

Haber

COPY - From J.T.A. News, 6/28/48

HABER CONFERS WITH GEN. KENDALL ON PROBLEMS CONCERNING JEWISH
DP'S IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, June 27, (JTA) - Major General Paul Kendall, commanding general of the American zone of Austria, and Prof. William Haber, advisor on Jewish Affairs to the U.S. European Command, met in Salzburg this week-end to discuss problems concerning the Jewish DP's in Austria.

Informed circles expect a speedy transfer of displaced Jews to Israel. Prior to the meeting, Prof. Haber visited Jewish DP camps in the Salzburg area.

*American Jewish
Archives
142 Regular
Stack 6*

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Champs-Haber

MEMO

June 25, 1948

to : Mr. Grossman
from : Dr. Jacoby

On June 24, I attended at the office of the American Jewish Conference a meeting of the 5 cooperating Jewish organizations, dealing with DP questions etc. The meeting was very short since the preceding meeting dealing with restitution of property had lasted over 2 hours.

1.) Prof. Haber's report was not discussed. One took up only the question whether he could stay as Jewish Advisor. The impression was that Haber would like to stay if the University of Michigan could be induced to extend his leave of absence. It was resolved to take up the matter with the White House and that the White House then should get in touch with the University of Michigan.

2.) The IRO situation was discussed shortly. It was reported that Mr. Adler Rudel had a conversation with Mr. Tuck, and that the whole attitude of IRO has changed for the better but that nothing definite has been promised as yet. I mentioned that you and Dr. N. Goldmann are now in Switzerland, and the opinion was expressed that it would be good if Dr. Goldmann and you contact also Mr. Tuck in the matter.

Camp

June 21, 1948

My dear Mr. Grossman:

Your May 25th letter should, I know, have been acknowledged long before this. However, I am sure, you sense that these have been very busy days and in addition to our regular problems, I have spent some time in Austria and thus neglected a good deal of mail, yours included.

In Austria I reviewed the problem raised in your letter with Stiaany. We had a full discussion of the situation, my own difficulties with respect to the World Jewish Congress recognition and how the Congress might operate in Germany on some basis other than formal recognition. Since I am planning to attend the Congress meeting in Montreux for at least a few days, there will, no doubt, be a chance to discuss these matters with several of the American representatives and come to some conclusion. On the assumption that you will be there, I am sending a copy of this letter addressed to you c/o your Geneva office.

With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,

William Haber

WILLIAM HABER

Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APG 403, c/o P.M. N.Y., N.Y.

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman
World Jewish Congress
1854 Broadway
New York 23, N.Y.

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Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma

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Handwritten marks and initials

No. *1406*

= KURT GROSSMANN MONTREUX PALACE
MONTREUX SWITZERLAND =

YOUR AND ALFRED MARROW ENTRY PERMITS BEING CABLED TO US
MILITARY PERMIT OFFICE AT BERNE ADVISE MARROW TELEPHONE BERNE
FOR VERIFICATION BEFORE GOING THERE = HABER +

636 95
Berna 213 05

Dr. Rubomif 4

Re: Recognition of the World Jewish Congress as
an operating Agency.

June 21, 1948.

My dear Mr. Grossman,

Your May 25th letter should, I know, have been acknowledged long before this. However, I am sure, you sense that these have been very busy days and in addition to our regular problems, I have spent some time in Austria and thus neglected a good deal of mail, yours included.

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With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APD 403, c/o P.M. N.Y., N.Y.

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

318503

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

June 21, 1948

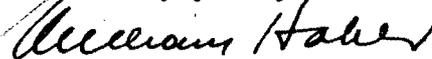
My dear Mr. Grossman:

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With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,



WILLIAM HABER

Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

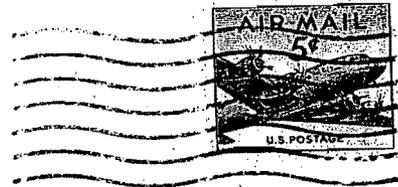
APO 403, c/o P.M. N.Y. , N.Y.

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

318504

WILLIAM HABER

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 403, c/o P.M. N.Y., N.Y.
Official Business



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

318505

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander
in Chief

June 31, 1948

COPY

My dear Mr. Grossman:

Your May 25th letter should, I know, have been acknowledged long before this. However, I am sure, you sense that these have been very busy days and in addition to our regular problems, I have spent some time in Austria and thus neglected a good deal of mail, yours included.

In Austria I reviewed the problem raised in your letter with Stiassny. We had a full discussion of the situation, my own difficulties with respect to the World Jewish Congress recognition and how the Congress might operate in Germany on some basis other than formal recognition. Since I am planning to attend the Congress meeting in Montreux for at least a few days, there will, no doubt be a chance to discuss these matters with several of the American representatives and come to some conclusion. On the assumption that you will be there, I am sending a copy of this letter addressed to you c/o your Geneva office.

With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,

(sgd) William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APO 403, c/o P.M., N.Y., N.Y.

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

*Therefore I did not send copies to the
O.C. members but leave it up to you*

318506

DRAFT

June 17, 1948

Cable

NLT

~~*****~~

William Haber

Adviser Jewish Affairs

Headquarters European Command

APO 757 Postmaster New York

Alfred Marrow leading Executive American Jewish Congress and scientist
connected with New School Social Research applied permit to visit
DPcamps stop visit highly recommended by Joint American and World Jewish
Congress stop application now in Frankfurtmain Marrow leaving for
Europe June 24 please cable favorable decision Newyork indicating
whether permit could be picked up American Consulate Geneva or
will be available prior departure . Thanks regards

Stephen Wise

318507

JUNE 16, 1948

C D

Meeting of Cooperating Organizations on Professor Haber's Proposals

16.
(8-12)

The five cooperating organizations met on May 19 under the chairmanship of Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein. The WJC was represented by Dr. Marcus, Dr. Schwarzbart, and Mr. Grossman. After a thorough discussion of the problems of idleness in DP camps, work of the Jewish DP's in the German economy, liquidation of DP camps, etc., it was decided to formulate the attitude of the cooperating organizations as follows: No effort should be made to reverse the present disinclination of the Jewish DP's to work for the German economy but it should rather be advocated that the Jewish DP's work on United States Army projects; the camps should not be liquidated, as they serve as perfect staging areas for immigration to Palestine; extension of German authority over Jewish DP's should be opposed wherever possible. Mr. Grossman was asked to investigate existing trends in Washington and report back to the Committee.

The Working Committee will suggest to the JDC three candidates for the position of a press relations man. The JDC will choose one and assume the financial responsibility. In the same way, the American Jewish Committee will cover the expenses for a man to aid the fight against anti-Semitism in Germany. It was agreed in principle to grant the request that a man be assigned to assist Professor Haber in his general survey of the situation.

318508

JUNE 16 1948

C. D.

Adviser On Jewish Affairs Requests Additional Help from Cooperating Organizations

15.
(8-12)

Under date of May 1, 1948, Professor William Haber, Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Lucius D. Clay, supplements his report to the cooperating organizations on the following points:

There are three areas where additional help is needed. In the field of public relations, an assistant able to supply the press with positive aspects of Jewish DP life should be assigned to the Advisor. Another person should be entrusted with tasks related to the fight against anti-Semitism, which has been increasing in a disquieting way, and should be attached to UNESCO or to one of the existing agencies. He should aid and encourage local groups of German people desiring to deal with the problem, should stimulate programs designed to counteract anti-Semitism, and should collaborate closely with the educational, religious, and military authorities which have the responsibility in this field. The third area in which the Advisor considers he needs help relates to the appraisal of the entire situation with a view of determining to what extent a shift of emphasis on the part of the cooperating organizations is called for. He suggests that he be authorized to invite a person in whose judgment and skill he has confidence to assist him for a period of about two months.

318509

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL - Day Letter

NL - Night Letter

LC - Deferred Cable

NLT - Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

INTL WUG1 INTL=

N ZP HEIDELBERG 23 JUN 15

VIA WU CABLES= VLT KURT GROSSMANN WORDGRESS (WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS)

REGRET DELAY IN REPLY YOUR CABLE ON SENATE DP BILL FIGURES NOT
AVAILABLE BEST ESTIMATE NUMBER NEGLIGIBLE

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THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

318510

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INTL WUGL INTL ZP HEIDELBERG 23 JUN 15
NLT KURT GROSSMAN WORLDGRESS NEWYORK

Rec'd: 6/15/48

REGRET DELAY IN REPLY YOUR CABLE ON SENATE DP BILL FIGURES NOT

AVAILABLE BEST ESTIMATE NUMBER NEGLIGIBLE - HABER

318511

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Kurt Grossman

DATE: June 15, 1948

FROM: A. Rothfeld

SUBJECT:

Enclosed you will find a copy of Dr. Haber's report, dated
June 10, 1948.

318512

Com. p. Haber

June 14, 1948

Professor William Haber
Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Clay
H.Q. European Command
Office of Chief Staff
APO 757 c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

It is highly probable that I will go to Europe in a few days in order to attend the Second Session of the World Jewish Congress, which begins on June 27, 1948, in Montreux, and which will last about 6 days.

I would like to take this opportunity of my stay in Europe to make a stop-over in Germany and to look into all the problems myself, which we have discussed in previous letters. I have not made any arrangements here for a trip to Germany, due to lack of time; but I am sure that you could make arrangements for me. In case you agree, I would be grateful to be informed by you at the Montreux Palace, Montreux/Switzerland.

With many thanks for your kind cooperation, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossmann

June 4, 1948

COPY

Prof. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters, European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757
c/o Postmaster, New York

Dear Professor Haber:

I write you at this time to cordially invite you to attend the Second Session of the World Jewish Congress which will convene in Montreux, Switzerland, on the 27th of this month.

Representatives of Jewish communities from many countries will participate in these deliberations which will include a thorough discussion of the manifold problems of the Diaspora, as well as the relationship of the Congress movement to the new State of Israel. Of particular importance will be the problem of the displaced persons in Germany and Austria and the question of denazification. I feel that your thinking on these subjects will be very helpful in clarifying the Congress view and in formulating a program to deal with these questions.

May I on behalf of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress and myself personally urge you to make every effort to attend the Session.

Faithfully yours,

President

ssw
rsm
tw

318514

DP

List for Prof. William Heber, for the Persons
who want to visit the DP Camps in Germany.

Name WOHL, Rabbi Samuel
 Date of birth June 21, 1895, Russia
 No. Passport US 77827
 Date Issued May 12, 1948
 Place Issued Washington, D.C.
 Home Address 3610 Washington Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio
 Address Hotel Europe, Room 60, Montreux

Name BROWN, Mr. Samuel
 Date of birth Dec. 1, 1910 New York, (B'klyn)
 No. Passport US 7688
 Date Issued June 11, 1948
 Place Issued Washington, D.C.
 Home Address 345 Vernon Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Address Hotel Lorus, Room 8, Montreux

Prinz Joachim
 Name SWARSENSKY, Dr. Arnaldo Werner Bernardo
 Date of birth Nov. 7, 1908, Berlin *May 10 - 1902*
 No. Passport US *9543*
 Date Issued *June 21 1948*
 Place Issued *Washington*
 Home Address Sucre 3063, Buenos Aires
 Address Palace Hotel, Montreux

*825 South Cleveland
 Newark 8 - N.J.
 Hotel Suisse, Montreux*

Note: I understand that you have already written for Dr. Joachim Prinz to get his Permit for him.

Camps Haber

MEMO

June 3, 1948 ✓

to : Dr. S.S. Wise, Dr. Goldmann, Dr. Kubowitzki
Dr. Federbusch, Mrs. Knopfmacher, Dr. Marcus, Dr. Schwarzbart

from : K.R. Grossman

Through the American Jewish Conference I received the following letters from Prof. W. Haber, Jewish Adviser to General Clay, and from his Assistant, Major Abraham S. Hyman :

- 1) Letter of May 26, 1948 concerning the Klausner Report.
- 2) " " " " " concerning IRO statement not to sponsor any further immigration to Palestine
- 3) " " " 28, " from Major A.S. Hyman with a very important communication of the Department of the Army regarding immigration of Jewish refugees and DPs to Israel.
- 4) " " " 28 " from Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein with copy of a letter from General Lucius D. Clay addressed to him.

A meeting of the working committee on the DP problem will be held on Monday, June 7. I will report the results to the Office Committee.

iw

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COPY

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Commander in Chief

May 26, 1948

My dear Mr. Grossmann:

Your cable of May 22, requesting me to ascertain the facts concerning the IRO statement to the effect that the IRO would no longer assist immigration to Palestine, has already been acknowledged by wire. The statement is substantially correct and I am enclosing a copy of the press release, which I received this morning.

There is some confusion as to its exact meaning. From one source this directive is interpreted to mean that IRO will not sponsor immigration to Israel so long as the state of war exists. Under such conditions bonafide resettlement is not possible and, accordingly, the IRO does not wish to assume responsibility for assisting people to migrate to such areas. If interpreted in this manner, the directive would be much less serious than we first assumed, since peace in Palestine would revoke the effects of this directive.

On the other hand, an alternative interpretation, which is certainly permissible after reading the attached press release, suggests that even with peaceful conditions in Palestine the IRO would not sponsor immigration until an agreement can be negotiated with a "properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations." I do not know what "approval of the United Nations" means nor how it is secured short of admittance to the UNO.

The immediate effect of the IRO directive is to withdraw the assistance of its staff in processing immigration to Palestine. Further, if any assembly point is set up for such immigration on the basis of entry permits or visas to be issued by the Jewish Agency, IRO will not provide rations for immigrants in such an assembly point.

The Jewish Agency Director in Germany has today received the following cable:

"You are authorized provisionally issue our behalf visas to immigrants and tourists. Visas should bear stamp *Medinath Israel* Israel *Misrad Aliyah* Hebrew and French texts. Validity three months. Regulation follows.
Shertok
Shapiro."

The State Department has been queried through the Department of the Army by the European Command as to whether the Agency

318517

should be recognized as having the right to issue such visas in accordance with the cablegram from Tel Aviv. On the assumption that the answer would be favorable, it is planned to set up one or more assembly points in the US zone and that immigrants with such visas would be kept in such assembly points for a period of several weeks until transports are organized. According to the IRO position, maintenance for these people would not be provided by that organization.

One other effect of this directive concerns the costs of transportation. The US Army has been transporting these people to the border and the IRO has been responsible for such costs from the border to the port of embarkation. The understanding is that the IRO would pay a flat reimbursement (I believe it is \$100 per person) for the costs of transportation which would include transportation from the German border to the port of embarkation and to Palestine. The reimbursement would be to the Agency which made the outlay. I interpret the directive as discontinuing such reimbursement.

I am thoroughly in disagreement with the position assumed by the IRO and I strongly urge that the JDC as one of the agencies should discuss this matter with Mr. Warren from the State Department, who is our delegate to the IRO and with such officials of the IRO who are in a position to influence a review and a reversal of this policy.

Sincerely yours,

William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs.

Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York City

PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

IRO Suspends Immigration to Palestine

The absence of a regime in Palestine which has general recognition of the United Nations has forced the International Refugee Organization to suspend sponsorship of refugee immigration to that area, it was announced today.

In a directive to field offices, William Hallam Tuck, IRO Executive Secretary, said the Organization cannot sponsor immigration to Palestine until an agreement can be negotiated with "a properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations."

Since July 1, 1947, IRO has sponsored the movement of about 6,000 legal immigrants to Palestine. These movements were carried out on an individual basis by the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society with reimbursement of the major portion of the cost by IRO.

The Executive Secretary called attention in his directive to those sections of the IRO Constitution which direct the Organization to confine its efforts to solution of the problem of bona fide refugees and to carry out its functions "in such a way as to avoid disturbing friendly relations between nations."

IRO cannot assist, directly or indirectly, in schemes designed to secure the recruitment of refugees into any armed forces which are, or may be engaged in active warfare, Mr. Tuck said. It can only sponsor genuine resettlement schemes, that is, schemes which afford the DP and refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established in a good and equitable manner.

Accordingly, IRO field offices are being directed:

1. To submit all group resettlement schemes to Geneva Headquarters, which will satisfy itself that the scheme is sound and that it gives the DP or refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established.
2. That no individual movements will take place unless the field office has been satisfied that the refugee has a legal entry visa with permission to remain on an indefinite basis; has or will have a suitable means of livelihood in the resettlement country; and is not travelling under the pretext of resettlement with the real purpose of joining armed forces that are or may be engaged in active warfare.

"These rules apply not only to the Middle East area but to all reception countries," the directive states. "Nevertheless, special discretion must be exercised in connection with all movements towards the Middle East as long as the present conditions continue."

COPY

APO 757 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

37
May 28, 1948

Mr. Meir Grossman
Director of Department of Overseas Relations
American Jewish Conference
521 - 5 Ave
New York 17, N.Y.

For transmission to : American Jewish Committee
" " Conference
" Joint Distribu. Committee
Jewish Agency for Palestine
World Jewish Congress

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Dr. Haber, who was called away from Frankfurt, asked me to send you the enclosed IRO statement of policy on assisting emigration to Israel, as well as a copy of the cable to the Department of the Army, transmitted yesterday by our Headquarters.

Dr. Haber has already written you about his reactions to the IRO position. His judgment is that it might be advisable to approach the key people in Congress, working on the IRO appropriations, with a view of getting a reasonable modification of the present IRO policy.

With best personal wishes from all of us, I am

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM S. HYMAN
Major JAGD
Assistant to the Adviser
on Jewish Affairs

ASH/mf
Encls.

318520

OPH
26 May 1948

P.J. MCCORMACK/8646

Department of the Army for Civil Affairs Division

CINCEUR, OMCUS, USFA

RESTRICTED

PRIORITY

Subject is emigration of Jewish refugees and displaced persons from this area of control to Israel.

