it is probable that they would be mixed with others with whom UNRRA is not authorized to deal. Rumanian and Bulgarian Jews who simply desire to leave their present places of residence now that the opportunity to do so has arisen, do not fall within UNRRA's scope, but it is probable that there will be some such persons amongst any groups of Jewish refugees seeking or obliged to leave Rumania and Bulgaria. Those who had been displaced by the Germans from their places of origin in Hungary, Poland or Czechoslovakia, and left behind in the wake of the retreating German armies, would clearly fall within UNRRA's authority and no formal difficulty would prevent UNRRA's caring for them. This possibility, or perhaps probability, ^{may} ~~might~~ lead to administrative ~~and other~~ difficulties.

~~2. The whole question is involved to some extent in the~~

delicate question of Jewish immigration into Palestine, and therefore requires careful handling.

3. The attitude of the Russian military authorities in Bulgaria and Rumania to departure of Jewish refugees from those countries is important.

It is recommended that UNRRA's policy should be to take care of these refugees in so far as they fall within its jurisdiction and that the United States and British Government be informed accordingly. It is also recommended that UNRRA's staff in the field should be authorized to screen these refugees so as to determine what of them ~~and~~ UNRRA is able to care for and to inform all interested private agencies so that arrangements might be made for the care of those who are outside UNRRA's jurisdiction.

~~UNRRA indicated that it is prepared to take care of these refugees. It is understood that transportation will be arranged to be supplied by the concerned military authorities.~~
UNRRA's care of these refugees should of course continue only ~~while this~~ until it is possible for repatriation arrangements to be made for these repatriation. For those who cannot be repatriated UNRRA's ~~for~~ care should continue for a reasonable period while the I.S.C. deals with their resettlement. The question of those who do not desire repatriation is dependent on the ~~settlement~~ ~~of~~

that question by the time raised by the S.I. Trial Committee on D.P. However it is clear that UNRRA can undertake to transport some of the D.P. within its jurisdiction and in accordance with its mandate. Then no formal or technical difficulties stand in the way of UNRRA in the immediate care of these refugees.

17th January, 1945

My dear Ambassador,

We have received instructions from Washington to make a request to the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria for permission to send two representatives into Bulgaria in order to acquaint themselves with the situation of "displaced persons" in that country and with the danger of the spread of epidemics, and to advise the Administration as to what assistance might be extended by UNRRA.

I enclose hereith copy of a letter which I am accordingly sending through the good offices of the Foreign Office to the Chairman of the Commission in Bulgaria, and I shall be very grateful for any assistance you may be able to give in securing the favourable consideration of the request contained therein.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) F. W. LEITH ROSS

The Hon. John G. Winant

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Mr. Scott

UNRRA CAIRO TO ERO

No. 28

Dated: 16 January 1945

(EN CLAIR)

Received: 18 January 1945

Reference Rendel's letter of December 14 to Scott

1. Greek Government has formally asked Greece Mission to assist in arranging repatriation of Greeks deported to Bulgaria.
2. Pierce and Barger discussed this with the British authorities in Greece with Hoehler in Rome and with AFHQ.
3. With the assistance of the Soviet representative here as well as through Allied military channels we are presenting request to the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria for permission to send two representatives of the Displaced Persons Division to discuss the matter with them and to report on what assistance we might be able to give.

17th January, 1945

My dear Rendel,

At our meeting yesterday you were good enough to say that the Foreign Office would be willing to forward, on our behalf, a request to the Chairman of the Allied Control Commission for Bulgaria to admit a small mission of enquiry to Bulgaria.* Accordingly I enclose herewith a formal request and I should be most grateful if the Foreign Office would cable this request to Bulgaria and use its good offices for presenting it to the Commission. I leave you to decide whether the text of Resolution 57 should also be cabled or could be forwarded by bag.

I should add that I shall communicate the names of the two representatives whom it is proposed to send to Bulgaria as soon as possible.

Yours,

(sgd) D. WARD

Sir George Rendel, K.C.M.G.

