

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/562

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. _____

785017

10000/109/562

JEWS, LA SPEZIA
APR., MAY 1946

650
Ex.C. letter at folio 37 as dropped by

Polad B' in reply to folio 46 for signature, see
I will have copies done for Polads
and Zithu.

Please also see folio 41 for info. H.S. 29/14

29/14

~~Re: message to the La Spezia Tens in al. folio~~

MS 20/14

46

To CSO

Message to the La Spezia Tens in al. folio

44. I will circulate after the Ex Comm.

has seen.

See by 25.0

MS 17/14

MS 17/15.

- 1) Polad B' }
- 2) Polad B' }
- 3) Origen }

47

Please see folio 45 and enclosure.

MS 47/15

2504

785017

Message to the La Playa...
H.H. I will circulate after the Ex Comm.

has seen. *ALB 17/4* *sum 17/5*

- 1) Palad B' } *47*
- 2) Palad H' } please see folio 45 and enclosure.
- 3) Origen } *ALB 4/5-*

1372

sum. *cy. 12/6/1966*
Sum 12/6/6

785017

A/C.C. 41. 2
 C80 Folio ~~1~~ for ~~1~~ fo. please. Aut 4/4 J.S. 5/4

3 NY 5/4.

Discussed with CA Cindaly. A/C.C. use Great
 kept informed by G2 No 2 Dist. The Jews
 are still in the schooner edone Brita L. R. have
 brought with them. CLO Lisa & Day Stewart are
 visiting them tomorrow. J.S. 6/4

NY 5/4.

A/C.C. 20
 At ~~19~~ is report from CLO LIGURIA
 on La Spezia incident. J.S. 15/4
 At ~~19~~ ^{21 + 22} are further
 reports. J.S. 15/4

Catt K. 23
 P. ~~22~~ 15 Embassy & A/C.C. J.S. 16/4

C80 Folios ~~27~~ ³² ~~30 + 31~~ for acc's info. please
 Aut 5/4

C80 Br. Embassy will keep us informed.

NY 23/4

J.S. 24/4.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

2229 80
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
CMF - APO 394

13th May, 1946.

MAY 17 1946

DO/48.

Dear Brigadier,

44-43
As you will have seen by the signal sent, the Jews left LA SPEZIA on 8th May, and Dr. S. U. Nahon of the I.G.C.R. forwarded me a copy of his greetings to the refugees on their departure in the two vessels "Fede-Dov Mos" and "Fenice-Elihau Golomb", which I think may interest you.

Yours sincerely,

W. Turner-Giles

Brigadier M. S. Lush, C.R., C.B.E., M.C.,
Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission,
C. M. F.

1 copy
1670

See Min 46

9/
(Capt R)

114
GREETING SPEECH DELIVERED ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE S/S "FEDE DOV CHOS"
AND S/S "FENICE ELIJAHU GOLOMB" ON MAY 8TH, 1946, BY DR. S.U. NAHCH, REPRESENT-
ATIVE IN ITALY OF THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE.

I had already the privilege to greet different ships bringing Jewish people back to Palestine but I was never moved as I am at this moment when your group of 1014 is leaving for the land of our ancestors after a struggle which had so many days of sorrow and of danger. You are showing us all by your example that an historical pressure is bringing Jews back to Palestine and that all obstacles can be overcome when there is a will strong enough to do it.

Although the gates of Palestine are still closed you are succeeding in attaining your goal and you have shown a discipline and a force of decision which have impressed the world.

I said at another opportunity that the modern history of Palestine is a history of ships. Every ship brings with him a wave of new comers and they will shape the future of the country according to their own qualities, to their spiritual sacrifice, to their devotion to the cause of the upbuilding of the country. I think I may safely say that your ships, these small vessels which by strange people have almost been considered as unsuitable for a journey to Palestine but in which you are gladly taking your risk with confidence, and rightly with confidence, to attain the shores of the land of Israel, these vessels which bring the glorious names of my beloved and respected friends Dov Chos and Elijahu Golomb, will mark a good page in the history of Palestine. I say it because I am sure that the same, courage, the same persistence which has been shown by you till now will be displayed in Palestine where you will enter the rank and file of the builders of the country and will devote yourselves not only to a work which will give you personally prosperity and success, but to a work which will be for the benefit of our people at large, to a work which will open further the gates of Palestine to new waves of immigrants, to other brethren of ours who wish, like us who are already in Palestine and like you who are on the eve of reaching Palestine, to rebuild Zion and to rebuild a new life for the remnants of the Jewish people.

Remember that a heavy responsibility remains upon you from the day in which you will reach Palestine. Our small Yishuv of 600,000 people will be increased by thousand people and the way in which they will behave, the contribution that they will bring to the rebuilding of the country has a very high importance. One thousand immigrants to America are like a drop in the sea, but one thousand immigrants in a small country with a small population like Palestine is a very high figure. I hope and believe that you will courageously take your share in the common effort and that the Yishuv will be really strengthened by your arrival.

You are leaving on the day which is the anniversary of Victory Day. One year ago today Germany surrendered and that monstrous force, the enemy of Israel and of humanity was compelled to acknowledge that he could not fight further against the forces of British, American and Russian Democracies. We know all that for us Jews the war which started six years before than for other people

Palestine but in which you are gladly taking your risk with confidence, and rightly with confidence, to attain the shores of the Land of Israel, these vessels which bring the glorious names of my beloved and respected friends Dov Chos and Elijahu Golomb, will mark a good page in the history of Palestine. I say it because I am sure that the same, courage, the same persistence which has been shown by you till now will be displayed in Palestine where you will enter the rank and file of the builders of the country and will devote yourselves not only to a work which will give you personally prosperity and success, but to a work which will be for the benefit of our people at large, to a work which will open further the gates of Palestine to new waves of immigrants, to other brethren of ours who wish, like us who are already in Palestine and like you who are on the eve of reaching Palestine, to rebuild Zion and to rebuild a new life for the remnants of the Jewish people.

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You are leaving on the day which is the anniversary of Victory Day. One year ago today Germany surrendered and that monstrous force, the enemy of Israel and of humanity was compelled to acknowledge that he could not fight further against the forces of British, American and Russian Democracies. We know all that for us Jews the war which started six years before than for other peoples is not yet over. We know all that we have still a hard struggle to win before we shall reach national independence. But let us not belittle the importance of V-Day: even for us that was the preliminary and essential condition to survive. Without the victory by the Allies we would not be able today to rejoice for your leaving to Palestine, we would not be able to push forward our existence as a people. May this day of victory and this anniversary of the end of the second World War, during which our people suffered more than any other else, during which one third of our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, children and daughters, have been slaughtered in the most terrible massacre which history records, be a good auspice for the beginning of your new life in Palestine.