1. SITUATION IN THE PAST - Prior to the de facto recognition of the provisional government of Israel by the US and other governments, Jewish refugees and displaced persons in this area of control were assisted by the Jewish Agency for Palestine (JAFP) in securing such documentation as was required by British Passport Control Officers prior to the issuance of "Palestine Immigration Certificates". Upon receipt of certificates such persons were transported by rail upon request of PCIRO out of this area of control. Such movements were under the auspices and sponsorship of PCIRO and JAFP.

2. PRESENT SITUATION - With the proclamation of the provisional government of ISRAEL and its de facto recognition by certain governments, British Passport Control Officers have ceased to issue certificates. On 18 May 48, PCIRO, GENEVA, directed its field offices that "the absence of a regime in PALESTINE which has general recognition of the United Nations" forces PCIRO "to suspend sponsorship of refugee emigration to that area ... until an agreement can be negotiated with 'a properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations'". Telecon between this headquarters and PCIRO, GENEVA, confirmed that PCIRO personnel in this area of control are to refrain from assisting in any way the onward movement of Jewish refugees and displaced persons whose known destination is ISRAEL. Further, information confirmed here that Moshe SHERTOK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has authorized JAFP this area of control to issue entry permits to "immigrants and tourists" on behalf of ISRAEL government.

3. PROPOSED ACTION BY THIS HEADQUARTERS:

- a. to recognize JAFP personnel as official representatives of the state of ISRAEL in this area of control;
- b. to recognize validity of all entry permits for ISRAEL issued by accredited JAFP personnel;
- c. to authorize the exit from this area of control of all persons possessing such entry permits and necessary transit visas, in accordance with existing procedures;
- d. to support directly JAFP in the processing and movement of such persons out of this area of control, so long as PCIRO refrains from extending assistance to emigres to ISRAEL.

4. Your approval or comments on proposed action outlined in para 3 above requested soonest.

Message ends.

318521

TO

: Heads of Missions:- US Zone Germany
British Zone Germany
French Zone Germany
Austria
France
Belgium
Holland
London
Washington
Poland
Yugoslavia
Czechoslovakia

FROM

: P. Jacobsen,
Assistant Executive Secretary,
FCIBS H.Q. Geneva

Date

: 20th May, 1948

Subject

: Policy - Middle East.

1.

Please find attached a statement of policy which has been approved by Mr. Tuck, and which has been sent to our Heads of Missions in Italy and the Middle East.

You will have received a cable stating this H.Q.'s policy on resettlement movements to Palestine which amplifies this statement of policy with regard to Palestine.

/s/ & /t/ P. Jacobsen

C
O
P
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318522

RESETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Recent events in the Middle East, particularly in Palestine, have led to a situation which necessitates a survey of the PCIRO programme in the Middle East in order to ensure that no action is taken which might be construed to be contrary to the constitution and principles of the organization. The following paragraphs which set out the established general policy of this H.Q. on resettlement, and the methods by which this policy is to be implemented, are particularly applicable to the present situation in the Middle East.

2. The relevant general principles will be found in Annex 1 paras 1(a), (d) and (g) to the Constitution. It is to be understood that :-

(a) the PCIRO cannot assist, directly or indirectly, in schemes designed to secure the recruitment of refugees into armed forces, which are, or may be, engaged in active warfare.

(b) the PCIRO can only sponsor genuine resettlement schemes i.e. schemes which afford the DP and refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established in a good and equitable manner.

(c) the PCIRO must neither favour, nor discriminate against, either particular governments or particular groups of refugees in carrying out its tasks.

3. In order to implement these principles, the following rules will be followed by H.Q. Geneva and by all Field Offices: -

(a) no group resettlement movement will take place without prior approval by H.Q. Geneva, which will first satisfy itself that the scheme is sound and that it gives the DP or refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established. Normally a written agreement will be signed with the competent government prior to any movement.

(b) no individual resettlement movement sponsored by the PCIRO will take place unless the PCIRO Field Offices have been satisfied that the refugee or DP :-

- i) has a legal entry visa into the country of reception, with permission to remain there on an indefinite basis.
- ii) has, or will obtain, suitable means of livelihood enabling him to become firmly established (by joining his family, by going to take up a work contract, etc.)
- iii) is not travelling, under the pretext of genuine resettlement, with the real purpose of joining armed forces that are, or may be, engaged in active warfare.

4. These rules apply not only to the Middle East area, but to all reception countries; nevertheless, special discretion must be exercised in connection with all movements towards the Middle East as long as the present conditions continue.

5. After 15th May 1948, no resettlement into Palestine will be sponsored or assisted by PCIRO, until such time as a new programme, in accord with the principles set forth in para 3, can be initiated after negotiations with a properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations Organizations.

H.Q. Geneva.
7th May, 1948

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COPY

4)
TEMPLE BRITH KODESH
117 Gibbs Street, Rochester 5, N.Y.

Mr. Meir Grossman, A.J.C.
521 - 5 Ave, NYC

May 28, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that has come to me from General Clay. You will note his comment on an article by David Roth which he found shocking. I have not seen that article. Have you? Do you have, or could you locate a copy to send to me? I think it might be helpful for me to comment to General Clay on it. With kind regards,

Sincerely

(signed) Philip S. Bernstein

PSB/ir.

(COPY) EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Commander-in-Chief
Berlin, Germany, APO 742

10 May 1948

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein
Temple Brith Kodesh
117 Gibbs St
Rochester 5, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Bernstein:

Thank you for your letter of 2- April and for finding the time to send me the clipping.

Recently, I was terribly shocked to read an article by David Roth indicating a change in policy and feeling towards the Jewish displaced person. How it came to be written, I do not know, but it is without foundation.

Bill Haber is on the job and working almost as hard as you did. I have a long friendship with him from war days which contains both respect and admiration.

The Palestine delay has seriously affected morale in the camps but there has been an improvement as a result of the favorable attitude of the American Congress. We do need urgently a decision which provides hope and promise.

If you have time to re-visit us, you can be assured of a huge welcome mat.

Sincerely yours,

S/ Lucius D. Clay
General, U.S. Army
Commander-in-Chief

318524

RCA

JUNE 3, 1948

NLT

WILLIAM HABER

HQ EUROPEAN COMMAND APO 767

POSTMASTER NEWYORK

PLEASE CABLE NUMBER JEWS WHO COULD EMIGRATE US
UNDER ADOPTED SENATE DP BILL THANKS

KURT GROSSMANN

KRG/EA
vds BB
OK

318525

Camps-W.Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE: 5.28.48.

NAME OF SUBJECT: letter, enclosed IRO statement and copy of the cable to the Department of Army

FROM: A.S.Hyman

TO: Weir Grossman

REGARDING: emigration of Jewish refugees and DP's to Isrel -IRO statement

Haber

COPY

THE American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee, Inc.

270 Madison Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

MEMORANDUM

From B.M.Joffe

to Dr. Kurt Grossman
World Jewish Congress

New York, June 1, 1948

Subject: Attached is a copy of a cable from Dr. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs, to the Commanding General of the European Theatre bearing on the memorandum presented by Rabbi Klausner to the five organizations sometime ago.

318526

of proposed DP immigration legislation. We are not in a position to advise you on details, but do authorize you to announce our support of such projects. Also, if you find it necessary to take a firm stand, you can count on our backing you up.

- 4. In view of recent developments affecting Palestine, the Organizations advise against any action to liquidate the camps. It is felt that through the camps the emigration process can best be handled.
- 5. The Organizations feel that everything possible should be done to prevent expansions of German authority over Jewish DP camps. Informal inquiries and representations will be made in Washington. However, nothing official will be done by us unless you specifically request it. Please advise us.
- 6. It was agreed to give you the requested assistance in press and public relations. The Five Organizations are to recommend three persons, one of whom will be selected and paid by J.D.C., in consultation with you. Dr. Joseph Schwartz, who was present at the last meeting, proposed this arrangement, which was acceptable to all.
- 7. Although there is some disagreement as to the ultimate effectiveness of a program to combat anti-Semitism, we agreed to attempt to assist you in this matter also as requested. Here, too, the Five Organizations will recommend three persons from whom the American Jewish Committee will select and finance one, in consultation with you. There was some uncertainty about the technical attachment of such a person. We assume you will handle this or advise us if you need our help.
- 8. With regard to your expressed personal need for some one with whom to consult for a period of about sixty days, it was felt that since this will involve little or no expense on the part of the Five Organizations and is largely a personal matter with you, you should feel free to do as you please.

.....

The above represents the essence of our thinking in relation to the specific matters you have brought to our attention. We are eager to learn of recent developments and hope to hear from you in the near future. We greatly appreciate your efforts and accomplishments and will give you every possible support.

With kind regards to your staff,

Cardially,

Philip S. Bernstein

C O P Y

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

May 27, 1948

TO : Mr. Kurt Grossman

FROM: A.C.A. Liverhant

Attached hereto please find copy of cable received from Professor Haber regarding IRO's refusing to sponsor Palestine immigration

318528

COPY

WESTERN UNION

CABLEGRAM

1948 May 25 PM 12 07

N116 INTL VIA WU CABLES-ZP FRANKFURT/MAININ 19 25

VLT GROSSMANN AMCONFERN

PRESS REPORTS IROS REFUSING SPONSOR PALESTINE IMMIGRATION ACCURATE URGE STRONG

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIONS LETTER FOLLOWS

HABER

318529

COPY

MEMO

May 27, 1948

TO : Dr. Kubowitzki
FROM : Mr. Grossman

RE: MONTREUX

May I suggest that Prof. William Haber be invited and requested to address the Second Session of the WJC. If he accepts I would advise to organize a meeting of people interested in our recognition as an operating agency, and if we would also invite some people of PCIRO, as Tuck, and Miss Bradford, the whole problem could be settled in Montreux.

If you contemplate my going to Montreux, may I respectfully ask you to let me have the decision as soon as possible, because I have to secure my passport, passage has to be booked, etc. etc. Thank you.

318530

Camp Matter

Mr. William Haber
Affairs Division, DP Br.
EUCOM
Postmaster

TEMPLE B'RITH KODESH
117 Gibbs Street
Rochester, N.Y.

May 26, 1948

COPY

Dear BILL:

Our Committee of the Five Organizations has held two meetings to consider reports, recommendations and requests contained in your recent communications.

In view of the fact that I presided at both of these meetings, it was suggested that I draft a reply expressing the results of our deliberations. That is the purpose of this letter.

I should like to state, before I outline our conclusions, that there is an element of tentativeness in them. Your letters were written before the proclamation of the Jewish State. Perhaps there have been some fundamental developments subsequently which might cause you to revise your views. However, it seems to us that the basic matters which I will now discuss have probably not been changed by recent developments.

The following represent our conclusions:

1. The Organizations are unanimous in their opposition to any efforts to persuade or compel the Jewish DP's to leave the camps and to work in the German economy. This opposition is based on both moral grounds and on practical considerations. We regard it as unwise to do anything at this point which will lessen the sense of need and of pressure for the resettlement of the Jewish DP's. Individuals can and undoubtedly will seep into the German economy, but, officially, the organized Jewish community is opposed to any efforts to bring this about.
2. At the same time we are aware, both through your reports and others, of the growing threats of demoralization. We know that idleness plays a large role in this deterioration. It is also our judgment that a considerable period of time must elapse before all of the Jewish displaced persons will be evacuated from the camps. It may be two years. It may even be three or four years. Continued idleness will contribute to further demoralization. It will also militate against a welcome for these people elsewhere and against their maximum usefulness when they are resettled. Under the circumstances, it is our judgment and our recommendation that the work program be re-evaluated. We feel that we are not in a position to give you concrete recommendations from this distance. However, it is our conclusion that the A.J.D.C., and the J.A.F.P., the Central Committee and the Office of the Jewish Adviser should take stock of the current situation and should act vigorously, and in concert, to improve the work program and the training program among the Jewish DP's. If matters of policy are involved which will require our support, either with the American Jewish community or governmental agencies, or both, you can depend upon it.

We would like to receive from you at the earliest possible date a report on the steps that have been taken.

3. With regard to the "proposed Jewish labor battalions" discussed in your report of April 1, 1948, our reaction is, on the whole, favorable. While we would oppose enforced labor in the German economy, we feel that we have no moral or practical basis for opposing Jewish labor for the U.S. Army, even if, ultimately, some of it will redound to the benefit of the German economy. Refusal of the Jews to work for the Army while receiving governmental support would result in a most unfavorable reaction in this country and would militate against the success

318531

Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE: 5/26/1948

NAME OF SUBJECT: letter

FROM: Prof. William Haber

TO: Am. Jew. Conference

REGARDING: evaluation of Klausner's report (see Camps Working Committee 5/2/48)
and Habers cable to joint in same matter 6/1/1948

SEE: Camps Working Committee, distr.

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318532

Haber 2

In view of the crisis prevailing in Germany among Jewish DPs, a small committee of 3 should be elected and charged with the following functions:

- 1.) Appraisal of the DP situation.
- 2.) This committee should inform the 5 organizations.
- 3.) It should formulate suggestions and be empowered to carry them out.
- 4.) It should represent the 5 organizations in Washington.
- 5.) It should give its backing to Prof. William Haber wherever we think it is opportune.
- 6.) It should make suggestions to Prof. William Haber.

If the participants believe that this work ought to be done by a committee of 5, there is no objection to such suggestion. The main thing is that we should not be prevented from being active in this most critical affair.

318533

The following personalities should be nominated for the committee which Prof. William Haber suggested to go to Germany, make a survey about the total situation and advise to various aspects:

- 1.) Rabbi Gittelson
- 2.) Rabbi Gordes,
and
- 3.) Bryan Howdig of the New School for Social Research.

HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Commander in Chief

May 26, 1948

My dear Mr. Groseman:

Your cable of May 22, requesting me to ascertain the facts concerning the IRO statement to the effect that the IRO would no longer assist immigration to Palestine, has already been acknowledged by wire. The statement is substantially correct and I am enclosing a copy of the press release which I received this morning.

There is some confusion as to its exact meaning. From one source this directive is interpreted to mean that IRO will not sponsor immigration to Israel so long as the state of war exists. Under such conditions bonafide resettlement is not possible and, accordingly, the IRO does not wish to assume responsibility for assisting people to migrate to such areas. If interpreted in this manner, the directive would be much less serious than we first assumed, since peace in Palestine would revoke the effects of this directive.

On the other hand, an alternative interpretation which is certainly permissible after reading the attached press release, suggests that even with peaceful conditions in Palestine the IRO would not sponsor immigration until an agreement can be negotiated with "a properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations." I do not know what "approval of the United Nations" means nor how it is secured short of admittance to the UNO.

The immediate effect of the IRO directive is to withdraw the assistance of its staff in processing immigration to Palestine. Further, if an assembly point is set up for such immigration on the basis of entry permits or visas to be issued by the Jewish Agency, IRO will not provide rations for immigrants in such an assembly point.

The Jewish Agency Director in Germany has today received the following cable:

"You are authorized provisionally issue our behalf visas to immigrants and tourists. Visas should bear stamp Medinath Israel Misrad Aliyah Hebrew and French texts. Validity three months. Regulation follows.

Shertok
Shapiro."

The State Department has been queried through the Department of the Army by the European Command as to whether the Agency should be recognized as having the right to issue such visas in accordance with the cablegram from Tel Aviv. On the assumption that the answer would be favorable, it is planned to set up one or more assembly points in the US zone and hat immigrants with such visas would be kept in such assembly points for a period of several weeks until transports are organized. According to the IRO position, maintenance for these people would not be provided by that organization.

318535

One other effect of this directive concerns the costs of transportation. The US Army has been transporting these people to the border and the IRO has been responsible for such costs from the border to the port of embarkation. The understanding is that the IRO would pay a flat reimbursement (I believe it is \$100 per person) for the costs of transportation which would include transportation from the German border to the port of embarkation and to Palestine. The reimbursement would be to the Agency which made the outlay. I interpret the directive as discontinuing such reimbursement.

I am thoroughly in disagreement with the position assumed by the IRO and I strongly urge that the JDC as one of the agencies should discuss this matter with Mr. Warren from the State Department, who is our delegate to the IRO and with such officials of the IRO who are in a position to influence a review and a reversal of this policy.

Sincerely yours,

William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York City

PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

IRO Suspends Immigration to Palestine

The absence of a regime in Palestine which has general recognition of the United Nations has forced the International Refugee Organization to suspend sponsorship of refugee immigration to that area, it was announced today.

In a directive to field offices, William Hallam Tuck, IRO Executive Secretary, said the Organization cannot sponsor immigration to Palestine until an agreement can be negotiated with "a properly constituted authority set up with the approval of the United Nations."

Since 1 July 1947 IRO has sponsored the movement of about 6,000 legal immigrants to Palestine. These movements were carried out on an individual basis by the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society with reimbursement of the major portion of the cost by IRO.

The Executive Secretary called attention in his directive to those sections of the IRO Constitution which direct the Organization to confine its efforts to solution of the problem of bona fide refugees and to carry out its functions "in such a way as to avoid disturbing friendly relations between nations."

IRO cannot assist, directly or indirectly, in scheme designed to secure the recruitment of refugees into any armed forces which are, or may be engaged in active warfare, Mr. Tuck said. It can only sponsor genuine resettlement schemes, that is, schemes which afford the DP and refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established in a good and equitable manner.

Accordingly, IRO field offices are being directed:

1. To submit all group resettlement schemes to Geneva Headquarters, which will satisfy itself that the scheme is sound and that it gives the DP or refugee a real opportunity of becoming firmly established.
2. That no individual movements will take place unless the field office has been satisfied that the refugee has a legal entry visa with permission to remain on an indefinite basis; has or will have a suitable means of livelihood in the resettlement country; and is not travelling under the pretext of resettlement with the real purpose of joining armed forces that are or may be engaged in active warfare.