17th January, 1945

Dear Mr. Iliuschenko,

We have received instructions from Washington to make a request to the Allied Control Commission in Bulgaria for permission to send two representatives into Bulgaria in order to acquaint themselves with the situation of "displaced persons" in that country and with the danger of the spread of epidemics, and to advise the Administration as to what assistance might be extended by UNRRA.

I enclose herewith copy of a letter which I am accordingly sending through the good offices of the Foreign Office to the Chairman of the Commission in Bulgaria, and I shall be very grateful for any assistance you may be able to give in securing the favourable consideration of the request contained therein.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) F. W. LEITH-ROSS

Mr. I. A. Iliuschenko

A.C.20/11

ERO LONDON

18 January, 1945

*Circulate
D.
Bulgaria*

Dear Hugh,

With reference to our telegram no. 120 of 17 January

I am sending you herewith copies of the following documents:

- (1) Sir Frederick Leith-Ross' letter of the 17 January to the Chairman of the Allied Control Commission for Bulgaria.
- (2) Mr. Ward's letter to Sir George Rendel requesting the Foreign Office to cable this request to Bulgaria.
- (3) Sir Frederick's letter to Mr. Iliuschenko informing him of the action taken.
- (4) Sir Frederick's letter to Mr. Winant in the same sense.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) A. H. ROBERTSON

PS: I also attach copy of telegram 28 from Cairo just received.
We will repeat our reply to Washington.

Mr. Hugh Jackson
UNRRA
WASHINGTON

17th January, 1945

Sir,

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is authorised by Resolution 57 of its Council, representing forty-four United Nations, to assist, subject to certain conditions specified therein, in the care and repatriation of their nationals displaced in ex-enemy territory and of other persons who have been obliged to leave their country or place of origin or former residence or who have been deported therefrom, by action of the enemy, because of race, religion or activities in favour of the United Nations. It is similarly authorised to undertake measures for the control of epidemics for the purpose of preventing their spread to United Nations areas or United Nations nationals.

The Administration is anxious to render such assistance as falls within its competence and may be required in Bulgaria. Any operation that might be undertaken there would, of course, be subject to the agreement and control of the Allied Control Commission.

In order to ascertain the scope of the problem and determine how it can assist, the Administration requests the Allied Control Commission to authorise it to send two representatives to Bulgaria, and to give these representatives all possible facilities for the accomplishment of their mission when they arrive in Bulgaria. The Administration would be grateful if the Allied Control Commission could see its way to clearing this matter as soon as possible.

The names of the representatives of the Administration will be communicated to the Allied Control Commission for their approval at the earliest possible moment.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sgd) F. W. LEITH-ROSS

Deputy Director General.

The Chairman

Allied Control Commission,
Bulgaria

*Forwarded with the Compliments
of Mr. John Russell
of the British Embassy,
Washington, D. C.*

Keith Aickin, Esq.,
Room 514,
Dupont Circle Apartments,
Washington, D.C.

January 19th, 1945.

519575

Mr. Aiken

January 18th, 1945.

My dear George,

At our meeting on January 15th when we were discussing my letter to you of December 27th, I undertook to find out whether the problem of Balkan refugees arriving at the Turkish frontier without Palestine visas had in fact become actual. You will remember that it did so that afternoon, when the news came out about the party of six hundred odd refugees who had been turned back at Zvillangrad by the Turkish authorities for lack of Palestine visas. This particular incident was finally solved by admitting the whole party to Palestine, but this is a 'force majeure' solution which obviously cannot be used again.

The Foreign Office tell us that they have reason to believe that there will be more incidents of a similar nature and they are most anxious to get an answer out of UNRRA regarding the possibility of letting such people into Philippeville. The following quotation from a Foreign Office telegram of January 15th about this particular incident, which we have just received, shows

Mr. George Warren,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

/London's

519575

London's attitude:

"Had we been able to reach agreement on use of Philliperville beforehand it is probable we should not have felt it necessary to withdraw our private assurance to Turkish Government that all refugees reaching Turkey would be found some destination (not necessarily Palestine) and that party would not therefore have been held up on Turkish frontier, though we should still have had to investigate whether party could in fact be allowed to enter Palestine under quota arrangements".