May I remember that should you reach Palestine on May 17th next, you will reach the country in the day of Lag Baomer, a day of festival in the Jewish Calendar, a day which is consecrated to the memory of Bar Cochba' and Rabbi Akiva, to the memory of the desperate struggle of a handful of Jews against the greatest power of the time, against the Roman Empire. Those few Jews fought a battle which had no chances of success but they wanted to die in beauty, they wanted by offering their lives to consecrate once more the ties which bind the people of Israel, those ties which have not been cut during the 19 centuries of

43

exile and which are the driving force of our movement to return to the Land of Promise. It may be that you also will have to be prepared to offer your lives for the freedom of the Jewish People to enter his Land, for the defense of the achievements which our generation and the generation which preceded us succeeded in reaching in Palestine. I hope and pray that you all will take upon you the slogan of Trumpeldor: "It is good to die for the fatherland" and that you will be prepared to do it should it be necessary. But as in our struggle till now even in these days we maintain the hope that we shall be able to attain our goals, which are bringing harm to nobody and which are intruding the rights of nobody, by the ways of peace and of justice through which we proceeded. I hope and pray that you will always remember that our people has taught the world that laws and statutes are necessary for an organized social life. "Without the law the heard and the heaven will not resist", said our sages, and law and order and peace and justice must inspire us all in our work if we wish that our national home, our Jewish State of tomorrow, will be something of which we could be proud, will be something that will be to the benefit of our people, and to the benefit of humanity at large, in order that the Jewish people will contribute as in the past to the progress of mankind and to the proclamation of those ideals of high moral and of social justice which we have inherited by the prophets and of which we wish to give an example.

Let me express now my gratitude first of all to the Italian Government, to the Italian people at large, to this town of Spezia, to its Prefetto, Questore and other Authorities who have shown so large a measure of understanding and good will. We shall not forget all the acts of sympathy performed by the citizens of this town and the generous hospitality which our people enjoyed here. Thank you, thank you all in the name of people which has an extraordinary historical memory and which will not forget those who handed him help in the hour of their distress.

May I also express my appreciation for the friendly and helpful attitude of the British Embassy and of British and Allied Authorities who all tried their best to contribute to the happy solution of your problem which we solemnize today.

In the name of the Jewish Agency for Palestine I tell you in the moment in which you leave these Italian shores: "Welcome in Palestine, welcome in the Land of the Fathers and of the Sons. We are awaiting for you and we shall do our utmost to receive you as children who come back to their frontiers after so long a period of persecutions and sufferings."

I pray the Almighty God, He who opens the way of the seas and the center among the troubled waters, to bring you safely and soon

and of which we wish to give an example.

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I pray the Almighty God, He who opens the way of the seas and the sentier among the troubled waters, to bring you safely and soon to Palestine. May your journey be a happy one and may this journey be a start of a new chapter in your life, a chapter of peace and comfort, a chapter of building and reconstruction, and may we all in our days see the Jewish people live peacefully in his country, the Jewish State rebuilt and the complete redemption of Israel.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1894

MAY 0900H

H/2734

MAY 091430

MAY 11 1946

ALCOM LIAISON GROUP

HQ ALCOM, INFO: 3 DISTRICT, 59 AREA PUBLIC SAFETY COM ROME, DISPLACED
PERSONS SUB COM ROME, BRITISH EMBASSY, AMERICAN EMBASSY ROME.

RESTRICTED:

Reference signals 1890-1-2-3 the 1014 Jewish subjects at La Spezia
sailed for Palestine at 1100 hrs on the 8-3-46 on the ship Fede and Fenice.
No incidents.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION - P. Safety
INFO- Chief Commissioner
Disper
British Embassy
American Embassy
Float 2
File

1667

PA. 13/5
g

(150) J.S. 1715

41

EXTRACT FROM DO LETTER FROM AC CLO, LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP.

Ref: DO/39

Date: 26th April 1946.

"Jews in LA SPEZIA. The latest information regarding these people is that unless they get permission to leave for Palestine they will either:

- a) Sail without permission
- b) Stage a suicide scene.

Nobody seems to want to accept responsibility by either saying yea or nay to them, and quite frankly, the sooner they are out of LA SPEZIA, the better I shall be pleased, and that goes for all the Italian authorities there, who are frankly bored with them. Copy of P.S. Officer's report enclosed herewith."

40

Seen by EC *[signature]* 3/5

1666

PS. 3/5.

[signature] 3/5

2229 91
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
CMF - APO 394

EX/LS

40

REF : LOP. 535
SUBJECT : Attempted illegal immigration of 1014
Jewish subjects from La Spezia.
TO : Director
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Allied Commission - H.Q. Rome -

24th April 1946

MAY 4 1946

1. Reference my previous report dated the 11th April 1946, File N° 535, relating to the above quoted subject, the following developments have occurred :

- a) On 19/4/46 at 18.00 hrs., the Jewish subjects on the Ship "FEDE" La Spezia, received the following telegram from Professor Laski, President of the British Labour Party :

"Owing to gravity of question involved a decision cannot be made at a moments notice and if you will wait patiently until next week-end I am expecting a favourable answer."

2. The Action Committee of the Jewish subjects above held a meeting on the ship on the 20/4/46, discussed the telegram, and arrived at the following decisions :

- a) Having no doubt about the sincerity of Prof. Laski and about his intention to solve their problem, they accept to wait for the answer of Mr. Bevin, until and not later than the end of next week.
b) They hope it will be clearly understood that no partial solution is acceptable by them.
c) They ask that the Italian prisoners arrested in connection with the case be released in accordance with the promise made by Prof. Laski and Capt. Hill of A.F.H.Q.

3. It is the opinion of competent observers, Italian Authorities, etc., that unless a satisfactory reply for the Jews is forthcoming by Sunday next, an attempt will be made to sail the ship unlawfully, or some other action, possibly mass suicide will occur which they believe will focus world attention to their case.

- 2 -

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
CMF - APO 394

39

4. For your information.

For Chief Liaison Officer:

J. Kane maj.
J. KANE
Major
Liaison Officer.

Copy to : C.L.O.
Nº 2 District
59 Area
D.P. Section
British Consul General
American Consul General
Major Steward
Capt. Duffy - 2 B.L.U. Genoa.

1684

Ref: 2224/PO.

1st May 1946.

Dear Signor Romita,

In reply to your letter No. 14599 of 18th April to Admiral Stone about the problem of the Jewish refugees at La Spezia, I write to say that according to my information 679 of the refugees have received authority to enter Palestine. I am informed that the remainder can expect to receive visas shortly but that the British Government cannot agree to their being permitted to sail to Palestine before these visas have been issued.

Very truly yours,

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Signor Romita,
Ministry of the Interior,
Italian Government,
ROME.

Copy to - Duper
CC
POLADA
POLAD B
16CR

See hr 38

16/5/46

Translation

No. 14599

IL MINISTRO PER L'INTERNO

-:-:-:-

Roma, 18 April, 1946.

APR 27 1946

Dear Admiral,

I feel obliged to bring to your notice that many authoritative requests are arriving for the immediate solution as regards the group of Jewish refugees, whom, as you know, have been detained at Spezia while they were about to embark for Palestine.

I beg to request your help for what will be possible to do in favour of these emigrants.