"These rules apply not only to the Middle East area but to all reception countries," the directive states. "Nevertheless, special discretion must be exercised in connection with all movements towards the Middle East as long as the present conditions continue."

May 21, 1948

Mr. Segal.

MEMO

to : Dr. Kubowitzki
from : Mr. Grossman

The 5 cooperating organizations met on May 19 (working committee), and on May 20, (plenary meeting of the heads of the various organizations). The working committee was charged to draft an answer to the ~~request~~ ^{request} submitted by Prof. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs, and the meeting on May 20 had to decide on this draft. K.R.Grossman participated in the working committee for the WJC, while Dr. Marcus, Dr. Schwarzbart and Mr. Grossman attended the full meeting of May 20. - JDC was represented by Dr. Jos. Schwars and Mr. Moe Leavitt; the Am.Jew. Conference by Colonel Bernstein and Mr. Meir Grossman; the Am.Jew. Committee by Messrs. Slawson and Segal.- Rabbi Philip Bernstein presided.

After a thorough discussion on the problems of idleness in DP camps, working of Jewish DPs in the German economy, dissolution of DP camps, expansion of German authority over Jewish DP camps, answers were formulated which indicated that the 5 organizations feel that an effort should be made to reverse the present attitude of the Jewish DPs in regard to working in the German economy, but that the Jewish DPs should work for U.S. army projects. The camps should not be dissolved since they serve as perfect staging areas for immigration to Israel. An expansion of German authority over Jewish DP camps should be opposed. K.R.Grossman was asked to investigate the existing trends in Washington and report to the Committee.

The following decisions were taken in connection with the question of sending one man for press relation and one man for fighting anti-Semitism to the Jewish Adviser in Frankfurt, Germany.

The working committee will suggest to the JDC 3 candidates for the position of a press relation man, and JDC will chose one of the 3 and assume the financial responsibilities. The same procedure shall be followed for the man ~~whose~~ whose assignment will be to fight anti-Semitism in Germany. The American Jewish Committee agreed to assume the financial responsibilities for this case.

Regarding the adviser whom Prof. Haber requests, a principal agreement was reached that he should ask for such a man and the financial question will be taken care of when we hear again from Haber.

It should be added that the meetings which took place were made possible at the insistence of the WJC. The JDC especially wanted to cancel yesterday's meeting but our view prevailed that we should not dodge the questions raised. Rabbi Bernstein was requested to draft the reply which will be read to us before it will be mailed to Prof. Haber.

The New York Times report on the attitude of PCIRO according to which IRO would "suspend sponsorship of refugee immigration" to Palestine was discussed. It was decided to obtain more information on this matter and after having received that information to make representation in Washington as well as with PCIRO.

May 11, 1948

Haber

Re: Memorandum of Professor Haber

Professor Haber, in his report dated April 1, raised eight questions which we have to answer at the forthcoming meeting of the five organizations, on May 18.

a. Expansion of vocational training program. Should the relief program be more specifically related to a "means test" than is true at the present time? Answer - The vocational training program should be substantially expanded. The resources of organizations who specialize in this field should be combined. Some kind of inducement for the DPs who participate in such a program, should be worked out. Relief should be given more and more only to those unable to work on account of sickness, disability, or because it is impossible to find work for them. The self-responsibility of the DPs should be fostered. Small, democratically elected committees should handle the distribution of work and have an advisory voice in all relief cases.

b. Should able-bodied people without other responsibility be required to work as a condition for receiving aid? Answer - Yes. If we can institute a democratic self-administration which will distribute the work and have an advisory status for relief cases, and if re-orientation courses will tell the DPs that they must work in order to receive any kind of commodities, we will decrease the idleness of able-bodied people more and more.

c. Should efforts be made to reverse the present attitude of Jewish DPs concerning work "in the German economy? Answer - In view of the growing anti-Semitism and the justified prevailing resentment on the part of the Jewish DPs, the question of working in the German economy should be ruled out. However, there is no opposition to Jewish DPs working for the occupation powers, and arrangements should be made to

318539

Re: Memorandum of Professor Haber

May 11, 1948

increase this scheme as much as possible. However, no person should be prevented from working in the German economy if he voluntarily chooses to do so. In order to create enough occupational possibilities for the DPs, it should be investigated whether or not imported raw material could be used to open Jewish DP factories in Jewish DP camps, and if the produced goods could be exported and payment made in foreign exchange. In this way, the needed inducement for Jewish DPs to work productively and to gain through this work, would be accomplished.

d. What should be done if the camps should be closed? Answer - We should not oppose the closing of camps because camp life is not very healthy for our Jewish DPs. However, in case camps are closed, we should see to it that living quarters should be allotted to the Jewish DPs. These living quarters should be established as small Jewish communities in those areas where the Jews want to stick together. We do not want to create new ghettos but want to transform smoothly working, self-administrated camps into small Jewish DP communities, if necessary.

e. Trend in Washington in the question of expansion of German administrative control. Answer - This matter is of such great importance that the following steps are recommended: 1. We should inform ourselves about the existing trends. 2. If such trends do exist, a delegation of the five organizations should see either General Marshall or the Under-secretary of State, and the Secretary of War, in order to combat these trends. A memorandum for such a conference should be prepared.

f. What should be done to deal with anti-Semitism in Germany?

318540

Re: Memorandum of Professor Haber

May 11, 1948

Answer - See my memorandum submitted to the five organizations.

In addition to these questions, raised in Professor Haber's report of April 1, he has made three points in his report of May 1.

1. Delegation of a press relations man. Such a man should be sent to Professor Haber and the cost involved should be carried by the five organizations. It should be investigated, however, whether such a man is not available at present in Germany. Dr. Gringauz should be consulted.

2. Problem of fighting anti-Semitism. This problem is of greatest importance. I suggested in my memorandum that, as a first step, a surveying committee of two should appraise this situation. Professor Haber declares that he does not see any need for such a surveying committee but would like to have a man who will embark on this work. If we would say that such a man could be sent to Germany for a three month period as a trial, plus making a survey of the situation, then we can agree to Professor Haber's suggestion. It seems impossible to have the same man who will take care of press relations, also take care of this specific problem. However, a close relationship between these two should be established.

3. If we could choose two men - one for press relations and one in connection with anti-Semitism in Germany, we might avoid having to send a special team which would help Professor Haber to appraise the entire situation. I think that the two men charged with the two tasks could, at the same time, fulfil the functions suggested under Item 3 in the letter of Professor Haber of May 1.

In view of the crisis prevailing in Germany among Jewish DPs, a small committee of 3 should be elected and charged with the following functions:

- 1.) Appraisal of the DP situation.
- 2.) This committee should inform the 5 organizations.
- 3.) It should formulate suggestions and be empowered to carry them out.
- 4.) It should represent the 5 organizations in Washington.
- 5.) It should give its backing to Prof. William Haber wherever we think it is opportune.
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- 1.) Rabbi Gittelson
- 2.) Rabbi Gordes,
and
- 3.) Bryan Hovdig of the New School for Social Research.

Salzman Abbe
March 2. 48
Joint

May 25, 1948

Prof. William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters, European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
A.P.O. 757
c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Haber:

Please accept my apologies for not having answered earlier your kind letters of April 26 and 29. I am also glad to be able to acknowledge your letter of May 12. At the same time I want to state that I read with great interest your penetrating reports, which I received through the office of the American Jewish Conference. I am pressing my friends in order that the questions raised in your report should be answered as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

The last few days have been very hectic for us. The creation of the Jewish State of Israel has caused many hopes and much enthusiasm, but the shameful way in which the Security Council of the U.N. is deliberating the issue fills our hearts with sorrow and pain.

There are people who were of the opinion that the fact that Israel now exists, would make obsolete the answer to the question you raised in your reports of April 1 and May 1. I opposed this view and suggested that you should finally receive an answer, to which I feel very strongly you are entitled. A meeting took place on May 20, and some decisions were taken.

With reference to your above-mentioned letters, I want to thank you very much for the kind explanation and enlightenment which you gave me especially in your letter of April 29. With regard to the first paragraph of this letter, I must tell you that I cannot be satisfied with your answer. If you can agree that two or three of our people could be assigned to some other agency, I am convinced that you should agree just the same to our formal recognition. In view of our splendid cooperation in the past and my sincere endeavors to help you in your difficult task, I would highly appreciate it if you would reconsider your view.

I shall be most grateful for your reply, which I hope will help us to bring this problem to an end to our mutual satisfaction.

With warmest greetings, I am,

Cordially yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

ack

May 25, 1948

Prof. William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters, European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
A.P.O. 757
c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

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I shall be most grateful for your reply, which I hope will help us to bring this problem to an end to our mutual satisfaction.

With warmest greetings, I am,

Cordially yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

COPY

To ALK

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

May 12, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Thank you, indeed, for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of the memorandum you submitted to PCIRO. I am quite in accord with the analysis of the problem you outlined therein.

I attended the Geneva meeting for a short time and I had an opportunity to consult with the US delegate and with Agency representatives who were in Geneva at that time. The meetings were, I confess, not too stimulating. The problem of resettlement calls for courage and imagination and I am sorry to indicate that I found little of that in the discussions of the delegates.

With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,

William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

PAO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, N.Y.

Mr. Kurt Grossman
WJC
1834 Broadway
NYC 23

318546

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

May 12, 1948

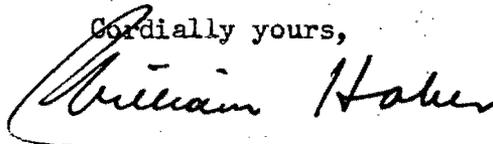
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With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,



WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

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

318547

MEMO

May 14, 1948

Camps - Italy

To: Mr. Grossmann
From: Dr. Schwarzbart

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Re: The moving of the DP camps from Northern to Southern Italy.

Pursuant to my inquiry of April 19, the Unions gave me the following information in a letter dated May 7:

1. "The Italian Government, out of preoccupation for the orderly conduct of the electoral campaign and for other reasons, has urged the IRO to transfer the North Italian DP camps to the South. Although it is very inconvenient for our tired DP brethren to be on the move again, it cannot be denied that the Italian Government's decision is well supported by motives. The camp of Scuola Cadorna in Milan is occupied by the DP's since the liberation and it is therefore only natural that the mayor of Milan has repeatedly protested and wants his school back for the children of Milan. The camp of Grugliasco is occupying the premises of the provincial mental hospital and the patients, who had been evacuated during the war, have to stay in small hospitals. The camps Adriatico, Cremona and Rivoli originally were military barracks. Now there is in Italy an atmosphere of re-arming the armed forces (supported by the attitude of the U.S. government) and if Italy was to maintain only a small police force, it now looks as if we are going to have a big army which will need its barracks. On the other hand, the new camps in the South are plain DP camps and therefore not schools, hospitals or barracks".

This information is confidential.

2. For your further guidance, I attach hereto copy of a cable sent to the JFA by Dr. Leon Bernstein, Chairman of the Merkaz Hapleitim, our affiliate, on the same subject. Of this cable, use can be made without however embarrassing the author.

RS:jk

318548

Rome, 5 May 1946

For Press Release

The Mystery of the DP Camps
in Northern Italy

This correspondent sent you a detailed report on the move of the Milan DP Camp ADRIATICA to Southern Italy which was completed by IRO before April 18 and motivated by IRO HQ that Italian authorities want this Camp badly to house there police forces during the elections and after them. The elections are over and the camp is standing empty and abandoned.

Jewish Leadership could convince the Adriatica population that it had to go in order not to interfere with Italian affairs. But it has been shocked by the newly revealed plans of IRO HQ that all of Northern Camps totalling five will be transferred to Southern Italy during the period of May and June. As soon as this news came through delegations and protest cables of the camp population were sent to the Jewish Refugee Organisation Central Committee at Rome. The DPs are not delighted about any camp move. But they see in the allout evacuation of Jewish Refugees from Northern Italy a definite political action aiming to bar entrance of new refugees into Italy, and since many of the Jewish Refugees here have their relatives and families in Austria and Germany their fear looks justified.

The main reason causing fear and protest among the refugees is that the first camp to be moved is the Milan Intake Center SCUOLA CADORNA. It is true that the Italian Ministry for Education has repeatedly asked for Scuola Cadorna, this camp being a former secondary school for Italian children, and it is true, too, that Italian mothers of that district have made demonstrations and meetings demanding back the school for their children. Jewish leadership does not insist on having an intake center just in the middle of the big Milan city. But the trouble is that no other intake center and not even an intake room is going to be established by IRO in Northern Italy. The intake center will be in Bologna which is quite southward and puts Jewish newcomers in the dangerous position of being arrested on their way from the Northern frontier to Bologna since they are not given documents by the Italian authorities after entering this country illegally.

The evacuation of the Scuola Cadorna Intake Center coincides with another fact which throws more light on the entire problem. After having crossed the frontier, Jewish Refugees are housed in the big CHIARI Camp in Northern Italy. This camp was given to the Milan Jewish Community and is financed and run by the American Joint Distribution Committee only. From Chiari, Jews proceeded to Scuola Cadorna where they were checked for eligibility, IRO documented, and later sent to other camps. Suddenly the Italian Ministry of War has asked for the Chiari Camp, too. That would actually mean that Jews, after having crossed the border, will have no place to stay until they are accepted in some IRO camp, which takes some time, and even many months, as the experience of last year has shown when there was a great influx of Jewish Refugees in Italy.

Who is to be blamed for this policy? IRO Chief of Mission Admiral MENTS has officially declared to Jewish leadership here and to AJDC that it is the Italian Government pressing for the camp transfer. It looks somehow true that the Italian Government is interested in having all foreigners out of troublesome Northern Italy. This correspondent has heard Jewish leaders citing Italian top-governmental officials that "the Italian defense line runs southward of the river Po". But Jewish leadership here is convinced that this is the influence of other countries pressing upon the Italian Government to stop Jewish migration to Italy, this country being the last and favourable link in the clandestine movement to Palestine.

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Jewish leadership here tries, through mediation of Raffaele Cantoni, Chairman of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy and Representative of the World Jewish Congress here, to be accepted by Italian Ministers and even by De Gasperi. It is understood that Jewish Refugees will not leave camps until they have had a clear stand of the Italian Government.

But while the demand of the Italian Government for the camps occupying public buildings might look justified, suspicion among the Jewish Refugees grew immensely after there started talk about IRO transferring from Northern to Southern Italy even the HACHSHARAH KIBUTZIM totalling about 35, which are all placed in private villas rented and paid for by AJDC. Here, there can be no question about the party being really interested in clearing all of Northern Italy of Jewish Refugees. Who is that? Downing Street? State Department? Both of them?

That all the key posts of IRO in Italy have recently been occupied by former militarists, replacing the former UNRRA liberal leadership; that high officials have been fired under suspicion of being "too progressive" or pro-Jewish- is that the same?/- is not a matter of the Jewish refugees to care for. But more and more often the question is asked by thinking leaders: "Is IRO an International Aid Organization or is it a political instrument to fight against exhausted DPs?"

5/

Camps HQ, ACK

COPY

Unione delle Comunita Israelitiche, Lungotevere Sanzio N. 9, Rome, Italy

Prot. N. 1941/958.3

SUBJECT: Rhodes Refugees.

Dr. Kurt R. Grossman
WJC
1834 Broadway
NYC 23

Dear Dr. Grossman:

I am replying to your letter of April 29, 1948, on behalf of Mr. Cantoni who has left for Palestine. This is to inform you that the group of Jewish refugees from Rhodes is still being maintained by the IRO who will continue their care for another month or so. This was an exceptional concession made by the IRO and was only granted after the DPs concerned had signed a declaration that they were willing to be repatriated. As far as the health situation of these people is concerned, sick cases are being taken care of by the IRO which organization will supply medical services as long as the Rhodes refugees remain under its care.

You will, of course, know that it is an IRO policy not to assist so-called "out of camp" refugees. The group of the Rhodes refugees are living outside the DP camps and they cannot be blamed for that. All our interventions with the Italian HQ of the IRO were without success as the local IRO people are not in a position of changing the policies set up by their HQ in Geneva. The only thing we could do is to take the matter up again with the local IRO after your intervention in Geneva has shown some success.

We should like to have your suggestions as to what should be done for aiding the Rhodes refugees when the IRO care ceases definitely, i.e. if further interventions in Geneva prove unsuccessful.

Yours very sincerely

Fritz Becker

cc: Dr. Riegner, Geneva
FB:FB

31855.1

May 7th, 1948

Mr. A. C. A. Liverhant
Acting Executive Secretary
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Conference
Jewish Agency for Palestine
American Joint Distribution
Committee
American Jewish Committee
World Jewish Congress

My dear Mr. Liverhant:

My attention has been called to a New York Times story, with a London date line of May 4th or 5th, to the effect that there has been a radical change in the attitude toward emigration to Palestine on the part of the Jewish DPs.

I have been consulted both by the Berlin reporter of the New York Times and the representative in Germany of the Associated Press.

In my judgment, the preponderant majority of the Jewish DPs in Germany still desires to go to Palestine. I am convinced that even under the existing unsettled conditions they will migrate there, if legal emigration is authorized. They are weary of waiting in DP camps and would gladly sacrifice their temporary security in these camps for the hazards of life in Palestine, provided they could go there as legal emigrants and not as thieves in the night.

The impressions stated in the preceding paragraph grow directly out of recent trips to DP camps. On Wednesday, May 4th, I visited a camp in Wetzlar where nearly 4,000 of our people are located. On Thursday, May 6th, I visited three camps in the Kassel area, which together contain over 5,000 Jewish DPs. I conferred with the camp committees and discussed these problems with the camp residents, either individually or in groups. The conclusions, which flow from these discussions, fully support the statement contained in the paragraph above.