As you may have seen in the papers there was quite a lot of publicity over this incident, all of it highly unfavourable to us. In order to show the real facts of the case, we put out a press release here, copy of which I now enclose, but it did not attain a fraction of the circulation which had been given to the original inaccurate and damaging reports. These appear to have been based entirely on the telegram from our friend Jabotinski.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Keith Aickin at UNRRA to keep him up-to-date. I spoke to him on the telephone today and he is endeavouring to ascertain UNRRA's views on the question.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. Russell

DP
Hungary

Extract from British White Paper on PALESTINE dated
May, 1939

"(1) Jewish immigration during the next five years will be at a rate which, if economic absorptive capacity permits, will bring the Jewish population up to approximately one-third of the total population of the country. Taking into account the expected natural increase of the Arab and Jewish populations, and the number of illegal Jewish immigrants now in the country, this would allow of the admission, as from the beginning of April this year, of some 75,000 immigrants over the next five years. These immigrants would, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity, be admitted as follows:-

(a) For each of the next five years a quota of 10,000 Jewish immigrants will be allowed, on the understanding that a shortage in any one year may be added to the quotas for subsequent years, within the five-year period, if economic absorptive capacity permits.

(b) In addition, as a contribution towards the solution of the Jewish refugee problem, 25,000 refugees will be admitted as soon as the High Commissioner is satisfied that adequate provision for their maintenance is ensured, special consideration being given to refugee children and dependants.

(2) The existing machinery for ascertaining economic absorptive capacity will be retained, and the High Commissioner will have the ultimate responsibility for deciding the limits of economic capacity. Before each periodic decision is taken, Jewish and Arab representatives will be consulted.

(3) After the period of five years no further Jewish immigration will be permitted unless the Arabs of Palestine are prepared to acquiesce in it.

(4) His Majesty's Government are determined to check illegal immigration, and further preventive measures are being adopted. The numbers of any Jewish illegal immigrants who, despite these measures, may succeed in coming into the country and cannot be deported will be deducted from the yearly quotas."

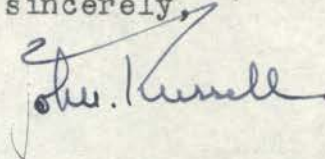
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

December 30th, 1944.

My dear Keith,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I wrote on December 27th to George Warren about a question to which we have been asked by the Foreign Office to get a reply as soon as possible. I thought I would at the same time send a copy to you in order that you may be kept in the picture and also in case there is anything which you can do to accelerate matters at this end.

Yours sincerely,



John W. Russell

Mr. Keith Aickin,
U.N.R.R.A.,
1 Dupont Circle,
Washington, D.C.

Refugees General

105/225/44

27th December, 1944

Ref: 105/225/44

My dear George,

In confirmation of our telephone conversation of December 26th, I am now sending you the following written record of the developments to which I drew the Department's attention on November 29th.

2. When Roumania and Bulgaria were still under enemy control, an arrangement was made whereby the British Passport Control Office at Istanbul could grant a Palestine visa to any Jewish refugee who might succeed in reaching Turkey in his flight from Nazi persecution. The British Government guaranteed to the Turkish Government that they would find a destination beyond Turkey for all such refugees, so that there should be no risk of their remaining as a charge on the hands of the Turkish Government.

3. Since the allied occupation of Roumania and Bulgaria the Jews in those countries are no longer in danger and the abovementioned arrangement was therefore

/dropped

Mr. George Warren,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

JWR:BE

dropped and a normal control system introduced whereby applicants for entry into Palestine from Roumania and Bulgaria must first obtain visas from the British Political Representative at Sofia or Bucharest. It was hoped that very few refugees would thus arrive at Istanbul without the necessary onward visa. At the same time, however, in order to prevent the refugees being turned back by the Turkish authorities, the guarantee previously given to the Turkish Government was temporarily maintained.

4. The British Government were thus still obliged to find ultimate destinations for such Jewish refugees as might still reach Turkey without being able to proceed to Palestine. The British Minister Resident at Caserta was accordingly instructed on November 27th to ask A.F.H.Q. whether, provided the United States Government and UNRRA agreed, such refugees could not be accommodated at the Philippeville Refugee Centre, where ample room was available.