With my kindest salutations.

/s/ Romita

See 37

To : Admiral Ellery W. STONE
Chief Commissioner, A.C.

R O M E

EC DIST. 26 Apr

ACTION: ~~156~~ E.C.

INFO: *Dwyer*

~~156~~ *18 Apr 46*

CC

: POLAD A

POLAD B

19CR.

(AB)

14599

Il Ministro

per l'Interno

Roma, 16 aprile 1946

38

Caro Ammiraglio,

mi corre l'obbligo di farle presente che vengono rivolte varie ed autorevoli premure perchè sia sollecitamente adottata una soluzione nei confronti del nucleo di profughi ebrei che, come è noto, è stato testè fermato alla Spezia mentre era in procinto di imbarcarsi per la Palestina.

Le segnalo la richiesta per quelle determinazioni che le sarà possibile di promuovere in favore di tali emigrati.

Le porgo i miei più distinti saluti

Zorini

fermato alla Spezia mentre era in procinto di imbarcarsi per la Palestina.

Le segnalo la richiesta per quelle determinazioni che le sarà possibile di promuovere in favore di tali emigrati.

Le porgo i miei più distinti saluti

Zanichelli

ALL'AMMIRAGLIO ELLERY W. STONE
Commissario Capo
Commissione Alleata

R O M A

1361

1893

APR

H/2384

APR 26 1600

ROUTINE

APR 26 1946

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GP LIGURIA

ALCOM FOR ACTION, INFO: (2) ALCOM PUBLIC SAFETY (3) DISTER (4)

AMERICAN EMBASSY (5) 2 DISTRICT (6) 59 AREA (7) AFHQ (8) BRITISH EMBASSY

UNCLASSIFIED.

Important report from Questore LA SPERIA received 1120 hrs 26 April.

1. Questore informed by MR KAHAN of inter governmental committee for refugees that kxxx he had received information from the British embassy on the evening of the 25th that 769 Jewish subjects would be admitted to Palestine
2. This has been discussed by the Jews who state that they will not sail unless all are allowed to proceed.
3. Telegram to this effect has been sent to the British embassy ROME and Foreign Office LONDON by Mr KAHAN.

AS LIST

ACTION DISTER 2
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER
F SAFETY
CIV AFF
FLOAT 2
FILE
POLAD A
POLAD B
IGCR

(CAPT K)

1636

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1891

200127

ACC LIAISON GROUP LUGURIA

AICOM

INFO. 2 DISTRICT DP SUB/COMM AICOM AFHQ. 59 AREA. PUBLIC SAFETY S/C.
AICOM AMERICAN EMBASSY BR. EMBASSY.

H/2242

Apr 11 21 0930

IMPORTANT

APR 23 1946

UNCLASSIFIED

TODAY AT 1200 HOURS THE ACTION COMMITTEE OF 1014 JUNE OF THE SHIP P 2 FELD
LA SPEZIA. DISCUSSION THE TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM PROFESSOR LASKY RECEIVED

ON THE 19th. AND ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING DECISION.

(A) HAVING NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF PROFESSOR LASKY AND HIS INTENTION
TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS THEY ACCEPT TO WAIT FOR THE ANSWER OF MR DEVIN UNTIL
AND NO MORE.

(B) THEY HOPE THAT IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO PARTIAL SOLUTION IS
ACCEPTABLE.

(C) THEY ASK THAT ALL ITALIAN SUBJECTS ARRESTED BE RELEASED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE PROMISE OF PROFESSOR LASKY AND CAPT HILL OF AFHQ FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

AC DIST.

ACTION: DISPER. 3/C2

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EX. COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC SAFETY

GAS

POLAD (A)

POLAD (B)

AM. EMBASSY

BR. EMBASSY

FILE 2

FLOAT

21 APR 1946

BWK

(C50)

See Mr 32 33

See Mr 32 33

1559

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017



2224

Ex. Comm.

30

APR HFT

N/3224
APR 20 1945

ROUTINE

DD ROMA LA SPEZIA SIGNED NAHON

DD AMERICAN JOINT ALLIED COMMISSION ROMB

APR 22 1945

UNCLASSIFIED.

Refugees Fede asked me inform that food received almost exhausted and insufficient please provide adequate rations for 1014 people especially canned food in tent received VAR FOR conditions be used could you. Other stop asking answer not yet received.

asked?

AC DIST.

ACTION: A.J.D.C. 2

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

DISPER 2

EX COMR

P SAFETY

FILE 2

FLOAT

Palad R

" B.

See m 32

1558

QUR

(CMT K)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Ref. : 224/72/80

23 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Displaced persons, Jews.

TO : The American Embassy,
Rome.

(27)

The attached copy of cable dated 18 April is forwarded
for your information.

A. W. Knisely.

✓
Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

1657

2523

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

2224
 HEADQUARTERS
 19 APR 1946
 A. C.
 ROUTINE
 H/2186
 APRIL 19 1930
 APR 19 1946
 (27)
Ly Comm 70

APRIL 18 1930

BEYROUT FROM BERNARD JOSEPH
 MET HARCH HQ ALLIED COMMISSION EGOR CIV ITALY

*Copies sent to
 Embassy
 at*

UNCLASSIFIED.

VIA POSTAL STRIKE PALESTINE CARLING FROM BEYROUT FROM FIRST MOMENT REPORT
 RECEIVED CONCERNING DETENTION REFUGEES ABOARD SEVE DOVHOS THE JEWISH YEHUV
 PALESTINE DEEMED THE IMMEDIATE EMIGRATION THESE BROTHERS SISTERS TO PALESTINE
 AS ITS OWN CONCERN AND THEIR FATE AS SYMBOLICAL ITS OWN FATE. FROM
 THAT DAY UNTIL NOW YEHUV HAS NOT KNOWN FORTY PEACE. DAY AFTER REPORT
 RECEIVED PLenary MEETING VAAD IEUDI WAS HELD WITH ATTENDANCE REPRESENTATIVES
 JEWISH MUNICIPALITIES COMMUNITY COUNCILS LOCAL COUNCILS AND CHIEF
 RABBINATE. AFTER THOROUGH DISCUSSION IT WAS DECIDED THAT YEHUV WOULD NEITHER
 WENT NOR REMAIN SOLENT UNTIL REFUGEES BE PERMITTED CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY
 TO PALESTINE. 15 CHOSEN LEADERS OF YEHUV REPRESENTING ALL TRENDS AND
 CENTRAL INSTITUTIONS BEGAN LAST FRIDAY APRIL 12 JOINT HUNGERSTRIKE AFTER
 INFORMING PALESTINE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT BREAK THEIR FAST UNTIL
 DOVHOS REFUGEES ALLOWED COMPLETE THEIR VOYAGE TO ERETZ ISRAEL. FOR PART
 4 DAYS THESE CHOSEN PEOPLE ARE MAINTAINING THEIR FAST AND THEY TOGETHER
 WITH WHOLE YEHUV ARE ADAMANT IN THEIR INTENTION CONTINUE IT UNTIL DEMAND
 FULFILLED. ON SUNDAY APRIL 14 WHOLE YEHUV JOINED IN FAST FROM DAWN TO
 SUNSET AND GENERAL STOPPAGE WAS OBSERVED. ALL WORK TRADE CEASED AND TRAFFIC
 THROUGHOUT YEHUV CAME STANDSTILL. WHOLE YEHUV DEMONSTRATED ITS FULL AS-
 SOCIATION WITH JEWISH REMNANTS EUROPE ASPIRING REDEMPTION AND SALVATION IN
 ERETZ ISRAEL. IN FULL COOPERATION BETWEEN JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE AND JEW-
 ISH YEHUVS REPRESENTATION THE STRUGGLE FOR RESCUE AND EMIGRATION OUR
 BROTHERS SISTERS EUROPE IS CONTINUING. PLEASE *28 139* BEHALF CONVEY MESSAGE
 ENCOURAGEMENT TO DOVHOS REFUGEES AND THEIR BROTHERS SISTERS IN ALL CAMPS
 ITALY THAT WE REGARD THEM AS PIONEERS OF JEWISH NATIONS STRUGGLE FOR FREE
 EMIGRATION AND FREE LIFE ITS HOMETLAND. PALESTINE GOVERNMENT INFORMED JEW-
 ISH AGENCY APRIL 16 THAT CERTIFICATES MAY BE ALLOTTED DOVHOS REFUGEES. CON-