The New York Times figure that 60% desire to go to the United States, can easily be explained. Our DPs in common with millions of others in Central Europe are desperately eager to avoid being trapped in the event of another

318552

conflict and have registered for emigration to countries other than Palestine. I am not too impressed with the significance of these registration figures. An individual may register for several countries, even though his intention and his hope is to get to Palestine. When added up, these figures exceed 100% of EPs by many times and cannot be used as a basis for the conclusion that our people here have lost interest in the emigration to Palestine. Quite the contrary, they are as determined as ever to get there and recent visits to the camps convinced me that most of them have identified their lives with those who are in the thick of the struggle in Palestine.

I am sending you this statement in view of the conflicting press reports and the confusion which may be created thereby. I cannot determine why these stories have been released and particularly what relationship they might have to the political issues regarding Palestine now being discussed at the UN. If these stories are intended to suggest that there is less need for a decision on Palestine since the Jewish EPs in Europe do not intend to go there, there is, in my opinion, no basis for justifying this conclusion.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
to the Commander in Chief

WH/ch

APC 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

318553

May 10, 1948

Haber

MEMO

To: Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki
From: Kurt R. Grossman

I sent you copies of letters which I received from Professor William Haber, dated April 26 and April 29.

I have not answered either of these letters, but will do so after we have discussed the issues involved.

KRG:FS

5/11/48

To: KRG

From: *all*

I am waiting for the meeting of the Office Committee.

2

May 10, 1948

Haber

MEMO

To: Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki
From: Kurt R. Grossman

I sent you copies of letters which I received from Professor William Haber, dated April 26 and April 29.

I have not answered either of these letters, but will do so after we have discussed the issues involved.

KRG:FS

318554

MEMO

May 25, 1948

to : The Office Committee
from : Kurt R. Grossman

RE: IRO Palestine Statement

The matter of the IRO statement, that it would not sponsor immigration to Palestine, was taken up at the last meeting of the 5 organizations, and it was decided to contact Prof. W. Haber. I have been informed by telephone, that Haber has answered, verifying the statement and urging strongest Washington representation. I suggested that 3 representatives of the 5 organizations should go to Washington in order to see Assistant Secretary Saltzman and General Noce, and also the Washington representative of IRO, General Wood.

iw

May 19 1948
MEMO FROM *A. Leon Kubowitzki* **TO** *Haber*

K.R. Grossman

I suggest you send a copy of Prof Haber's letter of May 12 to Dr. Reizner and Dr. Zelmanovits.

Please file the attached with Mrs. Maier.

May 7, 1948

ALK
9/18
✓

MEMO

to : The Office Committee
from : K.R.Grossman

In further reference to the material which I submitted to you concerning the discussion on the DP problem (memorandum from Klausner), attached please find copy of a memorandum I received from the American Jewish Conference, and a letter from Prof. William Haber, addressed to the American Jewish Conference. I hope that our delegates will be available on May 18 or 19, to attend the next full meeting of the 5 organizations.

iw

318556

COPY

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Grossman
FROM: H. Grossman
Subject:

May 4, 1948

Displaced Persons.

1. Enclosed you will find a copy of Dr. Haber's letter of May 1, which reached us today.
2. May I remind you that the following decisions were taken at the meeting of the 5 cooperating organizations held on May 4th, at which time reports from Dr. Haber and Rabbi Klausner were discussed:
 - a. Another meeting is to be held in the middle of May.
 - b. It was recommended that the cooperating organizations prepare definite proposals on the subject.
 - c. It was agreed to set up a working committee (composed of representatives of the 5 organizations) to give preliminary consideration to the proposals and submit to the plenary meeting of the 5 organizations agreed and unified proposals.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 4th have been sent to Dr. Haber.
4. Please let us know whether May 15th or 19th will be a suitable date for a second plenary meeting of the 5 organizations to discuss the DP problem.

MG:lf
encl.

318557

May 1, 1948.

My dear Mr. Liverhart:

I would appreciate it if you would transmit the memorandum below to the cooperating agencies at the earliest opportunity and arrange for a meeting of the group to review the problems presented.

In his letter of March 22nd, Mr. Grossmann requested that I explain more fully the reference in my first report to a commission of two or three persons to survey the situation in the U.S. Zone. I am pleased to make this explanation, and you may consider this memorandum as a substitute for any reference to personnel in my first reports of February 24th and April 1st.

I think I should first mention that I did not request the appointment of a commission to survey the general situation. With my report of February 24th, I transmitted a record of my February 14th conference with General Clay. In that conference, reference was made to the complex situation in the zone and, particularly, to the increasing anti-Semitism. The possible contribution which may be made by a survey team of two or three people was referred to briefly. General Clay thought well of this idea and it was left that, whenever I reached a definite conclusion that such a team was desirable, I would formally propose it. I have given much thought to this problem since then and have concluded against making such a proposal at this time.

As I see the problem, there are three areas in which additional help is needed and, if available, might be of substantial assistance in dealing with the developing situation. The first has to do with press relations, the second is concerned with the increasing anti-Semitism in Germany, and the third relates to assistance in surveying the operating programs and in formulating recommendations as to future programs and policies.

With respect to the first item, I recommended, in my April 1st report, that a person should be made available to aid me in press relations. There are countless opportunities for improving our position here in relation to the press. These opportunities have been neglected. Major Hyman and I have been too occupied with other matters of greater priority to "feed" the press with positive aspects of Jewish DP life here. I have undertaken a few steps in that direction but, frankly, we are not in a position to take full advantage of all the possibilities. We need someone who is skilled in this work. It is not possible to add such a person to my staff. If such aid is to be made available, therefore, the individual will have to be placed on the staff of an agency now operating in Germany and be assigned to me on a full or part-time basis. I urged the Committee to review this request, to agree on how to finance it, and to suggest a person to do the work. My preference is a younger person who has resourcefulness and imagination and knows something about Jewish community life. He must be able to read German and Yiddish.

The second problem, which calls for specialized assistance, is that of anti-Semitism. The evidence at hand suggests that anti-Semitism among the German people and public officials is becoming increasingly more sharpened and may present serious dangers whenever the U.S. Occupation authorities cease to be interested in dealing with it. This is not a new development. Judge Levinthal's reports of October and November called attention to the intensification of this problem. As an illustration, I call attention to the elections of local officials which took place in Germany last Sunday. The elected lord mayor of Schwabish Gmund received seventy-five percent of the votes. His supporters painted the Star of David on the market place, posted signs decrying his opponent as a half-Jew, and sang the tunes of the forbidden Nazi Horst-Wessel song. It is to the credit of the U.S. Governor of Wuertemberg-Baden that he conducted an investigation and announced that he would not permit the elected lord mayor to take office, in view of "the evidence of hostility to the objectives of Military Government" and of his "public activities in violation of . . . regulations . . . a lack of those positive political qualities which will assist in the development of democracy in Germany." There are rumblings in other areas, and it may be that the disease which has been dormant during the past two and a half years may be coming back to life - the presence of the U.S. Army notwithstanding.

It would be naive to suggest that something can be done with this problem in a short time. It is, however, important that we try to do something. To that end, there should be someone on the scene. He should keep a full record of what is happening, should aid and encourage local groups of German people who wish to deal with the problem. He should stimulate programs designed to counteract anti-Semitism and should collaborate closely with the educational, religious, and military authorities which have the responsibility in this field. My office is, of course, involved in all of this, but it is, obviously, impossible for me to do more than observe and concern myself with the problem in the most general terms.

In my April report I suggested that the Committee review this problem and determine how the American organizations should deal with it. I strongly urge an affirmative decision. Whether one of the agencies should send a specialist here to work on this problem or whether you may wish to have it surveyed before that is to be decided, I leave to you. My present judgment is that a survey is not necessary. Some method should be developed for getting a person into Germany to work in this area of activity. Such a person could be attached to one of the existing agencies, or a special authorization for this work could be secured. Perhaps, he might be attached to UNESCO, which is about to undertake a program in Germany. I urge the Committee to explore this problem and advise me of its views.

The third area in which I need some help relates to the appraisal of the entire situation, with the view of determining to what extent the outlook calls for a possible shift of emphasis on the part of the operating agencies. On pages 11 and 12 of the April 1st report, I suggested some of the policy issues which are bound to present themselves in such an inquiry. I consider such an appraisal and formulation of recommendations to be my responsibility. Nevertheless, I may wish some assistance and,

to that end, I have in mind to invite a person, in whose judgment and skill I have confidence, to aid me for a period of sixty days. I have, of course, conferred with the top officials of the operating organizations in Germany and Paris and will continue to do so. At the same time, I wish to be in a position to consult from day to day with someone whose background and experience in this matter will lend weight to his judgment and advice. I do not have anyone in mind at this moment. I shall, however, make a search and, if I succeed in finding someone, I should like to have him come here for a period of about two months for this purpose. It will be necessary for the Committee to meet the expense involved, either on a cooperative basis or by requesting one or more of the agencies to underwrite the costs. I assume that these costs will not involve salary, only expenses.

I hope that the Committee will review the problems represented in this memorandum at the earliest opportunity and advise me of its views. It is my judgment that the expenditure of this relatively small sum may materially increase the effectiveness of my work here and should provide us, by early fall, with a set of conclusions and recommendations on the basis of which the agencies in New York could determine the direction of our work in Germany for the latter part of 1948 and 1949.

Cordially yours,

(signed) William Haber
 Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf

APG 757. c/o P.M.
 New York, New York

Mr. A.C.A. Livernant
 Acting Executive Secretary
 American Jewish Conference
 521 Fifth Avenue
 New York 17, New York

Camps - Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE:

May 6, 1948

NAME OF SUBJECT:

Draft

FROM:

K. Grossman

TO:

REGARDING:

Anti-Semitism in Germany

SEE:

Camps - DP's

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318561

May 5, 1948

Prof. William Haber
Advisor on Jewish Affairs,
Headquarters, European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
A.P.O. 757
c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Haber:

I take the liberty of enclosing a memorandum which we submitted to the Sixth Part of the First Session of the Council of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, just convened in Geneva. You will see from this memorandum that we have been guided by the most penetrating reports you have sent us.

Sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

krq iw

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MAY 4 1948

C.D.

- 4 -

Professor Haber Reports on Increasing Tenseness in DP Situation

11.

(8-12)

A report from Professor William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs, to the five cooperating organizations, dated April 1, 1948, contains in addition to a detailed discussion of several specific problems also a beginning of an overall evaluation of the DP situation. What has occurred at Lake Success, in Washington, and in Palestine, Professor Haber says, has had a devastating effect upon the morale of the Jewish DP's of Germany and Austria. If large-scale migration should be postponed for an indefinite period, the program of operation will have to be basically re-appraised.

The decisions affecting Jewish DP's, according to Professor Haber, are no longer likely to be made on their merits. Other considerations, such as the Cold War between West and East, the plan to enlarge the scope of German governmental authority, the revival of the German and Austrian economy and similar objectives will materially influence the decisions affecting the DP's.

Of vital significance is the expectation that the number of Jewish DP's twelve months hence will be substantially as large as the present number despite some emigration, which will be made up by the birth rate in the Jewish DP camps and present and prospective infiltration from Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Professor Haber stresses that it would be of utmost importance to improve press relations with regard to the Jewish DP's. Whereas there is much information in the press about raids, arrests, black market activities and the like, there is seldom any reference to the constructive activities in the camps.

In its conclusion the report states that a number of issues will have to be considered by the cooperating organizations in the near future and programmatical decisions taken. Among these issues are: the relief program; the work projects; the attitude of Jewish DP's concerning work in the German economy; the possibility of a closing of the camps; the expansion of German administrative control; anti-Semitism in Germany, etc.

318563

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE

MEETING OF FIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS DP PROBLEMS

May 4, 1948 - 4:30 p.m.

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, Chairman, Judge Louis E. Levinthal - Former Jewish Adviser; American Jewish Committee - Prof. H. Gray, Dr. Eugene Hevesi, Dr. Simon Segal; American Jewish Conference - M. Grossman, Arthur Liverhant; Jewish Agency - Dr. Nahum Goldmann; Joint Distribution Committee - B. M. Joffe, M. Leavitt; World Jewish Congress - Mr. Kurt Grossman, Dr. I. M. Schwarzbart, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Rabbi A. Klausner, Max Lowenthal.

Rabbi Klausner read a report on the precarious DP situation in Germany and suggestions for alleviating it.

Judge Levinthal stated that he did not agree with the emphasis on the sordid features of DP life as given in the report. He felt that our policy should change in line with the recommendations made by Dr. Haber. He said he was impressed with the fact that more Jewish DPs wanted to enlist in O.R.T. training programs than there were opportunities. They refused to go into the black market and were willing to work hard. The picture presented in the report was not fair to the majority of DPs.

Rabbi Bernstein felt that the picture presented by Rabbi Klausner was very disturbing. Demoralization of the DPs has proceeded very rapidly. It must be realized that the situation may not change for years, and decisions as to what must be done within Germany must not be postponed.

Dr. Goldmann asked what could be done if the DPs, contrary to Rabbi Klausner's assumption, were unable to go to Palestine for the next 4 or 5 months. This was a real possibility, and false hopes should not be held out to these people. No women or children would be allowed to come into Palestine during the current crucial period, but only those who would be of help in the fighting. This policy may continue to govern immigration into Palestine for a considerable time.

Rabbi Klausner stated if it were not possible for the DPs to go to Palestine, other arrangements would have to be made, but in any case, they should be taken out of the camps.

Mr. Leavitt broke down the figures in Rabbi Klausner's report to show that most of the camp inmates were gainfully employed or in training schools. But Rabbi Klausner pointed out that even those who were employed had dealings in the black market.

Mr. Leavitt felt that Rabbi Klausner's figures of 30% engaged in black marketeering were high, and stated that Dr. Haber had put the figure at between 5% and 10%. Rabbi Klausner, however, insisted that his figures were correct - citing instances of tremendous deals involving cigarettes - and said it was imperative to find a solution.

Rabbi Bernstein pointed out that at the end of the war the camps were looked upon as a very temporary situation, and all efforts had been resisted to bring the DPs into the German economy. But during the past three years a process of demoralization had taken place. Regardless of the discrepancy of figures, he felt the situation was critical. We must use every means possible to get the DPs out of the camps and on their way to Palestine, if at all possible. They are not capable of sound judgment and may resist the effort. He questioned whether it would be bad politically to force them out at this time. The alternative was to force them into the German economy or into a forced work program within the camp economy.

Judge Levinthal agreed that these were the issues. He stated that each month a certain number of DPs left the camps and entered the German economy by a natural process, and that many young men and women had found their way out of the country to go to Palestine. He felt it would be worthwhile to change the method of incentive payment for work done by depositing hard money in the DPs account, which he could claim when he left the country.

Mr. Leavitt felt this was most unrealistic since the amount of money involved would be tremendous. He felt the only way the black market would be eliminated was by the return of commodities to their normal value. When scarcities become surplus, the black market will of itself come to an end.

Prof. Gray felt the black market was not the important issue. He felt that the situation in the camps was one that might explode at any moment.

Dr. Hevesi felt it would be worse to have the DPs forced out of camps and participating in the general black market. To force them into the German economy was wrong from a moral point of view. He remarked that Dr. Haber had indicated a desire to force DPs ~~man~~ to work on army installations, but this had not proved satisfactory.

Dr. Goldmann, in making his next remarks, stressed that he spoke for himself, and not as a representative of any group. He felt it would be a mistake to force the DPs to go to Palestine since that country was in need of those who came willingly and had no time to rehabilitate the DPs. He said it was most unfortunate, but a new state had too many problems of its own and could not care for the individual. He felt the DPs should be brought into the German economy; and that while they might be contributing to the upbuilding of the country, such contribution was insignificant, while at the same time they would be trained and kept occupied. Those who were too old or unable to work, would still have to be taken care of by the J.D.C. He suggested it might be well to send a group to the camps to investigate the problem.

Mr. Leavitt stated that he had seen Dr. Haber very recently. Dr. Haber had expressed a willingness to come to New York and discuss the problem with the five organizations after some decision had been reached.

Mr. M. Grossman did not see how the situation could be changed. He did not favor forcing the DPs into the German economy. He felt the DPs should be taken out of Germany as speedily as possible, but while they were in the camps, the work incentive should be increased. One and one-half years ago a committee of experts recommended the introduction of script. This was never done.

Dr. Wise stated for the record that he did not agree with Dr. Goldmann's proposal to force the DPs into the German economy, and that this was not the opinion of the World Jewish Congress.

Prof. Gray felt it would be necessary to study the situation at first hand. Judge Levinthal urged that Dr. Haber's report be acknowledged and that a resume of this meeting be sent to him. Since he also posed specific questions, each organization should have a sub-committee consider the matter and report its findings to the working committee.

Rabbi Bernstein then summed up the discussion, and stated that the basic questions were still before the group. He recommended that a report be sent to Dr. Haber, informing him that the group would meet again in about two weeks, and that the working committee would meet in the meantime to discuss the specific points raised in Dr. Haber's report.

The meeting then adjourned.

Kalman
April 30, 1948

MEMO

To : The Office Committee
From : T. R. Grossman

cc: Dr. Bakou

Attached please find the secret confidential report submitted by Prof. William Haber, Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Lucius D. Clay, to the 5 organizations.

May I call your special attention to the suggestions Prof. Haber made at the end of his letter (page 11).

is

May 3, 1948

Memo to: Dr. Wise

From: A. Leon Kubowitzki

I return herewith the letter dated March 25 from Professor Haber.

After giving the matter much thought, I still have not made up my mind as to whether I should advise you to answer it. I am almost certain that Haber will not comply with any request addressed to him regarding the recognition of the World Jewish Congress, so why should you give him a new opportunity of saying "no"?

You may have a different opinion after the meeting of the five organizations.

bg
Enc.