5. On December 11th, the British Minister Resident at Caserta telegraphed the Foreign Office to the effect that A.F.H.Q. had agreed to the proposal, subject to the consent of the United States Government and of UNRRA. The Minister also reported that the UNRRA Deputy Director General for Displaced Persons and the UNRRA

/Liaison

Liaison Officer at A.F.H.Q. were both present at the meeting at which this proposal was discussed and expressed readiness on behalf of UNRRA to receive these refugees subject always to the consent of the United States Government and of UNRRA Headquarters.

6. In the meantime, in conformity with a request made by the Jewish Agency, the Palestine Administration had made a re-allocation of the Palestine Immigration certificates still outstanding under the White Paper quota. This re-allocation was, however, in danger of being swamped by large numbers of Jews from Roumania and Bulgaria reaching the Turkish frontier on their own initiative and who, in order to avoid their being turned back by the Turks, would have to be given Palestine visas by the British Passport Control Officer at Istanbul. In these circumstances the British Government was compelled on December 20th to inform the Turkish Government that the original guarantee (referred to in paragraph 2 above) had to be withdrawn.

7. This withdrawal of the guarantee, plus the establishment of Control machinery in Bucharest and Sofia, seemed to offer the best means of discouraging the unauthorised stream of would-be immigrants. The interval, however, between the withdrawal of the guarantee and the effective implementation of the control at Bucharest and

/Sofia

Sofia, inevitably left a gap, during which unauthorized parties would continue to reach the Turkish frontier.

8. It is to avoid the hardship that would be inflicted on these people if they were to be turned back from the Turkish frontier that it has been suggested they should be accommodated at Philippeville. We have in this Embassy no details of these movements, but the Foreign Office and A.F.H.Q. consider the matter urgent and have instructed us to request the earliest possible expression of view by the United States Government, in order that the necessary administrative arrangements may be set on foot forthwith. I should accordingly be most grateful if you could let me have at your earliest convenience a reply for the Foreign Office.

9. To sum up, all they want to know is whether the United States Government sees any objection to UNRRA's receiving and maintaining these people at Philippeville until a permanent destination can be found for them.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. I am sending a copy of this letter to Keith Dickin in case he has not been kept informed by the UNRRA man at Caserta.

J. W. Russell.

J.W.R.

REGISTRY FLIMSY

MEMORANDUM

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE BALKAN STATES

There are already over 16,000 Jewish refugees from Hungary in Rumania and some 2,000 from Poland and Czechoslovakia. In view of the widespread devastation in Hungary, their numbers are expected to increase as the Russian armies advance and at least 20,000 more can be expected within the next six months.

All these people have come through the fighting lines and the majority are now destitute. They have no permits to reside and do not receive relief. In Rumania's present economic position, they cannot be absorbed.

Meanwhile, over 100,000 Rumanian Jews are registered with Jewish agency for immigration to Palestine. The main route will be via Bulgaria but attempts will undoubtedly also be made to circumvent restrictions by clandestine embarkation at Rumanian ports.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
January 31, 1945.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 3

14 November 1944
CAWA/378

TO: Mr. T.M. Cooley, Deputy Director of Displaced Persons
Division, Washington.

FROM: C.M. Pierce - Director, Displaced Persons Division,
Cairo.

*Duplicate
circulated*
Displaced Persons

I wish to report that W. P. Montgomery, Displaced Persons Specialist assigned to the Greece Mission, was sent on a special trip from Cairo to the freed Greek Islands for the purpose of securing information on the status of those islands with reference to the possible return of refugees. Over ninety percent of the Greek refugees in UNRRA camps, as well as those in the camps in East Africa, Belgian Congo and Ethiopia, are from these Greek Islands, and this trip therefore has special significance.

I enclose herewith a copy of Mr. Montgomery's report, which is self-explanatory, as well as a report by the Deputy District Director of UNRRA District 4 of the Greece Mission, which sets forth a tentative schedule for the repatriation of Greek refugees of those islands. This schedule is by no means sufficient authority for the return of the refugees. Before we can act upon it it is necessary to secure the official approval of the Greek Government in Athens and the ML Military Headquarters in Greece. For that purpose I am attempting to get Mr. Barger into Greece at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Kaloudis is an official representative of the Greek Islands for the prefecture of Chios. If the Greek Government supports him it might be expected that this schedule would be acceptable to the Greek Government. The schedule also has an unofficial verbal approval of the ML Commander of District 4. It may therefore be expected that the schedule will receive approval by the ML authorities in Athens. We might expect, however, that there will be other considerations on the part of the Greek Government in Athens and ML which will give rise to questions about this schedule. It will be the responsibility of Mr. Barger to resolve those questions.