(UPRX)

H/2186

67
26

PAGE 2

SEQUENTLY FAST 15 LEADERS TERMINATED 15 HOURS APRIL 16. CONVEY GOOD
NEWS. BERNARD JOSEPH.

AC DIST

ACTION: IGOR

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

DISPER S/C 2

RESC COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC SAFETY S/C

FILE 2

FLOAT

1655



Ref. : 2226/60/50

16 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Displaced persons, Jews

TO : The British Embassy
Rome

(22) For your information I am forwarding copies of three photographs taken by a member of the Naval boarding party of the vessel "HMS".

Immediately after No 1 was taken, the photographer went ashore on the quay and took No.2. This shows very clearly that despite the number of persons in the ship as shown in No.1, the persons standing on the quay (photograph No.2) had also to embark prior to sailing.

(21) I am also enclosing a report made by the I/Lt. of R.N.S. "Acute" rendered to his Commanding Officer, which sets out the facts of the Naval Party's operations at LA SPICIA.

A. W. Knisely,

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copies to: G-5 Section AFM

1654

PA
18/4
92

EX 64776
APR 15 1857B

CIPHER

H/2033
APR 16 0900B

IMMEDIATE

FREEDOM SIGNED SACHED CITE FHOBS
MAIN 13 CORPS ALCON

APR 16 1946

SECRET

SECRET.

REFERENCE 13 CORPS 1.646 AND CONVERSATION BRIG ALREY - COL. PARSONS OF TODAY.

1. AGREE IMPRACTICABILITY OF CONTINUED DETENTION IN 13 CORPS AREA OF 350 JEWISH DPS RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM YUGOSLAVIA.
2. 13 CORPS WILL CONTINUE INVESTIGATIONS WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING WHETHER THESE DPS ARE ABSENTEES FROM CAMPS IN ALLIED ZONES OF GERMANY OR AUSTRIA AND IF NOT HOW THEY OBTAINED DP DOCUMENTS. ANY INDIVIDUALS FROM PARTY WHO ARE STILL REQUIRED FOR INTERROGATION SHOULD BE DETAINED.
3. REMAINDER OF PARTY SHOULD BE EVACUATED THROUGH DP ORGANIZATION TO CAMPS IN ITALY.
4. ALCON WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP TRACK OF MEMBERS OF PARTY WITHIN DP ORGANIZATION IN CASE THEIR DEPORTATION IS ULTIMATELY DECIDED UPON AS RESULT OF 13 CORPS INVESTIGATION.

AC DIST

ACTION: DISPER 2
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EXEC COMMISSIONER

CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British or U.S. Government Departments or Headquarters or be transmitted even in Cipher without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

O A S

PUBLIC SAFETY

FILE

SKELTON

SECRET
1653

scriper have arranged to have cleared thru super (Hollins) 17/4

16 APR 1946

16/4 (OFT K)

PA

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
CMF - APO 394

11th April, 1946.

DO/34.

Dear Brigadier.

Further to this H.Q. letter AO/18 of even date regarding the Jewish refugees, which I feel sure you received today from Mr. Rord, I enclose herewith copies of three photographs in duplicate, marked 1, 2 and 3. These were taken by a member of the Naval Party.

Immediately after No 1 was taken, the photographer went ashore on the quay and took No.2. This shows very clearly that despite the number of persons in the ship as shown in No. 1, the persons standing on the quay (photograph No.2) had also to embark prior to sailing.

I attach herewith copy of report by made the 1/Lt. of H.M.S. "Acute" rendered to his Commanding Officer, which sets out the facts of the Naval Party's experiences at LA SPEZIA.

The reason I have sent you two copies of the photographs is that I thought perhaps you might like to forward them to G.H.Q. or to the Embassy.

I am thinking of opening a Synagogue at any moment and installing myself as Chief Rabbi. May I please have the appropriate authority?

Yours

T.C.

22

21

19

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I am thinking of opening a Synagogue at any moment and installing myself as Chief Rabbi. May I please have the appropriate authority?

Yours

T.C.

See Mr. G. B. B.

1952

Brigadier M. S. Lush, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
A/Chief Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

See Mr. 20 23
7.25

(150)

922476

The Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. "ACUTE",

7th April, 1946.

SPEZIA BOARDING PARTY.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report for your approval. In accordance with your orders I proceeded to Spezia this morning in charge of the Naval Party detailed to take over the vessel "FIDE". The party consisted of myself, Sub/Lieutenant Collins, Midshipman Buxton, and eight ratings.

2. On arrival at Spezia contact was made with the Questura and a guide was supplied to take us to the jetty where "FIDE" was secured. The services of a pilot were also provided to take the ship clear of the port channels and approaches.

3. "FIDE" incidentally proved to be a wooden two masted vessel of perhaps some 300 tons and bore no resemblance to the "1000 tonner" we were supposed to take over.

4. My first move was to contact the master of the craft to obtain particulars of the ship's capabilities and I was more than surprised to learn that he was not present, as I understood that both he and his crew were under arrest. Questioning the Carabinieri on the jetty gate yielded the information that he had been allowed through - with an escort - to take part in the local elections. Every effort was made to contact him but it was not until about 2 1/2 hours later, at approximately 1450 that he put in an appearance. I learned that the ship was only capable of some 6 1/2 knots, doubtful in the circumstances, which meant that the trip to Chiavri was going to take some 4 hours. Weather permitting, which was rather doubtful at the time, this would have left roughly only one hour of daylight to disembark the refugees and this always providing no trouble was met en route. From the general bearing and behaviour of the people this was to be expected.