318567

May 3, 1948

MEMO:

To: Dr. Rice, Dr. Goldman, Dr. Kuznetsov, Dr. Peterbach,
Mrs. Koppelman, Dr. Kraus, Dr. Fogelson, Dr.
Schnitzler
From: Earl H. Grossman

With reference to my correspondence with Professor
William Haber concerning the recognition of the UJC as an
operating agency, I attach his letter addressed to me and dated
April 20, 1948.

I have the impression that he has the intention of con-
promising with us on this problem, and if we would delegate
authority to Germany who would be able to show his efficiency,
our full recognition could be accomplished.

MEMO:78

318568

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

April 29, 1948

My dear Mr. Grossman:

I have given your letter of April 13th very careful study. May I ask you to re-read the next to the last paragraph of my March 25th letter. There I indicated that a representative of the World Jewish Congress could be located here and assigned to the staff of an operating agency to check on the distribution of such supplies as the World Jewish Congress brings into Germany. I feel confident that this arrangement could be worked out and renew my offer to help in this direction. ✓

As to the broader issue of recommending that the World Jewish Congress operate in Germany, I can only restate and, perhaps, amplify the position I took in my earlier letter. It is still my candid view that the solution of our problems here would not be materially assisted by the introduction of another operating organization into this scene.

The Central Committee of Liberated Jews is affiliated with the Congress. Its membership represents all the political elements among the Sherit Hapleta. Apart from its administrative functions and its role in the distribution of JDC supplies, the Committee's principal preoccupation today is with the political aspects of our problem - the raising of funds for Haganah, supporting the Gius, resisting any weakening of interest among our people in Yishuv and with similar activities. These are significant and all of us understand their importance. I am convinced, however, that the help we need here now and in which there is an opportunity for real service is not in the political or ideational field on the policy making level, but rather in the day to day work with the camp committees and with the organizations which have an operating responsibility. There are the crucial needs of decreasing idleness in the camps, of expanding of vocational training, of discouraging black market activities on the part of our people, of prying many of them loose from their footholds in Germany and of generally, the administration of the camps. In meeting these needs I fail to see how the addition of three or four people, representing the Congress, could be of any substantial help. We have here a large area. There are 55 camps and over 125 installations altogether. The Congress representatives, located in Munich, could meet with the Central Committee and consult with them, but that is not where help is

318569

needed. Frankly, as sympathetic as I am with the program of the World Jewish Congress, I still fail to see how the day to day problems of our people would be improved by the step you propose.

One further aspect of the problem is exceedingly important. On the basis of conversations with the military people, responsible for DP operations in Germany, I am convinced that the military authorities would oppose the addition of another organization to work in the Jewish field. The attitude of the military, with which I was familiar before I sent the letter of March 25th, appears to be well crystalized. The reasons they give are those I have tried to convey. They simply doubt that the admission of another organization will represent a constructive contribution in dealing with the problem with which they are primarily concerned. I did not refer to this phase of the problem in my earlier letter because I preferred to base my conclusion on what I believed to be the merits of the case.

Although it is not relevant to the general subject of the admission of the World Jewish Congress into Germany and Austria as an operating agency, I should like to comment on your characterization of my reports as "alarming". I did not intend to create the impression that the Jewish DPs are in danger. In my reports, I have attempted to be realistic and to keep the organizations informed of the situation as it develops. It is a fact that the DPs are unpopular with the military authorities; that there is often a conflict between the Army's responsibility to the DPs and its missions in Germany and Austria; that the control of the black market presents a real challenge; that another challenge is presented by the growing anti-Semitism in Germany; that there is talk on relatively high levels of the liquidation of the entire DP problem by the closing of the camps; that, in any event, there is constant pressure to give the German authorities more control and authority over the DPs; that the prospects of war have stimulated fear among the Jewish DPs that they will be trapped in Central Europe and that they will be the first victims of that conflict; that this feeling of insecurity interferes with any constructive program that might be developed on their behalf; that, under present conditions, the interest among the Jewish DPs from Germany and Austria in migration to Palestine is not very encouraging; and that there is a great need for better press relations that will more sympathetically interpret the Jewish DPs to the military community and to the world in general.

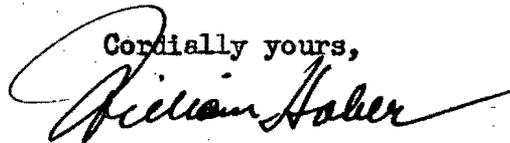
While all of these present serious problems, they do not, in my opinion, add up to a picture that may be described as alarming. I merely wanted

to indicate how stubborn are the problems in this, the most volatile and most vulnerable, Jewish community in the world and how desperate is the need, from the standpoint of the interest of the world Jewish community, to get the Jewish DPs out of Central Europe.

I am sure that you will accept these observations in the spirit in which they are written. My conclusions grow out of my appraisals of the primary needs of the Jewish DPs in Germany.

With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,



WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

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

318571

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

*Excerpt of Prof.
W. Haber's letter of
4/26*

(10)

April 26, 1948

My dear Mr. Grossman:

I am replying to your letter of April 15th in which you comment on my April 7th report to Meir Grossman. I also have your letter of April 15th commenting on my statement concerning the operation of the World Jewish Congress in Germany. I will reply to that letter as soon as I return from Munich in a few days.

Your comments on my report are sincerely appreciated. One or two references justify a few lines from me. The first has to do with the apparent discrepancy between the IRO constitution and the actual care provided by IRO to DPs in Germany. It is my understanding that by agreement IRO care in the zone is confined to people who arrived here before April 21, 1947 and only such people can be maintained in assembly centers. That happens to be an understanding between Military Government and IRO and the eviction of the Roumanians was made in accordance with that understanding. You are quite correct that certain hardship cases are eligible to life in camp, even though they arrived after that date, but that will obviously not include the entire group.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of your memorandum summarizing your Washington trip on April 8th and 9th. What I read, is extremely interesting and exceedingly helpful.

I note your reference to Camp New Palestine. You have, no doubt, seen my correspondence with General Keyes on that subject. The camp has officially been scheduled for closing in two moves, the first on May 15th and the second on June 5th. In the cable from Dr. Strauch, chairman of the Central Committee in Salzburg, I am advised that the military is exploring the possibility of erecting a new camp in the Salzburg area for the New Palestine group. I have checked this with the military and the explorations are in fact proceeding. It will not defer the closing of New Palestine, however. The people are in any event to be moved temporarily to other camps.

I have also discussed with General Clay the problem you refer to, concerning the movement of Jewish DPs from Berlin. This matter will be

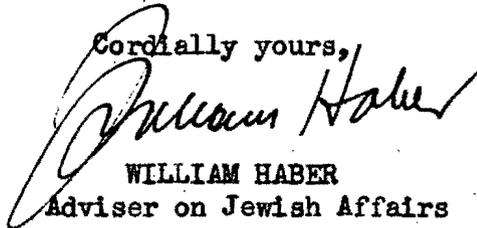
318572

covered in my next report. As of the moment, this is out of the question.

What you say about the general conservatism and excess caution you find in Washington is, of course, reflected in Germany. As you know, it has been referred to in my two reports. J

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Haber", with a checkmark at the end of the signature.

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

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

318573

2
April 26, 1948

Professor William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs, Headquarters
European Command, Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

With reference to the closing of the New Palestine Camp, Dr. Wise received a letter sent by the Jewish Community of New Palestine. A copy of this letter is enclosed, although I have read in the meantime that all our endeavours to prevent the closing of this camp have failed.

I am in no position to contact the sender of the letter to Dr. Wise because the signature was not legible and no address was given. I would be grateful if you would convey to these people, if you know where to reach them, that we have tried our best with you to avoid this hardship for our fellow Jews from the New Palestine Camp.

Thanking you for your cooperation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

KRG:FS
Encl.

Kurt R. Grossman

318574

Camps - Haber

April 15, 1948

Prof. William Haber,
Adviser on Jewish Affairs, Headquarters,
European Command, Office of the Commander in Chief,
APO 757, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Haber:

I want to acknowledge the receipt of the most interesting report which you sent on April 7 to Mr. Meir Grossman of the American Jewish Conference. I have studied this report and wish to make the following comment:

In your excellent letter addressed to General Lucius D. Clay, of February 25, you take up again the matter of the Rumanian infiltrates. In addition to the arguments you presented to General Clay, I would have advanced the one that the United States is a member of PCIRO and has signed the IRO constitution. This IRO constitution, however, permits the care for DPs arriving after April 21, 1947 in areas where PCIRO is operating. In other words, there is a discrepancy between the attitude of the U.S. Commander-in-Chief and the IRO constitution recognized by the U.S. government. You know, no deadline has been set by PCIRO in regard to the care of new DPs. The only existing restrictions are dictated by the budget situation. However, in November, 1947, the PCIRO Council adopted a resolution instructing the Executive Secretary to accord liberal assistance in hardship cases to refugees eligible under PCIRO constitution. The recommendation made by the last meeting of the Council that February 1, 1948 be set as the deadline for PCIRO care, is not binding since the future Council of IRO will have to decide on this deadline. The International Refugee Organization, however, has not come into being, since one memberstate is still missing.

Incidentally, last week I discussed the DPs problem with Mr. George L. Warren of the Department of State, and I take the liberty of enclosing a report of my discussion with him for your confidential information.

I consider your suggestion to send somebody to Frankfurt in order to aid in press relation a very constructive one and I hope that the forthcoming meeting of the 5 organizations will make the proper suggestions to you.

The second problem, namely, whether it is desirable that we deal with the question of anti-Semitism in Germany is of great interest to me. In my opinion we should try to work with liberal groups in this regard. I receive many letters from my former German friends who are eager to cooperate in this matter. I hope that the answer you receive from the 5 organizations will be a favorable one.

Thanking you again for this most penetrating report, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

318575

Prof. William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters, European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o Postmaster
New York, NY

Dear Prof. Haber:

I ~~only~~ want to acknowledge the receipt of ^{the} your most interesting report which you sent on April 7 to Mr. Meir Grossman of the Am. Jew. Conference. I have studied this report and ~~wish~~ ^{wish} to make ~~the following comment~~ ^{for the time being} :

In your excellent letter addressed to General Lucius D. Clay of Febr. 25, you take up ^{again} the matter of the Rumanian infiltrees ~~again~~. In addition to the arguments you have presented to Gen. Clay, I would have ~~added~~ ^{advanced} the one that the U.S. is a member of PCIRO and has signed the IRO constitution. This IRO constitution, however, permits the care for DPs arriving after 4/21/47 in the areas where PCIRO is ^{operating} working. In other words, there is an ~~inconsistency~~ ^{a discrepancy between the attitude} on the part of the U.S. Commander in Chief and ~~recognized~~ ^{the IRO constitution recognized} by the U.S. government. You know, ~~there is no deadline~~ ^{doesn't work and has been} set by PCIRO ^{in regard to} for the care of new DPs. The only ~~restrictions~~ ^{delated} existing are prescribed by the budget situation. However, ^{in November, 1947,} the PCIRO Council has adopted in November 1947 a resolution instructing the Executive Secretary to ~~accord~~ ^{liberally} assistance in hardship cases to refugees eligible under PCIRO constitution. The recommendation ^{to} they set Febr. 1, 1948 as deadline, ~~is not binding~~ ^{for PCIRO was adopted by the last Council meeting} since the ~~existing~~ ^{coming} Council of IRO ~~has~~ ^{will have} to decide on this deadline. I ~~thought that you would be~~ ^{future} interested to be informed on this argument.

318375

The Internal Refugee Organization, however, hasn't become into being, since there still is one member

made by the last Council meeting of the Council that to set Feb. 1, 1948, as the deadline for PCIRO care

Last week I discussed

Incidentally, I discussed

I discussed the problem of DPs with Mr. George L. Warren of the Department of State, and I take the liberty to ~~of~~ ^{ing} enclose a report of my discussion with him for your confidential information.

I consider your suggestion to send somebody to Frankfurt in order to aid in press relation ~~excellent~~ ^{a very constructive one} and I hope that the forthcoming meeting of the 5 organizations will make ~~suggestions~~ ^{the proper} suggestions to you.

The second problem, ~~you must raise~~ ^{namely,} whether it is desirable that we ~~should~~ deal with the question of anti-Semitism in Germany is of greater interest to me. I ~~in my~~ ^{in my} want to express to this point my personal opinion that we should try to work with liberal groups in ~~that direction~~ ^{this regard}.

I receive many letters from my former German friends who are eager to work in ~~that direction~~ ^{cooperate to this matter}. I hope that the answer ~~from the 5 organizations you will receive~~ ^{you receive} will be a ~~constructive~~ ^{favorable} one.

Thanking you again for this most penetrating report, I am

very sincerely yours

KUR

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COPY

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander
In Chief

ALK

April 13, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

I returned from Paris yesterday and found your cablegram concerning the New Palestine camp together with a copy of the reply sent to you by Major Hyman. There is little that needs to be added to Major Hyman's statement. I merely wish you to know that I have been fully posted of this development, have reviewed it in detail with Dr. Strauch, Chairman of the Central Committee in Salzburg, have discussed it with General Keyes in Vienna and General Collins in Salzburg and our intervention has largely been responsible for delaying this action for the past three months, although we have been unable to stop it altogether.

In my second report to Meir Grossman, a copy of which has, no doubt, been delivered to you, you will find my correspondence with General Keyes on this subject. Needless to say, I wish that we could have avoided the closing of this camp. It was impossible. I can only assure you that the people are being moved to relatively good quarters which, while not as adequate as New Palestine, are far superior to what is available for most of the other Jewish DPs in Austria.

I hope, you have had a chance to read my second report and I should welcome your comments at any time.

With warmest regards,

Cordially yours,

(sgd) WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WE/eh

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

orig. Camps - Austria - New Palestine
Camps

Abraham's Keyman's corresp. see - New Palestine Camp

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KRG

MACKAY A/DM VAL60 WIEN 42 12 1740
NLT WORLDGROSS NEWYORK

W. G. Grossmann
Rec'd: 4/13/48

GROSSMANN YOURS SEVENTH BEING CONTINUOUS CONTACT AUTHORITIES ESPECIALLY
CHAPLAIN LIFSHITZ STOP REASON DISSOLVING CAMP MILITARY NEED HOUSING US
PERSONNEL STOP DPS RECEIVING ADEQUATE QUARTERS INSPITE GREAT EFFORTS TO
ANNUALTE DECISION MILITARY INSISTING EXECUTION ORDER STOP NOT DEFINITE
DATE CONTINUING INTERVENTION -

WORLDGROSS VIENNA

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APRIL 9, 1948

2/
C.D.

WJC Endeavors to Prevent Liquidation of DP Camp: New Palestine

11.
(8-12) Under date of April 5, a cable appeal was received by Dr. Wise from the inmates of the displaced persons' camp New Palestine, near Salzburg, Austria, urging reconsideration of the plan to liquidate this camp. The WJC Relief Department, thereupon, wired Professor William Haber, urging him to intervene with General Keyes with a view to postponing this action until the inmates leave for final resettlement. At the same time WJC's Vienna representative, Mr. E. Stiasny, was asked to initiate a united effort to prevent the closing of the camp.

APR 12 1948

Paris

April 7, 1948

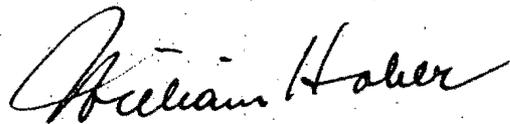
Mr. Meir Grossman,
Director of Department of Overseas Relations,
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue,
New York 17, New York

For transmission to: American Jewish Conference
Jewish Agency for Palestine
American Joint Distribution Committee
American Jewish Committee
World Jewish Congress

My dear Mr. Grossman,

I am enclosing my second report for consideration by the cooperating agencies. In addition to my report, I have included a substantial number of attachments dealing with my memorandum to General Keyes in Austria, the Raid on the Assembly Center at Eschwege, and the one at Zeilsheim, my rather lengthy memorandum of February 25th to General Clay on the Rumanian infiltration and his reply to me, dated March 2nd, a memorandum on the deposit of foreign currency assets by DP's, a press release which was used as a basis for a press conference at Frankfurt on Wednesday, April 2nd, and a copy of my talk before the third Congress of the Central Committee at Bad Reichenau. In addition, I am taking the liberty of sending you the minutes of the meeting of the agencies which met in my office on March 15th. These minutes have not been carefully edited and should of course, together with all of this material, be considered confidential.

With warmest regards.



William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/Y

318581

3

Haber

April 7, 1948

MEMO

To: Dr. A. L. Kubowitzki
From: K. R. Grossman

I have tried to draft an answer to Professor Haber's letter and I would like to have your reaction.

KRG:FS

April 20, 1948

K.R. 90

MEMO

to : The Office Committee
from : K R. Grossman

cc: Dr. Barou

Attached please find the second confidential report submitted by Prof. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs to General Lucius D. Clay, to the 5 organizations.

May I call your special attention to the suggestions Prof. Haber made at the end of his letter (page 11).

iw

*Original report given
A-Abel 5/31/48*

318582

DRAFT

Draft April 7, 1948 *Haber*

Professor William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters
European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o P.M., New York, N. Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

I duly acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 25th in which you are kind enough to explain to me that you reached the conclusion that the stand taken by Rabbi Bernstein in the question of recognition of the WJC as an operating agency, is still valid. May I first take the liberty of correcting your statement that Judge Levinthal had confirmed Rabbi Bernstein's stand. I had the pleasure of speaking to the Judge after his return from Germany, and he told me explicitly that he is now in favour of our recognition for the following reasons:

1. The WJC is already operating in Austria and in the British zone of Germany. Therefore, it is only logical that it should be given the opportunity of operating in the U. S. zone of Germany as well.
2. Since PCIRO is in favour of our recognition, he expresses his feeling that he considers this opinion decisive and, therefore, he promised me that he would advise you to take the same stand.