After the general plan has been approved by the Greek Government and ML in Greece, the problem of transport must be solved. Inasmuch as Greece and these islands are still theatres of military operations, all transport in that area is controlled by AFHQ at Caserta. Because of this I have sent Charles Alspach to Caserta to establish permanent liaison with AFHQ on problems of allocation of transport and other problems with reference to displaced persons which may be the concern of AFHQ. Mr. Alspach will service Displaced Persons operations in the Balkans, Middle East, Italy or in other areas where their problems have to be submitted to AFHQ. Therefore, as soon as Berger has completed his work on this schedule in Athens, it will be sent to Alspach at Caserta for securing allocation of transport by AFHQ. Alspach will then send it to me for negotiation with the Ministry of War Transport here for actually scheduling the transport.

We have actually completed the registration of all Greek in UNRRA camps in the Middle East. The D.P.2 cards have been visaed from Moses Wells. Beginning today a Greek Consular representative is at our camp at Nuseirat to visa the cards of refugees in that camp. Therefore, it is expected that by the time we can arrange transport we will have individual acceptance on the part of the Greek Government for the return of refugees from UNRRA camps.

- Over -

Special Report No. 3

14 November 1944

It is the plan of the Camps Division to abandon Moses Wells as soon as possible because of the difficulty of arranging suitable sanitary facilities without tremendous capital investment. Our tentative plan for repatriation will therefore be to begin returning refugees from Nuseirat. We will attempt to arrange an embarkation camp at Haifa, possible on the site of the old camp, Athlit. As refugees are repatriated their places will be filled by drafts from Moses Wells until that Camp is cleared. We will then approach the problem of returning the Greeks from Ethiopia, Belgian Congo and Tanganyika, possibly transporting them up to Nuseirat or to some other spot in the Middle East, depending on what facilities we have available. Mr. Jacobs is leaving shortly for Ethiopia and East Africa to start the registration in those Greek camps (as well as the Polish camps). We expect that that situation will be in hand by the time it is necessary to move those refugees. I expect shortly to appoint a permanent representative to Displaced Persons who will be stationed at Nairobi. I expect also to appoint a permanent representative shortly at Cyprus.

Regarding Cyprus, Mr. Jacobs has returned from there with comprehensive reports which will be attached to the next general report from this office. While there, he completed the registration of the Greek refugees in the camps. The authorities of the Colonial Government of that island are completing registration of the rest of the refugees. We expect that the D.P.2 cards, properly visaed, will be in this office before the end of this month. At the time we are returning refugees from UNRRA camps other movements will be taking place, originating in Cyprus. Our representative at Cyprus will direct these movements.

C.M. Pierce
Director.

Enclosures:

1. Report by Mr. Montgomery, as above.
2. Report by Deputy District Director
OF UNRRA DISTRICT 4, as above.

Copy: Mr. Hoehler.

<u>dist.</u>	Fia (8)	Welfare
D.G.	ORL	Health
G.C.	Sec.	Dis. Pers.
	Sup.	
	Areas	

4 November 1944

TO: Evert Barger, Director Displaced Persons, Greece Mission

FROM: W. P. Montgomery, Displaced Persons Specialist,

SUBJECT: Repatriation to No. 4 District.

I went to No. 4 District specifically for the task of observing and discussing conditions generally with both AML and the Greek Government Officials on the whole question of the repatriation of the Greeks in the Egyptian and Middle East Camps, at the earliest possible moment, my reconnaissance extending from October 12th - 28th.

Speaking generally local conditions were confirmed as to their being better than was anticipated (the northern part of the island requires much more assistance) and the over-riding factors governing the return of these people may be classified under the following headings:-

- (a) The District is in the direct field of military and naval operations.
- (b) The difficulty AML is experiencing in securing adequate transport and supplies for its food distribution scheme.
- (c) Political conditions in general.
- (d) Currency.