5. In this connection during the time the local authorities were searching for the master of the ship I had interviewed a refugee purporting to be the official spokesman, and it was evident from the outset that no co-operation could be expected either from him or his people. I had understood that the number to be moved was around 1000 but this figure I heard quoted later as 1214 and later still as 1300. About half the refugees were huddled on board, in the holds, and all over the ship, and even this number in my opinion was too great for its safety unless under ideal weather conditions, and also unless the fullest co-operation could be relied upon. The remainder were wandering about the jetty and it was to get this party on board that I contacted their spokesman. He immediately wanted to know where they were going and when I told him I had no idea, my primary concern being the handling of the ship, he indicated that those on the jetty would remain there, and the others on the ship. He also indicated that if we succeeded in taking the ship away trouble would break out on board, in addition to rioting and general disturbances on the jetty, his view being that as they had all suffered so much already they were prepared to undergo anything in their endeavour to get to Palestine.

some 4 hours. Weather permitting, which was rather doubtful at the time, this would have left roughly only one hour of daylight to disembark the refugees and this always providing no trouble was met on route. From the general bearing and behaviour of the people this was to be expected.

5. In this connection during the time the local authorities were searching for the master of the ship I had interviewed a refugee purporting to be the official spokesman, and it was evident from the outset that no co-operation could be expected either from him or his people. I had understood that the number to be moved was around 1000 but this figure I heard quoted later as 1244 and later still as 1300. About half the refugees were huddled on board, in the holds, and all over the ship, and even this number in my opinion was too great for its safety unless under ideal weather conditions, and also unless the fullest co-operation could be relied upon. The remainder were wandering about the jetty and it was to get this party on board that I contacted their spokesman. He immediately wanted to know where they were going and when I told him I had no idea, my primary concern being the handling of the ship, he indicated that those on the jetty would remain there, and the others on the ship. He also indicated that if we succeeded in taking the ship away trouble would break out on board, in addition to rioting and general disturbances on the jetty, his view being that as they had all suffered so much already they were prepared to undergo anything in their endeavour to get to Palestine.

6. In view of the uncertainty of the standing of the Naval Party in the scheme of things and of the certainty of international complications if trouble did materialise, as it would have done, I deemed it advisable to contact Lieutenant Colonel Turner-Cole of the Allied Commission for further orders. This was done at about 1600 though I found that most of the facts had been phoned ~~about~~ through ~~about~~ from the Questura's office by an army officer, Captain Davies, who was ~~also~~ also involved in the matter. My further orders from Lieutenant Colonel Turner-Cole were to return to Genoa after arranging with the Questura to double the guards on the jetty. This was done. This report was also rendered verbally to Lieutenant Colonel Turner-Cole on my return to Genoa at approximately 2020, and is now set out in confirmation.

7. In conclusion, if it is again decided to move the refugees by sea to Chiavari in my opinion a more suitable ship or ships will have to be provided, or if "FIDE" is still used a guard of sufficient strength to regulate the number boarding the ship and to maintain order while at sea would be required. In this case disturbances from those remaining on the jetty would be practically/certainly. If it is decided to make the movement by road I feel that the authorities concerned should be made fully aware of the situation as quite definitely the refugees will resist any attempt to move them back to their starting point. This feeling is shared by the other officers and ratings of the Naval Party.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.

Fuller

Lieutenant, R.N.V.R.
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 13th S. S. "ARTIST"

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED COMMISSION

LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP

CMF - APO 394

SECRET

REFERENCE : AO/18

11 April 1946

SUBJECT : Jewish Refugees at LA SPEZIA.

APR 15 1946

TO : See distribution.

1. On the evening of the 10th April, Prof. LASKI went on board the "FEDE", accompanied by Mr. W. H. BRADIE, Labour Attache, British Embassy, ROME. They remained for two hours and eventually the refugees called off their hunger strike. The ship yard workers of CALADO and others stated they were about to call a "Sympathetic" Strike. The hunger strike lasted 72 hrs.

2. The refugees on the "FEDE" undertake :-

- a) To call off the hunger strike until Prof. LASKI has seen the Foreign Secretary and stated their case. This he will seek to do immediately on his return on 19th April 46.
- b) To conduct themselves in good order and peacefully during the period.
- c) To use the facilities of the American Joint Relief Committee for food during this period. They thus undertake not to prejudice the food position in LA SPEZIA in this period.

3. if possible :- Capt. HILLS, A2 G.H.Q. will communicate at once with G.H.Q. to secure

- a) Improvement of status for the refugees.
- b) To arrange for the removal of the Italian Guards in charge of the ship in dock so long as Refugees police themselves in orderly fashion.
- c) To present at Prof. LASKI's desire a request to the appropriate authorities for the release of those Italians arrested for helping the Jews.
- d) To arrange for their remaining on board ship while in LA SPEZIA.

4. Prof. LASKI undertakes :-

- a) Fully to state the Refugees' case to the Foreign Secretary and do all in his power to assist in their effort to enter PALESTINE.

- b) To conduct themselves in good order and peacefully during the period
- c) To use the facilities of the American Joint Relief Committee for food during this period. They thus undertake not to prejudice the food position in LA SPEZIA in this period.

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3. if possible :-

- a) Improvement of status for the refugees.
- b) To arrange for the removal of the Italian Guards in charge of the ship in dock so long as Refugees police themselves in orderly fashion.
- c) To present at Prof. LASKE's desire a request to the appropriate authorities for the release of those Italians arrested for helping the Jews.
- d) To arrange for their remaining on board ship while in LA SPEZIA.

Prof. LASKE undertakes :-

- a) Fully to state the Refugees' case to the Foreign Secretary and do all in his power to assist in their effort to enter PALESTINE.
- b) To telegraph at once to the Prefect of LA SPEZIA the result of his discussion.

The position remains calm.

5.

H.Q. Alcom /
G.H.Q.,
2 District
59 Area
Public Safety Sub Commission
Displaced Persons Sub Commission
85 Port Security Section
U.S. Consul General GENOVA
British Consul General.

W. TURNER-COLES

Lt-Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

SECRET

(150)

2833

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

XXXX
XXXX

2224 *ST*

618

Addressed to Foreign Office, telegram No. 550 of 11/4/46, repeated to Washington No. 87, and Caserta No. 150.

IMPORTANT.

Mr. Broad's telegram 345.

APR 15 1946

File over

My immediately following telegram contains text of message telephoned by Mr. Braine, who accompanied Mr. Laski when he went to see the Jews at La Spezia yesterday. Mr. Laski had an extremely difficult task and handled situation with tact and firmness. He made no promises and made it clear that he was acting as go-between. The men were proposing to commit suicide ten per day unless they received some satisfaction. Italian workers in Spezia were proposing to go on strike in sympathy. The men were in ugly mood and amongst other things accused the British of being responsible for the death of some 4 million Jews. Mr. Laski pointed out that if it had not been for the British none of them would probably be alive to-day. He told them that nothing definite could be done about large scale emigration of Jews until the result of the Anglo-American Conference was known and, he as an English Jew, would be the first to complain if he felt that Jews were not to receive just treatment.