I am sorry to see from your letter that you want to stick to the erroneous attitude taken by Rabbi Bernstein. This opinion of yours, my dear Professor Haber, is less understandable in view of the alarming reports you sent to the five organizations, which unanimously supported your delegation to Germany. It seems to me that you have overlooked very important points in your decision. I will try to convey these points to you as follows:

1. Your report speaks of the crisis atmosphere prevailing among the

318583

DPs in Germany - an atmosphere which must increase in view of the unfortunate development in the Palestine affair. You may have overlooked the fact that the Central Committee of Liberated Jews is affiliated with the WJC and I believe that our team, if admitted to Germany, could have a wholesome influence in this critical situation. I cannot imagine that you want to prevent the WJC from at least trying to help our people, although the Central Committee is an affiliate body of the WJC.

2. The present crisis atmosphere may increase due to other unforeseen political developments. The WJC wants to be on the spot in order to help our people, even though only a few hundred people may be saved on our account in any future crisis. I think we should have the privilege of being where our people are most endangered. I ask, in all sincerity, will you carry the responsibility of having prevented us from being with our people in their hour of danger?

3. Apart from these thoughts which are a consequence of your enlightening, sad reports, we have there are still the arguments that Miss Marjorie Bradford discussed with you and to which Mr. William Halam Tuck, the executive secretary of the PCIRO, who we had the privilege of seeing a few days ago, agreed. Since you yourself express the opinion that "there was considerable merit" in the suggestions made by Miss Bradford, I cannot see what reason can prevent you from following the suggestion of PCIRO. The immediate consequence of this action would be a stronger flow of supplies to Germany from South America, immediate mobilization of raw material for a constructive working program.

It is clear that we will gladly coordinate our efforts with yours and with all other organizations, in order to avoid any overlapping.

I would not write to you in this way if I would not be deeply convinced that, not only is an injustice done to the WJC as an

organization but, more important, to the Jews in Germany and to the general welfare of Jews.

I hope that this letter will convince you finally that you should not evade the issue by clinging to a wrong attitude expressed by Rabbi Bernstein which is no longer valid, under any circumstances.

Please accept my apology for writing to you so emphatically on this matter, but I think it is necessary in view of the injustice done to us.

Cordially yours,

KRG:FS

Kurt R. Grossman

COPI

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander
In Chief

March 25, 1948

My dear Mr. Grossman:

I am finally prepared to give you my views on the admission of the World Jewish Congress as an operating agency in Germany. Believe me when I say that my delay in writing you was due entirely to preoccupation with problems of a higher priority. In addition, I wanted to be entirely sure of my conclusions before I wrote you formally.

I am convinced that the needs and interests of the Jewish DPs in Germany would not be materially advanced by the service of another relief organization. There are very serious problems in the German situation. The morale of our people is exceedingly low; there are serious tensions in many of the camps, often the result of intense party strife; there are instances of serious inequities in the distribution of supplemental aid; there is pressing need for more vocational training and employment and there is, of course, a crying need for speedier immigration. None of these recognized gaps would, in my judgment, be bridged by the existence of another organization in Germany, no matter how broad or restricted its function may be.

On Monday, 13 March 1948, I called a meeting of all the voluntary agencies working with Jewish DPs in Germany. There was unanimous agreement on the outstanding need for greater coordination of the work of the agencies serving the Jewish DPs. It was felt that there are substantial areas of overlapping and duplication of effort. The group, representing the JAFF, HIAS, ORT, VAAD HATZALA, AJDC, the Central Committee of Liberated Jews and the IRO, urged my office to coordinate the operations of the numerous agencies and, as far as possible, eliminate such duplication as may exist.

This meeting, conversations with General Harrold, the Director of Civil Affairs Division in Headquarters European Command, and my general impressions of the present situation in Germany convince me that the view on the Congress, held by Rabbi Bernstein and confirmed by Judge Levinthal, is still valid. When I came to Germany, I can assure you that I had no pre-conceived view on this matter. In fact, since I do have a great respect for the work of the World Jewish Congress and for its leadership in the U.S. and abroad, I reached my conclusion with great reluctance.

I presume you know that Miss Marjorie Bradford of the International Relief Organization holds a contrary view. Several weeks ago I discussed this problem with her in my office for the better part of an afternoon. Yesterday I wrote her what my final views were but suggested that since the matter had not been formally submitted to me by the military for advice, she could feel free to go to the Director of Civil Affairs Division and have her proposal reviewed independently.

I wrote Miss Bradford further that there was considerable merit in her suggestion that the World Jewish Congress should have someone in Germany

318586

318587

Noted *Please edit*
April 7, 1948

DRAFT

Professor William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs
Headquarters
European Command
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o P.M., New York, N. Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

I ~~del~~ ^{del} duly acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 25th in which you are kind enough to explain to me that you ^{reached} reached the conclusion that the stand taken by Rabbi Bernstein in the question of recognition of the WJC as an operating agency, is still valid. May I first take the liberty of correcting your statement that Judge Levinthal had confirmed Rabbi Bernstein's stand. I had the pleasure of speaking to the Judge after his return from Germany, and he told me explicitly that he ^{was} ⁱⁿ ^{favor} is now in favour of our recognition for the following reasons:

1. The WJC is already operating in Austria and in the British zone of Germany. Therefore, ^{therefore} it is only logical that it should be given the opportunity ^{to} of operating in the U. S. zone of Germany as well.
2. Since PCIRO is in favour of our recognition, he expresses ~~his feeling~~ that he considers this opinion decisive and, therefore, he promised me that he would ^{to} advise you to take the same stand.

I am sorry to see from your letter that you want to ^{stick} stick to the ~~erroneous~~ ^{unwarranted} attitude taken by Rabbi Bernstein. This ~~opinion~~ ^{decision} of yours, my dear Professor Haber, is ^{all the more puzzling} less understandable in view of the alarming reports you ^{have} sent to the five organizations/ which unanimously supported your ^{assignment} delegation to Germany. It seems to me that you have overlooked very important points in your decision. ^{Let me state them} I will try to convey these points to you as follows:

1. Your report speaks of the crisis atmosphere prevailing among the

316588

DPs in Germany, - an atmosphere which must increase in view of the unfortunate development in the Palestine affair. You may have overlooked the fact that the Central Committee of Liberated Jews is affiliated with the WJC and I believe that our team, if admitted to Germany, could ^{exercise} have a wholesome influence in this critical situation. I cannot imagine that you ^{would} want to prevent the WJC from at least trying to help our people, ~~although the Central Committee is an affiliate body of the WJC.~~

2. b) The present crisis atmosphere may increase ^{owing} due to other unforeseen political developments. The WJC wants to be on the spot in order to help our people, ~~even though only a few hundred people may be saved on our account in any future crisis.~~ I think we should have the privilege of being where our people are most endangered. I ask, in all sincerity, ~~will you carry~~ ^{how are you willing to bear} the responsibility ^{for} of having prevented us from being with our people in their hour of danger?

2. c) ^{but} Apart from these thoughts which are a consequence of your enlightening, sad reports, we ~~have~~ there are still ^{valid} the arguments ^{which} that Miss Marjorie Bradford discussed with you and ^{with} which Mr. William Halam Tuck, the Executive Secretary of the PCIRO, ^{whom} we had the ^{privilege} of seeing a few days ago, agreed. ~~Since~~ you yourself express ^{placate} the opinion that "there was considerable merit" in the suggestions made by Miss Bradford, I cannot see what reason can ^{possibly keep} prevent you from following the suggestion of PCIRO. The immediate consequence of ~~this~~ ^{your favorable} action would be a stronger flow of supplies to Germany from South America, ^{and an} immediate mobilization of raw material for a constructive working program.

It is ^{understood} clear that we will gladly coordinate our efforts with yours and with all other organizations, in order to avoid any overlapping ^{and duplication of efforts.}
 I would not write to you in this way if I ^{were} would not be deeply convinced, that, ^{is being} ~~an~~ not only is an injustice ^{not only} done to the WJC as an

organisation but, ^{what is} more important, to the Jews in Germany and to their
general welfare, of ~~laws~~

I hope that this letter will ^{add to} convince you finally that you
~~should~~ not ^{to} evade the issue by clinging to ^{the} wrong attitude ex- ~~pressed~~
pressed by Rabbi Bernstein which is no longer valid, ~~under any~~
circumstances. *in view of the time elapsing.*

Please accept my apology for writing to you so emphatically
on this matter, but I ^{consider it my duty to convey} think it is necessary ^{in view of the injus-}
~~justice done to us.~~ ^{to} ~~express~~ ^{broader} ~~my~~ ⁱⁿ ~~opinion~~ ^{this} ~~very~~ ^{important} ~~matter~~

Cordially yours,

A

Kurt R. Grossman

KRG:FS

R C A

April 7, 1948

NLT

William Haber
Jewish Adviser
Headquarters European Command
APO 757
Postmaster New York

Residents comite camp Newpalestine alarmed eventual liquidation stop
inmates are concentrationcamp victims lodged there as partial
repayment their sufferings stop ask you intervene General Keyes
postpone liquidation until inmates leave final resettlement

Kurt Grossman

45 wds
krg iw
OK:
Charge: World Jewish Congress

318591

Prof. Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE: 4/5/1948

NAME OF SUBJECT: Memo

FROM: Dr. Wise

TO: Dres. Kubowitzki & Marcus

REGARDING: letter from Haber and meeting of Five Organizations

SEE: Am. Jew. Conference, Five Organizations

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318592

Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE: 3/30/1948

NAME OF SUBJECT: Speech

FROM: Prof. William Haber
at the Opening Session of the Third Congress of Lib. Jews in
TO: Bad Reichenhall, on 3/30/1948

REGARDING: DP's

SEE: Third Conference Reichenhall, Camps, 3/30/1948

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31 March 1948

Haber
EUCOM Release
No. 988

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Public Information Division
Phone 3-3130

STATEMENT BY DR. HABER
EUCOM JEWISH ADVISOR

The following statement was issued today by Dr. Haber, EUCOM Advisor on Jewish Affairs:

"At no time since liberation has life seemed darker to the Jewish Displaced Persons than it does today. Their faith in the conscience of the civilized world has been seriously shaken by the news that the UN decision on the partition of Palestine is to be reconsidered.

"The callousness and thoroughness with which one of the most advanced nations on the European continent liquidated six million Jews has left its mark on every Jew in Central Europe. Nearly all of the Jewish Displaced Persons feel it imperative to get out of Germany and Austria, and most of them have a consuming passion to go to Palestine. The historic decision of November 29th, calling for a Jewish State in Palestine, had fortified their hope for a permanent solution of their homelessness. Today there is no bottom to their despair.

"The Jewish Displaced Persons are realistic. They are aware of the disturbing conditions in the world, and appreciate that the situation in Palestine is only one small patch in the crazy-quilt of world politics. However, they feel that, even under existing conditions, their aspirations to build a home in Palestine should receive the sympathy and help of the world. In the event it is determined that the present enforcement of partition, in fact, involves a threat to world peace, then, regardless of the ultimate political solution, the free migration of Jews to Palestine must be sanctioned and supported by the world powers.

"While Palestine may provide a solution for the quest of most of the Jewish Displaced Persons, emigration to other lands is also imperative. In the two months that I have lived with the Displaced Persons problem in our zones of occupation, I have found no magic formula to solve it. I am convinced that the only answer to the Displaced Persons problem is resettlement. The Jewish Displaced Persons cannot return to the graveyards and anti-Semitism of the countries from which they stem, nor can they, as a group, reconcile themselves to life in Germany. They are tired of the doles they receive, of being inspected, of being raided, and of being held responsible for everything that is abnormal in German life. They are and will be eternally grateful to the United States Army for the haven they found in Germany and Austria, for, without the American Army, this temporary refuge would not have existed for them, but they long for a place where they can sink their roots and lead normal lives.

"A substantial number of Jewish Displaced Persons, along with the Displaced Persons of other nationalities, are eager to find a home or join families in the United States. I believe that it is unfortunate that in the world forum in which the Displaced Persons has been discussed, the constructive aspect of his life has been overlooked. I was amazed by what I saw in my first tour of the Jewish Displaced Persons camps. There I found the Displaced Persons administering themselves, educating themselves, policing themselves, entertaining themselves, producing essential commodities for themselves, and, through vocational training programs, preparing themselves in technical fields for gainful occupations. Among these people there is excellent material for American citizenship.

"The Displaced Persons who want to migrate to the United States find some comfort in the Bill recently proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This Bill calls for the admission of fifty thousand persons a year for two years. This is an encouraging beginning, but it is hoped that the United States, occupying a position for world leadership as it does, will contribute more generously to the solution of this tragic human problem. Only by a substantial assumption of this responsibility on our part can we expect other countries to take their share of the Displaced Persons and thus help solve this problem.

"We in America have been very generous in extending loans to whole nations who want to preserve their national integrity. We can afford to be much more generous than we have heretofore been in sharing our vast opportunities with a relatively small handful of people who wish to preserve their integrity as decent human beings."

END.

No. 988

318595

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander in Chief

March 25, 1948

My dear Dr. Wise:

Since you have taken some initiative in urging upon me the desirability of recognizing the World Jewish Congress for operation in Germany, I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy of my letter to Kurt Grossman. I should only add that the conclusion I outlined in my letter to Grossman, represents a sincere conviction.

Is it necessary to tell you how shocked and depressed all of us have been in the past week as a result of the announcement that the U.S. is reversing its position on partition of Palestine? It has had a devastating effect upon the morale of the people and their leadership. Coupled with talk of war and the tensions which already exist in Central Europe as a result of the international situation, it has made our people feel trapped and complicated the task of constructive work in the camps throughout Germany and Austria.

I only pray that whatever delays there may be in the political decision affecting Palestine, that it may be possible to open the gates for immigration. That is imperative and I hope that our leadership in the States will bear down on that issue with all the force they can muster.

Quite apart from the bad news on partition, the situation for our Jewish DPs in Germany has been deteriorating for some time. The Military Government, to begin with, is preoccupied with matters which to them represent a far greater priority. Among them is the revival of the German and Austrian economies. The DPs are held responsible, and the Jewish DPs particularly, for interfering with that primary mission. In addition, it is quite necessary to recognize that our military authorities are, frankly, tired of the DPs and consider them a nuisance. I point out to them that they are grossly unfair, for instead of blaming the world for having failed to take our people out of here, they blame the people for being here.

Nevertheless, the trend to turn over to the Germans increasing responsibility for the administration of their civil affairs is unmistakable. This must mean, that in the future, and perhaps in the near future, German police, German courts and other German administrative officials will be given increasing supervision over Jewish DPs. Naturally, I point out to our government representatives the dangers involved in such a course and the extent to which it will represent a repudiation of obligations, we assumed at the time of liberation. Yet, I am convinced that the trend will continue and the longer our people will remain here the more difficult and complicated their problem will be.

318596

I am sending a complete report to Meir Grossman of the American Jewish Conference and the cooperating agencies, outlining my impressions and recommendations. If you have a chance to read that report, you will find these remarks elaborated in some detail.

With warmest personal greetings to you,

Most sincerely,

(sgd) WILLIAM HABER
Adviser of Jewish Affairs

WH/eh
1 encl.

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

Dr. Stephen S. Wise
40 West 88th Street
New York, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
Office of the Commander
In Chief

Mar Ch 25, 1949

COPY

My dear Mr. Grossman:

I am finally prepared to give you my views on the admission of the World Jewish Congress as an operating agency in Germany. Believe me when I say that my delay in writing you was due entirely to preoccupation with problems of a higher priority. In addition, I wanted to be entirely sure of my conclusions before I wrote you formally.

I am convinced that the needs and interests of the Jewish DPs in Germany would not be materially advanced by the service of another relief organization. There are very serious problems in the German situation. The morale of our people is exceedingly low; there are serious tensions in many of the camps, often the result of intense party strife; there are instances of serious inequities in the distribution of supplemental aid; there is pressing need for more vocational training and employment and there is, of course, a crying need for speedier immigration. None of these recognized gaps would, in my judgment, be bridged by the existence of another organization in Germany, no matter how broad or restricted its function may be.

On Monday, 15 March 1949, I called a meeting of all the voluntary agencies working with Jewish DPs in Germany. There was unanimous agreement on the outstanding need for greater coordination of the work of the agencies serving the Jewish DPs. It was felt that there are substantial areas of overlapping and duplication of effort. The group, representing the JAPP, HIAS, ORT, VAAD HATZALA, AJDC, the Central Committee of Liberated Jews and the IHO, urged my office to coordinate the operations of the numerous agencies and, as far as possible, eliminate such duplication as may exist.

This meeting, conversations with General Harrold, the Director of Civil Affairs Division in Headquarters European Command, and my general impressions of the present situation in Germany convince me that the view on the Congress, held by Rabbi Bernstein and confirmed by Judge Levinthal is still valid. When I came to Germany, I can assure you that I had no pre-conceived view on this matter. In fact, since I do have a great respect for the work of the World Jewish Congress and for its leadership in the U.S. and abroad, I reached my conclusion with great reluctance.

I presume you knew that Miss Marjorie Bradford of the International Relief Organization holds a contrary view. Several weeks ago I discussed this problem with her in my office for the better part of an afternoon. Yesterday I wrote her what my final views were but suggested that since the matter had not been formally submitted to me by the military for advice, she could feel free to go to the Director of Civil Affairs Division and have her proposal reviewed independently.

I wrote Miss Bradford further that there was considerable merit in her suggestion that the World Jewish Congress should have someone in Germany

318598

to check on the distribution of its donated supplies. I asked her, however, whether this could not be accomplished by assigning one or two representatives of the World Jewish Congress to the staff of an agency already established in the zone. I indicated to her that should the World Jewish Congress feel that this is a practical suggestion, I would be glad to help in its implementation. Such an arrangement I would not only secure immediate approval, but would avoid reopening of an issue that the military considers to have been settled a year ago.