Discussing this briefly (a) is of course at the moment all important but should soon cease to have any bearing with the success of Allied Operations.

(b) This follows as a result to (a) in as much as AML have a certain location of caiques to them but due to naval considerations they find this number considerably less at any time than anticipated, and this has a repercussion locally as it causes dissatisfaction regarding the quantity of rations distributed. This would also affect extra transport and supplies required for the refugees. Again, however, if the area generally was free except for the two islands of Rhodes and Kos the return of the refugees in caiques and merchant ships would be a hazardous one involving naval protection, etc.

(c) and (d) are very closely bound together. Political trouble on all the islands is being caused by EAM and both AML and the Civil Commissioner are anxious to have law and order properly established before the influx of a number of citizens whose political ideas might be a further unsettling element. The stabilization of the currency is the first essential as at the moment confusion exists; wages are paid by extra rations, no BMA money can be used although issued as the authorities feel once this is so money can be put into circulation, wages paid, industry set into motion again, and people absorbed into work instead of their having nothing to do as at the moment and thinking and talking politics.

- Over -

TO: Evert Barger

- 2 -

4 November 1944

As the result of interview with Mr. Kaloudis, President of the Food Victualling Committee, and Mr. Apostolos Amygdalos, Mayor of Khios, a schedule for the return of these people was arrived at

All parties small, with a maximum of 50 per party to commence with

1st month	-	500
2nd month	-	1000
3rd and subsequent months	-	1500

and subsequently verbally confirmed by the Civil Commissioner as to December 1st being the starting date and it is anticipated that by the time they return transport inside the island will be running on a bigger scale, giving a smoother even distribution of supplies all through the island, enabling people returning to proceed quickly to their homes thus obviating the need for transit camps and their attendant problems.

On the grounds of D.P. internally displaced arriving Captain W.W. Pattison was asking Mr. Kaloudis for the formation of a special Committee to deal with problem, which would energetically tackle the question of housing, food, blankets, etc. This is a possible development which Sir Michael Creagh might care to examine in the event of IML suggesting that we take over the whole problem. In this connection IML were handicapped by their SHAEF registration system being on caiques which were considerably overdue, with the result that they had no registration working, and was able to assist them in a certain number of routine assignments.

It may well be that this Division will have eventually to deal with the problem of a number of Greeks in the island of Chios who claim American citizenship. Before I left I requested Mr. Kaloudis to issue a proclamation in the two local papers asking all people claiming American citizenship to register giving certain details which information when received here can be further examined.

To conclude I found no animosity shown against the refugees for having left, but a keen desire evinced by all for their return directly a certain measure of normal condition comes into effect. The opinion of Major Walters when I left was that their return could perhaps be sooner but I feel that his opinion was too optimistic, and that the agreed schedule should stand, unless the possibility of their return through Turkey is to be considered. I found IML apart from a certain desire to have it understood that they are in complete control where UNRPA is concerned (Mr. Deacock's letter) most co-operative and helpful.

WPM/jd.

C O P Y

Subject: Report by UNRRA : KHIOS

Deputy District Director
No. 4 District UNRRA

17 Oct. 44.

TO: COMD.

4 District

Copy to : Comd.

"I" Region

Mr. Montgomery,

UNRRA.

1. In company with Mr. Montgomery of UNRRA Headquarters, Cairo, I yesterday called on the Prefect of Khios (he was absent and we conferred with Mr. Maikousi and Mr. Kaloudis instead), and today on the Mayor of Chios, to discuss the problem of the return to Chios of the population from this island who are at present in the Middle East and elsewhere.

2. Mr. Kaloudis informed us that he was arranging a census of the population of the island of Khios within the next 15 days. He would then deduct this figure from the 1940 census figure, deduct deaths, and the balance could be considered more or less representative of the number of men women and children who were absent from the island and would require repatriation. He explained to us that official figures of departures of this nature were not kept by the Prefecture to obviate reprisals by the Germans on the relatives left behind of those who had escaped.