2. I understand the refugee ship cannot sail as essential parts of machinery have been removed.

3. A number of foreign journalists were at Spezia but Mr. Laski and Mr. Braine have told them the facts and it is hoped no garbled versions of incident will be published.

TC/S/GMB

*Copy for Longwood. hush.
For CAS & Dept.*

MSL 12/4.

<i>Seen</i>	<i>initials</i>	<i>date</i>
CAS	<i>MC</i>	13/4
Dejeers	<i>cy</i>	13/4

1946

MS 15/4

(AFT K)

2224 41
Addressed to Foreign Office, telegram No. 589 of 11/4/46. 69
repeated to Washington No. 88 and Caser No. 151.

IMPORTANT.

APR 15 1946

My immediately preceding telegram. Following is text of message. Begins:

1. Professor Laski, accompanied by W.H. Braine, went on board the refugee ship "Fede" at La Spezia on 10th April and remained there for two hours considering the hunger strike of the refugee passengers. The strike had been operating for 72 hours and at the time of the visit Orlando shipyard workers and others in the area were about to declare a sympathetic strike.
2. As a result of discussions with Professor Laski the refugees on the "FEDE" undertook:
 - (a) to call off the hunger strike until Laski has seen the British Foreign Secretary and stated the refugees' case. This he will seek to do immediately on his return to U.K. on 19th April;
 - (b) to conduct themselves in good order and peacefully during this period;
 - (c) to use the facilities of the American Joint Relief Committee for food during the period. They thus undertake not to prejudice the food position in La Spezia during the period of negotiations.
3. Captain Hills, A.B. Branch, G.H.Q., C.M.F., will communicate at once with G.H.Q. to secure, if possible:
 - (1) improvement of conditions for the refugees;
 - (2) removal of the Italian guards in charge of the ship in dock, so long as the refugees police themselves in orderly fashion;
 - (3) that the refugees shall remain on board ship whilst in La Spezia;
 - (4) to present at Laski's desire a request to the appropriate authorities for the release of those Italians who were arrested in helping the Jews.
4. Professor Laski undertakes fully to state the refugees' / case

1648

94
(CAPT K)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

222H

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION.
AFO 394

56

Ref:

TO: Executive Commissioner.

11th April, 1946.

APR 13 1946

With regard to the Jews at La Spezia, a telephone message received from the Public Safety Ligurian Liaison Group this morning is to the following effect:

Mr. Braine and Professor Laski are reported to have been at La Spezia and visited these Jews. They are said to have undertaken to take up the matter with the British Government on the transfer of these Jews to Palestine. On this assurance the Jews are reported to have given up their hunger strike until 19th April, when they say they will start again if nothing has happened.

It is also reported that the Italian Guards have been withdrawn and that No. 2 District are upset about this. Presumably, they will handle the matter.

It is not clear whether the Guards were withdrawn on representations made by Professor Laski and Mr. Braine.

*be spoke about this.
later.* MC

MC

M. CARR, Brigadier.
VP. CA. Section.

1647

357

4/ 1946
(c30)

253-8

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

2224

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H/1916

15

APR 120900

ROUTINE

APR 11 1946

BROOK RAPALLO

D TROBE AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE ALLIED COMMISSION VIA VENETO ROMA

UNCLASSIFIED.

FOLLOWING AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN REFUGEES S/S FEDA AND LASKI

1. REFUGEES CALL OFF HUNGER STRIKE LASKI WILL CONTACT BEVIN BY APRIL 19 AND PLEAD CAUSE OF REFUGEES.
2. REFUGEES CONSENT TO USE FOOD OF AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE SO AS NOT TO PREJUDICE FOOD SITUATION OF LA SPEZIA.
3. REFUGEES WILL REMAIN ON BOARD SHIP TILL THEY HEAR FROM LASKI.
4. REFUGEES WILL POLICE THEMSELVES NO ITALIAN GUARDS.
5. LASKI WILL PLEAD REFUGEES CAUSE AND DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO ASSIST THEM TO ENTER PALESTINE NOTELY NY AND PARIS OF USE OF A J O C FOOD FOR FEDA REFUGEES.

AC DIST

ACTION: AJDC
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EXEC COMMISSIONER
DISPERS S/C
POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
C A S
FILE 2
FLOAT

HEADQUARTERS

12 APR 1946

A. C.

1646

10/13/4

(50)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Brig. Lush.

2224

APR 11 1946

British Labour Party Delegation - Refugee Ship, La Spezia.

The following amendment is necessary to my minute of 11th April, reporting the result of Professor Luski's intervention in the hunger strike on the refugee ship "Fede":

Reference to Captain Hills should read:

"Captain Hills, A.2 Branch G.I.C., C.M.F.".

Amended H.S.

H.S.
H.S. HIRD.

11th April, 1946.

British Embassy,
Rome.

16-13A

*H.S. 13/4
aut. 13/4*

Ref: 2224/56/EC.

12th April 1946.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Jews.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

Further to my letter 2224/EC dated 12 April 46, subject as above, attached please find copy of report received by this office from Mr. W.H. Braine, Labour Attache, British Embassy, who visited the refugee ship "FEDE" with Mr. Harold Iaski on 10th April.

11 12
15/N. W. HIND. SMITH
MAT
Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Public Safety E/C
I.G.C.R.
Displaced Persons (Less copy of report - copy
already forwarded by Embassy).

1644

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: 1787.

Date/Time of Origin: 11 APR 1945

Message Centre No: H/1891

Date Time Rec'd: 11 APR 1945

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

FROM: ALLIED COM. LIAISON GP LIGURIA

TO : HQ ALCON INFO: PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION ROME DISPLACED PERSONE SUB-COMMISSION

ROME 2 DISTRICT: 59 AREA

UNCLASSIFIED.

REFERRING TO SIGNALS 1783 AND 1785 THE HUNGER STRIKE OF THE JEWISH SUBJECTS UNDER FEDE AT LA SPEZIA TERMINATED ON THE EVENING OF 10 APRIL 46. FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE VESSEL BY PROFESSOR LASKI WHO PROMISED TO SEE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE MATTER ON HIS RETURN TO LONDON. SHOULD KNOW DECISION HAVE BEEN ARRIVED ATBY THE 19 APRIL 46 THE HUNGER STRIKE WILL RE-COMMENCE. THE QUESTURE OF LA SPEZIA HAS INFORMED THE HQ THAT FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONS HE HAS WITHHELD ALL POLICE GUARDS AS IT WAS AGREED THAT THE REFUGEES ARE NOT BE REGARDED AS PRISONERS. DETAILED REPORTS FOLLOW.

AC DIST

ACTN: EX COM
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
DISPERS
P. SAFETY SC
FILE 2
FLOAT

ACTION

1643

UNCLASSIFIED.