B 6 - -

I shall be sending a report to Mr. Grossman within the next week. I can only say to you now that the announcement in New York that the U.S. is reversing its stand on partition, has had a devastating effect upon the morale of our people. I hope that this is one of the times when things look darkest before they turn bright.

Cordially yours,

(sgd) WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/eh

APG 757, c/o P.M.
New York, New York

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

MEMO

To: The Office Committee
From: Mr. Grossman

The attached letter, sent by Professor William Haber, Advisor on Jewish Affairs, addressed to the American Jewish Conference, will be of interest to you.

KRG:FS

COPY

March 18, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Within a week or ten days I shall send you a further report on developments in Germany and Austria. I am sending you this brief note in advance to suggest that the reports from the Adviser to the cooperating agencies should be a two-way affair. In brief, I wish to know the reaction of the Conference Committee, or the individual agencies, to what I report and, particularly, I wish specific observations and suggestions.

May I, therefore, urge that, if the Committee does not have a formal meeting to review the Adviser's report, the individual agency directors transmit their observations and suggestions directly to me? This applies to the report mailed to you on February 24th, as well as to the next one, which should reach you in about ten days.

I would also appreciate it if you would write me concerning the future status of the Committee. My question arises as a result of press reports concerning the American Jewish Assembly and the proposed dissolution of the Conference.

With warmest greetings,

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH/mf

APO 757, c/o P.M.
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

318601

March 31, 1948

William Haber

MEMO

To: The Office Committee
From: Mr. Grossman

The attached letter, sent by Professor William Haber, Advisor on Jewish Affairs, addressed to the American Jewish Conference, will be of interest to you.

KRG:FS

318602

H.R.

March 23, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. N. Barou
World Jewish Congress
55 New Cavendish Street
London W.1
England

Dear Dr. Barou,

~~Enclosed please find a confidential report, Prof. William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs, submitted to the 5 organizations. The 5 organizations have deliberated last week on the contents of the report, and will do so again in the coming week. At the next meeting Rabbi Klausner will submit a detailed report on his experiences during his stay in Germany.~~

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter. I will keep you informed on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

318604

kg:iw
encl.

Halper

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE:

3/22/48

NAME OF SUBJECT:

Memo

FROM:

R. R. Grossman

TO:

Executive members

REGARDING:

report by William Halper

SEE:

Camps - DP's

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318605

*Camps Haber
Dr. Kubowitzki*

March 10, 1948

Prof. William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs,
Headquarters, European Command,
Office of the Commander in Chief
APO 757, c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Prof. Haber:

You can hardly imagine how much I appreciated your kind letter of February 20. Today, I received your first extensive and partly disheartening report, which I have read attentively. I suppose your report will be discussed at a meeting of the 5 organizations and so I need not go into this matter now. However, with reference to your remarks concerning the prevailing crisis atmosphere and the necessity to influence the DPs and their representatives in favor of a more constructive program, I think the recognition of the World Jewish Congress would be of great help to you, to the Military Government, and to the Jewish DPs as well. May I recall that Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki told you that we could be of assistance in the vocational program by securing supplies for its execution. Therefore, I urge most earnestly that we be given the opportunity to do a job we are well qualified to perform.

As I have already written you, Mrs. Bradford of PCIRO is very much in favor of our recognition; and in view of the fact that we are already doing this type of work in Austria, we should not be kept from doing it in Germany, too. I want to assure you that we will give you any assistance you may need.

Sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

See Recognition

318606

copy

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND

ALR

Office of the Commander in Chief

February 20, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Your letter of January 19th arrived here on the 2nd of February and, since its coming, I have been in Munich and Vienna. Thus, the delay in acknowledging it and responding to some of your questions. I am sure that you will understand my hesitancy to comment on each of the ten or more items which you touch in your letter. Some of these items, I recognize, do not call for an answer but are sent to me for my information and guidance, as the situation develops. In addition, I have just dictated a rather full report to be sent to the American Jewish Conference for distribution to the cooperating agencies and, when this reaches you, you will know my impressions and reactions to the general situation, which is covered by your specific questions.

On the central issue of your letter, concerning the recognition of the World Jewish Congress, I wish to confer with General Clay and the other military authorities before taking a positive stand on this matter. I have learned that, of the some 650 voluntary agency representatives in Germany, over 80% represent Jewish agencies, and the military leadership is opposed to any further increase in this number. I wish to explore the matter more definitely and form my own impressions independently about this. I am sure I can do so within the next two weeks.

As to the position of the Jewish infiltrates from Roumania, I am exceedingly distressed about this problem. The situation in Austria is calm and under control. The number coming into Austria has declined - less than 400 entered in January. The situation in Germany, however, is critical, since General Clay insists upon carrying out his decision that those who entered after April 21, 1947, cannot remain in DP camps. I have reviewed the matter with him and, thus far, I have made no progress in modifying that stand. I am in constant touch with the Central Committee, and you may rest assured that I shall do whatever is possible to ameliorate the situation.

I shall comment on other issues in your letter at a later date.

Thank you for your cordial wishes,

With warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) WILLIAM HABER

Adviser on Jewish Affairs

APO 757, c/o P.M. New York.

318607

Mr. Kurt R. Grossman.

MEMO

March 10, 1948

to : Mrs. Beigel
from : K.R. Grossman

For : DAILY DIGEST
cc: Dr. Kubowitzki

Report by Prof. William Haber, Jewish Adviser to
General Lucius D. Clay,
addressed to the 5 Jewish organizations.

Following Prof. Haber's letter to the Relief and Rehabilitation Dept. of the WJC, in which he said that he will explore the matter of our recognition as an Operating Agency and make a decision in the next two weeks, Haber now has submitted an extensive report to the 5 organizations dealing with

- 1) Infiltration of Rumanian Jews
- 2) Operations in the black market
- 3) Intension of the Military to close down the "New Palestine" installation (situated in Austria and considered as one of the best living quarters for DPs)
- 4) Austrian Compulsory Work Law.

Haber also reports on his conferences with Gen. Clay, the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in both Munich and Salzburg, the prosecution of DPs, the incident at Heidenheim, etc.

His general impression is that there is a very real sense of a crisis atmosphere in Germany and Austria. The difficulties are likely to increase "if emigration does not get under way within the next 6 months". There is a definite conflict between the Military Mission in Frankfurt and their responsibility to the DPs; the attitude of the Military towards the DPs is "negative".

Black market situation is increasingly dangerous, which affects the Germans, the Military as well as the DPs. Its extensive operation in the DP camps is leading to a great deterioration of the Army's attitude towards the Jewish DPs. Haber is very amazed "at the lack of responsibility assumed by the Central Committee and camp committees in dealing with this problem". There is an increasing pressure for turning over governmental responsibility to German authorities. Haber resisted successfully the proposal to substitute German for DP police. He raised strong objections that German police be given responsibility for entering the camps "in hot pursuit of DPs who violated regulations outside of the camps". Haber criticizes the inactivity prevailing in DP camps "among able-bodied DPs". At the conference with General Lucius D. Clay on February 14 and 15, problems such as anti-Semitism in Germany, Central Committee, black market, and others were taken up. Clay was disappointed that the voluntary agencies have not done a better job in inducing DPs in engaging in vocational activities. Clay had a frank discussion on the question of anti-Semitism

318608

in Germany. He said that anti-Germanism among the Jewish DPs is "perhaps far stronger than the anti-Semitism among the Germans". He fully understands the reason and the emotional background and justification which he appreciated and accepted, but he added "that you cannot develop a more tolerant and friendly relationship between the Germans and DPs in view of this unassailable fact".

Further attached is a report on the raid in the Jewish Assembly Center Heidenheim, where ^{a P.P.} soldier Isaac Gluz was killed.

The question of compulsory labor law is treated in Haber's letter to Major General J.S. Wood of February 17, in which he declares that "on the part of the Jewish DPs" the labor law could be put into effect "provided the following principles are observed:-

- a. To the extent possible the worker should be offered employment at his own trade, occupation, or profession.
- b. The employer should be selected with the greatest of care to insure that Jewish DPs will not be exposed to the supervision or control of Austrians whose records during the Anschluss are such as would reasonably inspire resentment on the part of the Jewish displaced person employed.
- c. In no event should Jewish displaced persons be forced to perform labor in the repair of war damaged property, in the removal of rubble, or in any work that is of a demeaning nature. "

Attached is also a letter from Haber, addressed to Lieutenant General Geoffrey Keyes, Commanding General, U.S. Forces, Austria, in which the question of the Rumanian infiltrates is treated extensively.

Finally Haber asked that the people in the "New Palestine Camp" should not be moved to quarters "that represent a very substantial reduction in the standard of comfort and life that exist in "New Palestine, and that the move should not be made at all, unless it is indispensable to our Military Mission in Austria."

March 10, 1948

MEMO:

To: Dr. Kubowitzki
From: Mr. Grossman

From the very interesting report Professor William Haber submitted to the five organizations, I quote the following paragraph from his Notes on a session with General Lucius D. Clay:

"a. Strengthening the Role of the Adviser's Office. In order to aid the Adviser in understanding and interpreting the many-sided aspects of the DP problem and to develop a constructive program to deal with the issues, he thought my suggestion that two or three persons be invited into the U. S. Zone to survey the total situation and advise with respect to public relations, anti-Semitism, DP leadership and the like, very desirable. He urged only that one of these persons be non-Jewish; for example, Dr. Clinchy. It was left that when I am prepared to make specific recommendations, he will be glad to approve them and to give such a mission a "green light".

I consider this survey of utmost importance and I would suggest that this matter should be discussed (a) by our office committee; (b) recommendations arrived at this office committee meeting should be submitted to the other five organizations with (c) the request to forward them to Professor Haber.

I am of the opinion that we should not only make suggestions about the persons who should make the survey, but about how this survey should be conducted.

KRG:FS

318610

**AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM**

TO: 5 cooperating organizations

DATE: March 15, 1948

FROM: M. Grossman

SUBJECT:

The enclosed is for your information.

318611

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

February 19, 1948

My dear Rabbi Bernstein:

I cabled you on Monday, as per copy enclosed. I resorted to the cable since your letter of February 8rd arrived on the afternoon of the 18th - too late to rely upon air mail to get something to you before your meeting on the 18th. We shall have some information in a few days concerning the methods employed in Bremen for searching or examining the belongings of Jewish DPs who are departing from that port. We have had some inquiries but, so far, we have not been able to get accurate information. I am sure that we are now on the right track and, when it is available, I shall send you a fuller report.

I do not know the source of the complaints concerning the transfer of Jewish apartments to Germans. No such transfer has taken place, to our knowledge, and we have had no complaints to that effect from either the Central Committee or the local committees. There has been considerable discussion as to closing certain camps in order to make the facilities available for other people. Zeilshelm, since the expansion of the Bi-zonal staff in Frankfurt increases the demands for civilian quarters to a very considerable extent. I did not promise my cooperation. In fact, I discussed the matter with General Clay in a two-hour conference on Sunday, which dealt with other matters as well, and I hope we can avoid, or at least defer, the closing of Zeilshelm. General Keyes similarly wishes to close New Palestine, although, in that case, the pressure is to have the apartments available for dependents of American personnel. These are proposals and, to my knowledge, no apartments or other facilities have been turned over to Germans. In any event, we know of none, and I am sure that we would have heard from the camp committees or the Central Committee, had the facts been otherwise.

As to the Austrian work law, I should point out, to begin with, that it does not apply to DPs in assembly centers, awaiting repatriation; or to DPs who have been accepted for emigration to the United States; or, and this is very important, to DPs who are employed in the administration of the camps or in other labors in connection with DP administration; or to DPs who are unable to work. It applies, therefore, to those who are not otherwise engaged (such as in ORT schools or on camp work projects or in camp administration.) In regard to those to whom it does apply, we have insisted upon some very definite strictures: (a) that work offered must be "suitable", that is, in his regular line of work; (b) that great care must be given to whom the employer is to be, in order to avoid DPs working for former Nazis, and (c) that DPs should not be offered work that is de-meaning, such as clearing rubble, fixing war damages and the like. I have urged these safeguards upon General Keyes in Vienna, upon General Wood the IRO Director, who is at present negotiating with the Austrian government the details for the administration of this law. If these safeguards are employed, we would be ill-advised to oppose the Austrian work law. In this conclusion we have the acquiescence of the Central Committee in Salzburg.

318612

every effort should be made to reduce the black market to a minimum.

I discussed the problem with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews functioning in Austria, and am impressed with their desires to launch a campaign against black marketing among the Jewish displaced persons. The Committee asked for the aid of my office in this campaign. I assured them that subject to your approval, either Major Hyman and I, or Major Hyman, alone, will return to Austria and address all of the Jewish displaced persons' installations in your command. The purpose of these addresses will be two-fold: One, to orient the people in the primary mission of the American Army in Austria, and two, to mobilize the sentiment of the camps against those elements that by virtue of their flagrant violation of the law bring the camps into disrepute.

LIQUIDATION OF NEW PALESTINE

The members of your staff in Salzburg informed me that they had recommended to you that Camp New Palestine be closed to make room for American dependents. The present population of New Palestine is 582, and the plan is that in the housing units that contain these people, approximately 40 American families will be settled. I inspected the camp, sounded out the sentiment of the residents and their leaders, and as you may expect, was greeted with a torrent of requests that I make strong representations to you to keep the camp open. On the other hand, your staff asked for my assistance in closing the camp with a minimum of friction between the army and the displaced persons.

At the present time I am in no position to offer any final advice on this question since I do not have sufficient facts on which to base an intelligent appraisal of the projected move. Specifically I do not know what plans the army has with respect to the place or places where the people of New Palestine may be housed. It was intimated by your staff that the people will be transferred to existed camps. I do not know what the housing conditions are in other installations, but if they bear any resemblance to those in Beth Bialik, another DP camp that I visited in Salzburg, then I am inclined to doubt that the necessary space for the New Palestine residents can be found in the existing installations. If and when the plans for the move take final shape, I would appreciate being apprised of the details of the plan and will be pleased to comment on it at that time. In the meantime, I hope that in making the move the army will be guided by two principles

1. That the people in New Palestine should not be moved to quarters that represent a very substantial reduction in the standard of comfort and life that exists in New Palestine.
2. That the move should not be made at all unless it is indispensable to our military mission in Austria.

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION FOR WORK IN THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY

I sounded out the reaction of the Jewish DPs to the new order removing them from the category of those who are not subject to

the Austrian compulsory labor laws. In my opinion the plan to put the Jewish DPs to work in the Austrian economy will not be resisted provided the program is implemented with due regard for the sensibilities of the Jewish displaced persons. If there is substantial truth to the report that I received that there is not enough work available in Austria to employ all who have heretofore been subject to the compulsory labor laws, I seriously doubt whether Jewish DPs will be offered opportunities for employment. However, in principle I would enthusiastically endorse the employment of all employable Jewish DPs subject to the following limitations: -

- a. To the extent possible the worker should be offered employment at his own trade, occupation, or profession.
- b. The employer should be selected with the greatest of care to insure that Jewish DPs will not be exposed to the supervision or control of Austrians whose records during the Anschluss are such as would reasonably inspire resentment on the part of the Jewish displaced person employed.
- c. In no event should Jewish displaced persons be forced to perform labor in the repair of war damaged property, in the removal of rubble, or in any work that is of a demeaning nature.

As I indicated to you, I should like to return to Austria in several weeks to place myself at your disposal or at the disposal of your staff for such time as my services are needed in Austria. I consider 1948 a crucial year in the life of the DP, and want to share your burden in dealing with your problems as it relates to the Jewish displaced persons.

Faithfully yours,

WILLIAM HABER
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

Lieutenant General Geoffrey Keyes
Commanding General
United States Forces, Austria
APO777, US ARMY

318614

COPY

HEADQUARTERS - EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Commander in Chief

Camps

World Jewish Congress

February 10, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

It is obviously too early to give you any kind of a report after less than two weeks in my post. I do wish you to know that I am here and have already been immersed more deeply into the problems than I had hoped would be the case so soon after my coming. There have been a number of "incidents", in one case a rather tragic affair leading to the death of a Jewish person in the Heidenheim Camp. There have also been some serious developments in Austria, as a result of the January 14th order, requiring Jewish DPs to work in the economy and to pay for their sustenance. In addition, there have been increasing difficulties as a result of a renewed determination of the military to deal with the black market - a problem in which, as you already know, our Jewish displaced persons are often quite seriously involved.

Accordingly, I have already been thrown into many conferences with our military personnel, I have met with the Central Committee in Vienna, as well as with the Central Committee for Austria in Salzburg, and I have had a rather fruitful session with General Keyes and his group in Vienna.

Your cablegram, referring to the present procedures for the inspection of belongings of those emigrating through Bremen and other ports, came as I was leaving for Austria. We are inquiring into the origin of this practice, and as soon as we have the facts, we shall do what we can to avoid any abuses and to correct the situation, if it needs it.

I find Major Hyman a tower of strength - quite indispensable to the operation of our office - and I am doing everything possible to have him stay on. I understand that he has come to an understanding with Mr. Kenen on the reimbursement of monies which the former has advanced. Hereafter, these expenditures will be made by me and debited to the account, which you were to arrange.

Cordially yours,

(signed) William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH:mf

Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
621 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y.

318615

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WU N31 INTL N WIEN VIA MACKAY 20 FEB 6
NLT WORLDGRESS NYK

Rec. 2/9/48

PROF HABER VISITED VIENNA DIFFERENCES MI LAUTHORITIES HIGHEST LEVEL LITTLE
ATTENTION AUSTRIA MORE ACTIVE INTEREST AUSTRIA EXPECTED

WORLDGRESS VIENNA

3958-2/9/48-65-KK:ew
ADM 2966

318616

I have written a memorandum to General Keyes on this and related subjects, and I shall, within a day or two, send you a copy, since it deals with this problem in great detail.