3. Mr. Montgomery then asked Mr. Kaloudis at what rate he felt that this displaced population could return bearing in mind that they would have to be fed and housed, and, in general, absorbed by the community. Mr. Kaloudis gave as his opinion the following:

4. All parties small, with a maximum of 50 per party to commence with

1st month	-	500
2nd "	-	1000
3rd and subsequent months		1500

4. Mr. Kaloudis gave us the following official population figures according to the 1940 census.

Census held 16th Oct 1940.

Chios town	25,259)	
" villages	(66) 44,428)	69,687
Oinousai		2,274
Psara		<u>738</u>
		72,699

5. Both Mr. Kaloudis and Mr. Markousi were of the opinion that no displaced population should return to the island until the Greek Government in Athens has established a stable currency and conditions had begun to swing back to normal.

6. Mr. Montgomery here remarked that although this opinion was possibly sound in principle, any movement of refugees would necessarily be subject to the approval of AML who, in arriving at their decision would have to take into account questions of availability of supplies and transportation.
7. Mr. Apostolos Amygdalos, Mayor of Khios, was not of the opinion that Mr. Kaloudis' method of arriving at the number of displaced persons would give accurate results, and suggested (which suggestion was immediately accepted by Mr. Montgomery and myself) that by proclamation the inhabitants of the island should be invited to submit the names of all relatives who had left during the German occupation. When the list was complete (it will take roughly 20 days to complete) we should know the exact number, broken down into terms of complete families isolated members and possibly number of able-bodied men able to render immediate service to the community in one form of labour or another.
8. I gave him the name of Major T.R. Waters, Cmd. "I" Region, as the suitable person to submit his list and observation to.
9. Mr. Amygdalos agreed to the rate of return of the displaced population as suggested by Mr. Kaloudis, and given above, and confirmed Mr. Kaloudis' statement that transit camps would not be required and that existing housing accommodation is more than sufficient.
10. When Mr. Montgomery and I pointed out that this extra male population would be a dead weight as it could not at present be absorbed in industry, Mr. Amygdalos said that once he obtained the necessary credit from the Greek Government in Athens, there was considerable repair work on roads to be done on the island, there was also a project to build a dam to ensure better irrigation of regions given over to citrus fruit growing.
11. The work of obtaining the necessary statistics will be put into hand forthwith.

Major,
Deputy District Director
No. 4 District UNRRA.

1 Verbally agreed by the Civil Commissioner at an interview on Saturday, October the 21st. When he suggested December 1st as a starting date.

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~~Displaced Persons~~
DP
Greece

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

UNRRA

Delivered to State Department
6:30 p.m., November 3, 1944

AMLEGATION

CAIRO

UNRRA FROM LEHMAN/676

Will attempt expedite Greek material your 615.

Your paragraph 3. Greek Government has requested all assistance displaced persons. Believe intruders covered although no specific request. Expenses intruders should be financed local currency proceeds sale of UNRRA supplies or temporarily Greek Government advances Sections 19,20 Resolution 14 subject later Greek claim on intruding nation. Real need of liberated areas is imported supplies. UNRRA foreign exchange should be reserved to purchase these. ?

Your paragraph 4. Italians outside Italy not included Italian Resolution. If qualified as intruders, handle under intruder Resolution noting agreement United Nations Military Command or control authority required. ~~Finances as in paragraph 3 for intruders~~ No negotiations for Italian representative.

Your paragraph 5. Multilateral agreement final form forwarded air mail. Greek Government has indicated it will adhere. No signatures known here. London may have some.

Draft master agreement not yet discussed Greek Government but form

presently under discussion Yugoslav Government sent you cable number 637. If you feel modification required finance displaced persons specify.

Your paragraph 6. Tentatively, internally displaced Greeks not regarded Displaced Persons Division problem, rather Welfare Division. Advise your view workability this distribution responsibility.

Your paragraph 7. Draft statement categories Displaced Persons being forwarded airmail.

Drafted by:
Cooley(Displaced Persons)
2 November 1944

DISTRIBUTION

Lehman
Feller
Sayre
Sokolowski
Jackson
Menshikov
Hendrickson
Corson
Hoehler
McGeehy
Dayton