REFERRING TO SIGNALS 1783 AND 1785 THE HUNGER STRIKE OF THE JEWISH SUBJECTS UNDER FEDE AT LA SPEZIA TERMINATED ON THE EVENING OF 10 APRIL 46. FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE VESSEL BY PROFESSOR LASKI WHO PROMISED TO SEE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE MATTER ON HIS RETURN TO LONDON. SHOULD KNOW DECISION HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT BY THE 19 APRIL 46 THE HUNGER STRIKE WILL RE-COMMENCE. THE QUESTURE OF LA SPEZIA HAS INFORMED THE HQ THAT FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSIONS HE HAS WITHHELD ALL POLICE GUARDS AS IT WAS AGREED THAT THE REFUGEES ARE NOT BE REGARDED AS PRISONERS. DETAILED REPORTS FOLLOW.

AC DIST

ACTN: EX COMM
INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER
DISPERS
P. SAFETY SC
FILE 2
FLOAT

ACTION

1643

HEADQUARTERS

10 APR 1946

1C

COPY.

H.E.

British Labour Party Delegation.

Refugee Ship, La Spezia.

1. The following report from Mr. W. H. Braine was telephoned to me this morning by Lt.Col. Turner Coles, AMG Liaison Officer, Genoa.

" Professor Laski, accompanied by W.H. Braine, went on board the refugee ship "Fede" at La Spezia on 10th April and remained there for two hours considering the hunger strike of the refugee passengers. The strike had been operating for 72 hours and at the time of the visit Orlando shipyard workers and others in the area were about to declare a sympathetic strike.

As a result of discussions with Professor Laski the refugees on the "Fede" undertook:

- (a) to call off the hunger strike until Laski has seen the British Foreign Secretary and stated the refugees' case. This he will seek to do immediately on his return to UK on 19th April;
- (b) to conduct themselves in good order and peacefully during this period;
- (c) to use the facilities of the American Joint Relief Committee for food during the period. They thus undertake not to prejudice the food position in La Spezia during the period of negotiations.

A. 1 Branch G.H.Q. C.M.F.
Captain Hills, ~~No. 2 District Intelligence Officer~~, will communicate at once with GHQ to secure, if possible:

- (1) improvement of status for refugees;
- (2) removal of the Italian guards in charge of the ship in dock, so long as the refugees police themselves in orderly fashion;
- (3) that the refugees shall remain on board ship whilst in La Spezia;
- (4) to present at Laski's desire a request to the appropriate authorities for the release of those Italians who were arrested in helping the Jews.

Professor Laski undertakes fully to state the refugees' case to the Foreign Secretary and to do all in his power to assist in their efforts to enter Palestine. He undertakes to telegraph at once to the Prefect of La Spezia the result of his discussions in London. Signed W.H. BRAINE."

*Seen by HCC
Displaced Persons
Have copy*

J.S. 4

See 14

1642

Ref: 2224/EC.

12. April 1946.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Jews.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

1. I refer to telephone conversation (Lush - Parsons) on 10th April and enclose:

- (a) letter from I.G.C.R. describing telegram received from Dr. Nahum of the Jewish Agency, Palestine, who apparently has visited La Spezia;
- (b) statement from the soi disant "Union of Jewish Communities and the Central Committee of Jewish Refugees in Italy".

2. I have instructed Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and requested I.G.C.R. to take no action in this matter. I interviewed the Secretary of the Jewish Committee yesterday and explained the inaccuracy of the words in lines 2 and 3 of their statement "on orders of the Allied Command."

M. S. LUSH

MSI/JG.

Brigadier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

Copy to: Displaced Persons Sub-Com.
Public Safety Sub-Com.
I.G.C.R.

1641

See 14.

S T A T E M E N T
REGARDING DETAINED 1100 JEWISH REFUGEES
AT LA SPEZIA, ITALY.

While on board of the ship EMER with the aim to sail for Palestine 1100 Jewish refugees were detained by Italian Coast-Police on order of the Allied Command at the coast of La Spezia near Genova on the 5-th of April 1946.

The detained Jewish refugees have gone through unimaginable atrocities in years of nazi annihilation and only miraculously escaped sure deaths numerous times. They, as most of the remnants, have seen their only salvation in coming to Palestine - the homeland of our past and future. This gave them the spirit and strength to overcome the darkest days of nazi slavery.

But how disappointed were the remnants of European Jewry when they learned that the gates of Palestine were closed to them ever after liberation, that even after the collapse of Nazism Jewish remnants had to continue to live in D.P. camps, or as undesired refugees in most countries that to them were large cemeteries of the Beloved. Nine months have passed. Many nations and countries regained their liberation and independence. Many thousands of people were allowed and assisted to return to their homeland. Only the Jewish people, the remnants of those, who have been sacrificed for the victory of li-

ril 1946.

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Nine months have passed. Many nations and countries regained their liberation and independence. Many thousands of people were allowed and assisted to return to their homeland. Only the Jewish people, the remnants of those, who have been sacrificed for the victory of Liberty, Independence and Democracy - had to continue in various refugee camps under control of strangers and were not allowed to go to their homeland - Palestine.

More than that - new regulations aiming to keep the gates of Palestine practically closed to Jews - drove the Jewish refugees to hopelessness and despair.

The detained Jewish refugees on board of the ship at La Spezia, part of whom are former partisans, who lived in camps and training in Italy, reached the last stage of despair.

See 11

They looked for way out from the hopeless conditions they were put in.

The hospitality of democratic Italy could only be a temporary solution as a last station: the refugee camps could appear only as transit camps before leaving for Palestine, but could never make a steady place where one could begin a normal life as a Jew and citizen.

Driven by exasperation and firm determination to put end to the period of being a refugee and mostly undesired guest in foreign countries, and begin a new life in their homeland, the 1100 Jewish refugees made up their minds to make their way to Palestine regardless of very hardship and obstacle.

A telegram received from the detained is quoted as follows:

We 1100 Jewish refugees detained on board ship FEDE in La Spezia Italy while trying to leave for Palestine the land of our last and only hope declare that we shall not leave this ship and we demand permission to continue our voyage stop we shall sink the ship and drown with it because we reached the last stage of despair stop Approach British Prime Minister and USA President view obtaining permission for us entry Palestine this being the only salvation in our desperate situation unquote wire immediately your action".

According to latest information the 1100 detained rejected an official proposal to leave the ship for camps in Italy.

They began a hunger strike 3 days ago, declaring they will continue this strike as long as permission is not given to proceed to Palestine.

Keeping in mind the dangerous situation of the detained at La Spezia reminding of the tragic cases of "STRUMA" and "PATRIA" (Jewish rein-

785017

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They began a hunger strike 3 days ago, declaring they will continue this strike as long as permission is not given to proceed to Palestine.

Keeping in mind the dangerous situation of the detained at La Spezia reminding of the tragic cases of "STRUMA" and "PATRIA" (Jewish refugees were drowned in those ships while trying to reach the coast of Palestine "illegally"). All Jews in Italy proclaimed for April the 10th a general hunger-strike in solidarity and sympathy with the detained. Mass-meetings of Jewish refugees are taking place in camps training-centres and cities. A great mass-meeting is called in Rome by Italian Jewry and Jewish refugees for April the 10th. Cables have been sent on behalf of the detained to the USA President Mr. TRUMAN and the British Prime Minister ATTLEE.

We call your attention to the coast of La Spezia, where 1100 Jewish survivors are struggling for their right to reach the coast of their own land - the coast of Palestine.

We appeal to you to use all your influence for an immediate permission

for the 1100 Refugees to continue their voyage to Palestine.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN ITALY

UNION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES
IN ITALY

Rome. 10. April. 1946

1633

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES 7.

Reference: 20/72

Allied Commission Headquarters,
Rome, C.M.F. (Telephone: 489081:
Ext. 213)

10th April, 1946.

To: The Executive Commissioner, Allied Commission HQ

From: The Resident Representative, IGCR, Italy.

Subject: S/S SEDE REFUGEES.

The following telegram has been received by me from
Dr. Nahon of the Jewish Agency for Palestine: -

VISITED YESTERDAY S/S SEDE REFUGEES WHO STARTED HUNGER
STRIKE REFUSED ALL SUGGESTIONS LEAVE SHIP, DECIDED OFFER
THEIR LIVES TO STRESS JEWISH RIGHT EMIGRATION PALESTINE.
SERIOUS EVENTS INCLUDING SABOTAGE OF SHIP WITH ALL PEOPLE
ON BOARD MAY BE EXPECTED IF WAY WILL NOT BE FOUND LET
PEOPLE PROCEED PALESTINE. WILL YOU INTERVENE D.P.R.S.C.
ASKING USE THEIR INFLUENCE ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED
PRESENTING FATAL DEVELOPMENTS. CABLED JEWISH AGENCY
LONDON AND JERUSALEM ASKING THEIR INTERVENTION WITH
BRITISH AND PALESTINE GOVERNMENTS.

I have spoken to the Director D.P.R.S.C., who knows the
contents.

Julian Tomlin
Lt. Col. Julian I. Tomlin,
Resident Representative,
I.G.C.R.

See II

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

Reference: 20/72

Allied Commission Headquarters,
Rome, C.M.F. (Telephone: 489081:
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SERIOUS EVENTS INCLUDING SABOTAGE OF SHIP WITH ALL PEOPLE
ON BOARD MAY BE EXPECTED IF WAY WILL NOT BE FOUND LET
PEOPLE PROCEED PALESTINE. WILL YOU INTERVENE D.P.R.S.C.
ASKING USE THEIR INFLUENCE ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED
PRESENTING FATAL DEVELOPMENTS. CABLED JEWISH AGENCY
LONDON AND JERUSALEM ASKING THEIR INTERVENTION WITH
BRITISH AND PALESTINE GOVERNMENTS.

I have spoken to the Director D.P.R.S.C., who knows the
contents.

Julian Tomlin
Lt. Col. Julian L. Tomlin,
Resident Representative,
I.G.C.R.

See II

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1873

09Apr1120B

H/1810

091530B

IMMEDIATE APR 11 1946

A/C LIAISON GP (GENOA)

AFHQ AICOM 2DIST 59 AREA PUBLIC SAFETY SC DISPLACED PERSONS SUB COMM CO

AICOM ROME

UNCLASSIFIED

REF OUR 1870 OF 9 APRIL. JEWISH SUBJECTS IN SIDA CONTINUE HUNGER STRIKE
IN ADDITION THEY STATE THAT IF ANY ACTION IS TAKEN OTHER THAN THE SAILING OF THE
SHIP DIRECT TO PALESTINE THEY WILL BURN THE SHIP. CAPTAIN HILLS OF A2 GHQ REGARDS
SITUATION EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND THAT A DECISION AS REGARDS THE FUTURE OF THESE
PERSONS BE MADE IMMEDIATELY.

AC DIST

ACTION DISPER

INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER

P SAFETY

NAVY ~~EX COMMISSIONER~~

EX COMMISSIONER

FILE 2

FLOAT



See 13

1536

(csc)

1871
APR.

2224
10 APR 1946

H/1758

APR.

IMMEDIATE

ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP LIGURIA

11 1946

AFHQ HQ ALLIED COMMISSION PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION DISPLACED
PERSONS SUB COMMISSION 2 DISTRICT = 59 AREA

UNCLASSIFIED.

Reference signal 1870 dated 7-4-46 the quesora La Spezia
report at 1010 hrs today that the Jewish subjects on the Fede
have commenced a definite hunger strike as from dawn.
He also reports that during the night of the 7/8 April certain
operative parts of the motor of the vessel have been removed
by unknown persons.

AC DIST
ACTION DISPER 2
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMM
P. SAFETY 2
NAVY
FILE 2
FLOAT

1635

1870

APR 071600 B

H/1749

APR 080900

IMMEDIATE

FROM ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON GROUP LIGURIA

TO AFHQ: HQ ALLIED COMMISSION 2 DISTRICT 59 AREA

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION ROME DISPLACED PERSONS SUB COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL .

1. Ref telegram 1866 of 4th April. Attempt was made on 7th April by Royal Navy boarding party to sail "FEDE" to CHIAVARI where all Jewish subjects were to be placed in a displaced persons camp.

2. Officers I/C party telephoned this HQ at 1530 hours that subjects refused to sail unless the ship proceeds to PALESTINE otherwise they will mutiny and burn the vessel. Similar action is threatened if an delicate and the vessel and subjects will remain in the port of SPEZIA pending a decision of A.N.H.Q.WM.

3. It is the wish of the subjects to gain world wide publicity they are extremely difficult to manage and are not prepared to receive help or assistance.

AC DIST

ACTION	DISTRICT 2
INFO	CHIEF COMMISSIONER
	PUBLIC SAFETY 2
	EX COMM
	NAVY
	FILE 2
	FLOAT



1634

(CSO)

APR. 04 1220A

EX Com

11/1607

APR. 04 1445

ROUTINE

APR 4 1946

AC LIAISON OF LIGURIA

2 DISTRICT - 59 AREA INFO: EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER AC ROME -
DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION ROME - DIRECTOR DISPER. PERS.
SUB COMMISSION ROME.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

Information has been received on the 4/4/46 from the Questur La Spezia that an attempt has been made to illegally ship from 1200 persons of Jewish origin on to 2 schooners in the Harbour.

The subjects were brought to Spezia at 0400 hrs on the 4/4/46 by a convey of 38 vehicles with drivers in British battledress, under the command of a Sgt SCHWARTZ. It is stated that the subjects are not in possession of any documents to authorise the project, and the Italian authorities are holding all concerned for investigations. The Schooners are stated to be provisioned for 10 days and the destination Palestine. F.S.S. (85) Port Section) and South African military police are attending and making certain enquiries.

AC DIST

INFO ACTION DISPER SC 2
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMM
P. SAFETY SC
FILE 2
FLOAT



RESTRICTED

1933

(CAPT K)

2554