You will be interested in two other items. I have had a very excellent session with General Clay, for over an hour and a half on Saturday afternoon and for nearly two hours on Sunday morning. We reviewed many facets of our problem, and I think that the net result of these long discussions has been highly satisfactory. The test will come when I make specific recommendations. If I have time to dictate a summary of this long session, I will send copies to you and to Judge Levinthal.

I know that you will be pleased to hear that Abe Hymen is staying on. That decision was made about four or five days after I came, and I am exceedingly pleased with it. I am in line with the recommendations of Judge Levinthal, and satisfactory arrangements to provide some financial subsidy are being completed. I shall be going to Paris on the 27th to that end.

With warmest regards,

Cordially yours,

William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

Camp - Haber

COPY

**ARMY REFUSES TO GIVE DP STATUS TO RECENT REFUGEES; ORDERS
EVICTION FROM DP CAMPS**

MUNICH, Feb. 24. (JFA) - Gen. Lucius Clay, U. S. commander in Europe, today flatly rejected requests by Jewish leaders here to grant official DP status to Jewish refugees who entered the American zone of Germany after April 21, 1947, and at the same time ordered the recent arrivals to move out of the Jewish DP camps in which they are now living into German refugee centers.

The appeal by Jewish leaders that the approximately 1,000 Jewish refugees from Hungary and Rumania affected by this ruling be permitted to live in a camp apart from German DP's was also turned down. No date for the transfer of the Jews has been set. Dr. William Haber, advisor on Jewish affairs to the U.S. command in Europe, conferred with Gen. Clay on the question of the so-called "illegal" DP's last week.

318618

Camp - Haber

Feb. 24, 1948

Professor William Haber
Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Clay
H. Q. European Command
Office of Chief Staff
APO 757, c/o PM
New York, N. Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

This letter is only a reminder. As I promised to you, I sent you a letter covering all the points we had discussed on January 19, to your new address. I hope that this letter has been received by you, and I am especially interested in having word from you concerning point I contained in it.

I read your letter, dated February 10, addressed to Meir Grossman, and only want to state that the cablegram was sent by me and I thank you for the answer you have given us.

We follow, with deep apprehension, the situation abroad, and would be greatly interested in receiving all your reports.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

KRG:FS

Kurt R. Grossman

318619

Camps-Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE: 2.24.48.

NAME OF SUBJECT: Letter with 5 enclosures

FROM: William Haber, Adviser on Jewish Affairs

TO: Meir Grossman-American Jewish Conference

REGARDING: Jewish situation in DP's Camps

SEE: Camps- DP's

Enclosures: a) Notes on Session with General Lucius D. Clay in Frankfurt
b) Report of the Search and seizure Operation in the Jewish Assembly Center, Heidenheim, Germany, conducted by the Constabulary, on 29 January 1948
c) W. Haber's letter to General Wood
d) W. Haber's memorandum to the Commander in Chief, Headquarters EUCOM
e) W. Haber's letter to General Geoffrey Keyes, Commanding General U.S. Forces, Austria

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318620

Camps - Haber

CROSS * REFERENCE - SHEET

DATE:

2/20/48

NAME OF SUBJECT:

letter

FROM:

William Haber

TO:

Herz Grossman

REGARDING:

Austrian Compulsory Labor Law

SEE:

Camps Work program for DP's

233 - 11/5/46
ADM - 2046

318621

February 20, 1948

MEMO

TO : DR. KIBONITZKI
FROM : K.R. GROSSMAN

Report on the meeting of the 5 organizations on II.19.48.

A meeting of the 5 organizations took place yesterday, which dealt with questions of DPs. This meeting was called at our request. The Jewish Agency was not represented. Rabbi Bernstein attended. The following points were discussed:

- 1) IRO decision of recommending to the General Council to set a deadline of February 1, 1948, for IRO care other than legal. It was decided to investigate in Washington with Captain First whether an intervention would be advisable.
- 2) Compulsory working order Austria.
The matter will be followed up in Washington. I criticized that this matter was not submitted to General Neece, who is the person in charge, and Rabbi Bernstein shared my opinion. Additional reports which we had received from Vienna were read. Further information whether this agreement with the Austrian government had been concluded have to be made. In the meantime I learned that this agreement has been made only in broad outlines. The ramifications of the details are missing.

Regarding the use of German police for searching the baggage of DPs in Bremen, and the request by the Bavarian Minister Josef Mueller, demanding that German police be given the right to enter DP camps in order to make arrests, it was decided to write a letter to Prof. William Haber, reiterating that we are opposed to such measures. In reference to my cable concerning the Bremen matter, Haber informed us, that European Command is investigating who gave this order. "We shall do what we can to avoid any abuses and to correct the situation if it needs" says Prof. Haber.

The Bari incident, on which all other organizations had no information at all, was discussed. In the meantime I spoke with General Wood in Washington who should not be mistaken for the General Wood who negotiated in Austria for the IRO. He said that regarding point 1) only hardship cases were accepted by IRO of refugees now coming in IRO areas.

A letter from Prof. Haber (see enclosure) was distributed. It was also agreed that more meetings than in the past should take place in order to discuss the problems of the DPs. The Stratton Bill was discussed and the stand reaffirmed, that all interventions should be made through the Citizen's Committee On Displaced Persons.

318622

HEADQUARTERS - EUROPEAN COMMAND

Office of the Commander in Chief

February 10, 1948

Dear Mr. Grossman:

It is obviously too early to give you any kind of a report less than two weeks in my post. I do wish you to know that I am here and have already been immersed more deeply into the problems than I had hoped would be the case so soon after my coming. There have been a number of "incidents", in one case a rather tragic affair leading to the death of a Jewish person in the Heidenheim Camp. There have also been some serious developments in Austria, as a result of the January 14th order, requiring Jewish DP's to work in the economy and to pay for their sustenance. In addition, there have been increasing difficulties as a result of a renewed determination of the military to deal with the black market - a problem in which, as you already know, our Jewish displaced persons are often quite seriously involved.

Accordingly, I have already been thrown into many conferences with our military personnel, I have met with the Central Committee in Vienna, as well as with the Central Committee for Austria in Salzburg, and I have had a rather fruitful session with General Keyes and his group in Vienna.

Your cablegram, referring to the present procedures for the inspection of belongings of those emigrating through Bremen and other ports, came as I was leaving for Austria. We are inquiring into the origin of this practice, and as soon as we have the facts, we shall do what we can to avoid any abuses and to correct the situation, if it needs it.

I find Major Hyman a tower of strength - quite indispensable to the operation of our office - and I am doing everything possible to have him stay on. I understand that he has come to an understanding with Mr. Kenen on the reimbursement of monies which the former has advanced. Hereafter, these expenditures will be made by me and debited to the account, which you were to arrange.

Cordially yours,

(sgd) William Haber
Adviser on Jewish Affairs

WH:mf
Mr. Meir Grossman
American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue, New York 17. N. Y.

318623

COPY

18 February 1948

Dear General Keyes:

I should like to reduce to writing my views on some of the problems to which I was introduced during my visit to your command.

ROUMANIAN INFILTRATION:

I spent several hours in the Rothschild Hospital; there conferred with the director, Mr. Bronislaw Teichholz and members of his staff, and spoke with several dozen of the infiltrees. Among those I interviewed were people who had arrived only two days before.

The two principal questions to which I sought answers in my conversation with these people were - first, the motive for this mass migration from Roumania, and second, what may be expected in terms of future migration from that country. To the first question I received a number of answers. The urge to quit Roumania was accounted for by the following factors: -

1. The fear that prolonged economic stress in Roumania will, as in Poland, ultimately lead to violence against Jews.
2. The desire to go to Palestine and the fear that when Russia's control over Roumania is complete it will be impossible to leave Roumania.
3. The economic insecurity resulting from a gradual liquidation of the middle class in Roumania into which group the Jews of that country largely fall.
4. The inability to adjust to a pattern of life that is predominately communistic in inspiration and character.

As to the second question I was informed that during the month of January approximately 400 Roumanian Jews entered Vienna. This represents a very sharp drop in the rate of flow of infiltrees into Austria. The sole reason for this sharp decline is that for all practical purposes the Roumanian-Hungarian border has been closed. After I returned to Frankfurt I learned that within the past three weeks Roumania adopted legislation providing for a prison sentence up to ten years for any person found guilty of crossing the Roumanian-Hungarian border without specific authority. The few people who had penetrated the border did so at the risk of their lives. The husband of one of the women with whom I spoke, the mother of a newly born twin, was shot and killed during their border crossing. The people who managed to reach

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their destination are stealthfully smuggled across between sentry gaps by private border runners. From what meager information I was able to gather, I am inclined to believe that the migration from Roumania is not now being inspired by any organization working within that country.

My opinion is that unless the Roumanian-Hungarian border is effectively sealed the exodus from Roumania will continue despite any campaign that Jewish organizations may launch designed to discourage this migration. At first, it occurred to me that if the American Joint Distribution Committee extended its relief program in Roumania, the effect would be to reduce the number of those pressing to get out. However, after speaking intimately with the new arrivals, I became convinced that any improvement in their economic conditions in Roumania, by American Joint Distribution Committee, or otherwise, would not have the effect of discouraging immigration from that country.

For the reasons stated above an indeterminate number of Roumanian Jews find the urge to leave their country an irresistible one, and although they realize that when they come to Austria they will have to endure hardships far greater than those in Roumania, they are willing to accept reduced rations and a reduced standard of life. These people have lost faith in Central Europe and want to stake out for Palestine or some other country where they will feel secure. Consequently, I feel that in the next coming months further migration from Roumania may be expected unless the hazards of crossing the Roumanian-Hungarian border remain as they are today. There is considerable evidence the border hazards will continue to be serious.

I also believe that what may help to contain these people within Roumania is a positive assurance to those desiring to migrate to Palestine that they will have the opportunity to go to Palestine direct from Roumania. I propose to stress with the Jewish leaders responsible for shaping the immigration policy for the Jewish State in Palestine the imperative need for a program that will relieve the pressure on the US Zone of Occupation.

BLACK MARKETING:

In Salsburg, I gathered the impression that your staff there was greatly concerned with the problem of the black market as it relates to the Jewish displaced persons. I am in no position as yet to comment on the suspicion that Jewish DP's are the most culpable single group with respect to this offense. From the very day I landed on German soil I became aware of the stubborn problem posed by the black market, and by the brazenness with which ration regulations are universally disobeyed by the indigenous people, by the members of the military community, as well as by the displaced persons. As an economist, I seriously question whether any measures can be adopted that will effectively meet the challenge of this problem. In an economy of scarcity the black market is bound to flourish. Despite this general attitude, I wholly agree with the members of your staff that

1 / 20 / 1948

Consultation with Prof. Haber, Newly Appointed Advisor on Jewish Affairs

11.
(8-0)

On January 15, Prof. William Haber, newly appointed Advisor on Jewish Affairs, was received by the Office Committee as a guest and the following points were taken up with him: (a) recognition of the WJC as an operating agency; (b) work program for DP's (only 3,000 have been put to work so far) which the WJC South American constituencies could assist by providing material; (c) need for continued infiltration of Rumanian refugees into Austria; (d) dissensions among DP's which WJC moral authority could help mitigate if invoked; (e) sixty days' ration and clothing to be provided for those emigrating to Palestine and not merely for those being repatriated (f) continued IRO care for refugees who migrate to higher cost areas; and (g) the suggestion that American military authorities send officers sympathetic to the cause of the DP's to German communities where a substantial number of DP's live outside of camps.

Prof. Haber asked a number of detailed questions in order to obtain a clear picture of the situation and after having received explanations from Drs. Goldmann and Kubowitzki and Messrs. Grossman and Zuckerman, declared himself satisfied with the information received and said he would discuss the question of WJC's recognition with General Clay. He expressed his agreement with most of the suggestions advanced by the WJC and promised to further their implementation.

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1/26/48

Camps - Haber

7. Discussion with Prof. William Haber

Dr. Wise welcomes and introduces Prof. William Haber, the new Advisor on Jewish Affairs, who will leave for Germany shortly. Prof. Haber says that he hopes that some of the very grave problems facing the DP's will be settled in the course of the next year if the gates of Palestine are opened, and the great task of immigration to Palestine has to be tackled as well as if this hope is not realized.

Dr. Kubowitzki points out that the very idea of the office of a Jewish advisor originated with the WJC. The question that is uppermost in our minds is recognition of the WJC as an operating agency. WJC affiliates feel deeply that they have not been permitted to give the DP's the full measure of their aid because the technical facilities of an operating agency are not accorded to the WJC. He stresses that all DP organizations in the three zones of Germany and Austria as well as in Italy are WJC affiliates and that the DP's themselves as well as WJC constituencies in South America insist that relief be sent them and distributed through the WJC. Besides WJC could accomplish a good deal in settling difficulties that have arisen among various DP groups and between the DP's and their leadership if its representatives could handle the situation on the spot.

Prof. Haber asks a number of detailed questions in order to obtain a clear picture of the situation: why did not former Jewish advisors favor recognition of the WJC; what would be the specific function of the WJC as compared with other agencies; are the military authorities opposed to dealing with more than one organization for relief work; how big a team would the WJC send to Germany; how many supplies are involved?

Drs. Goldmann and Kubowitzki and Messrs. Grossman and Zuckerman supply the necessary information: Recognition may have been opposed by Rabbi Phil Bernstein because of the fear that if the WJC were recognized, several American

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Jewish organizations might ask for the same privilege. The point is made that Judge Louis E. Levinthal is now in favor of granting the status of operating agency to the WJC and Miss Bradford of IRO is opposed to the JDC having a monopoly position in the field of relief. The WJC would be satisfied with a small team because it could count on the cooperation of the Central Committees of Liberated Jews, its affiliates. Many Jewish organizations have the status of operating agency in addition to the JDC, for instance Jewish Agency, ORT, HIAS, Central Jewish Fund, etc. Figures for relief supplies sent by the WJC are given (more than \$600,000 of supplies were sent to Germany in one year), and it is stressed that relief shipments could undoubtedly be increased if WJC's South American constitutencies were sure that their contribution would be handled by the organization in which they put their confidence.

Mr. Haber declares himself satisfied with the information received and says that he will discuss the question with General Clay. He stresses that he has a completely open mind but also that he does not want in any way to antagonize the military authorities, on whose goodwill the entire fate of the DP's depends so decisively.

The additional questions enumerated above are then taken up with Mr. Haber. Regarding the situation of Rumanian Jewish infiltrees in Austria and the suggestion advanced by Mr. Fisher, Mr. Haber feels that the army is concerned not so much about the cost but about its responsibility to the Congressional Committee. He feels sure that the Austrian DP camps will not be closed before the Austrian Treaty has come into force. Mr. Haber promises to take up with IRO the question of extending its care to the refugees who migrated to Italy and also the question of sixty-days' rations and clothing for Jewish refugees leaving for Palestine. He expresses his gratification at the amount of books the WJC has sent to the DP's in Germany and promises to take up Mr. Grossman's suggestion that American military authorities send officers sympathetic to the cause of the DP's to German communities where a substantial number of DP's live outside of camps.

Camps - Prof. W. Haber

O. C. W. makes
11/15/48

4. Agenda for Discussion with Prof. William Haber-

Dr. Wise suggests that the OC decide upon the points to be taken up with Prof. William Haber. Dr. Kubowitzki summarizes the topics: (a) recognition of the WJC as an operating agency; (b) work program for DP's (only 3,000 have been put to work so far) which WJC South American constituencies could help by providing material; (c) need for continued infiltration of Rumanian refugees into Austria; (d) disagreement among DP's which WJC moral authority could help mitigate, if invoked; (e) 60 days ration and clothing to be provided

for those emigrating to Palestine and not merely for those being repatriated; (f) continued IRO care for refugees who migrate to higher cost areas.

Dr. Federbush raises the question whether Prof. Haber should be asked to assist in the recognition of the Jewish Restitution Commission. Dr. N. Robinson answers that the difficulties were made by the War Department in Washington and not by the military authorities in Germany, and that appropriate steps are being taken here.

318029

RCA

January 21, 1948

HLT
William Haber
European Command
Chief Staff Office
APO 757 c/o Postmaster New York

World Jewish Congress strongly urges abandonment new army ruling
permitting German police inspect belongings emigrants waiting
Bremen stop ruling humiliates refugees gives opportunity seize
belongings of Displaced Persons will cause new tensions and
possible violence stop IRO also promised to protest ruling

Grossman

54 wds
krg iv
OK:
Charge: World Jewish Congress

318630

January 19, 1948

Professor William Haber
Headquarters, European Command,
Office of Chief of Staff
APO 757
c/o Postmaster New York, N.Y.

Dear Professor Haber:

I am most grateful that you gave me an opportunity last Wednesday and Thursday, to talk to you about the many problems in our mind. I repeat with all sincerity my best wishes for the difficult mission you have agreed to undertake. Indeed, 1948 will be a decisive and historic year for the Jews, and I am sure you consider it a privilege being able to play such an important part in it.

On Thursday, we made to you several suggestions which I like to repeat and add some which could not be discussed at our meeting.

1) Recognition of the World Jewish Congress as an operating agency. IRO has granted us this recognition and is in favor of our operation in the U.S. occupied zone of Germany. According to the agreement IRO has with the Army, IRO coordinates and supervises the activities of voluntary agencies, subject to the approval of Headquarters. Mr. Fisher of the Civil Affairs Division, Washington, told me that he cannot see any obstacle, if you, the Jewish Advisor, will be in favor of our operation. This operation is essential in view of the distribution of our relief supplies, the investigation of existing needs, the representation of the interests of our affiliates in the U.S. occupied zone, and last but not least for very technical reasons, such as following up shipments, checking damages, submitting documents for insurance claims, etc.etc. As I told you, a substantial damage incurred because we did not have our own people in Germany to trace shipments and to present the claims in the right way.

2) The problem of the Jewish infiltrates from Rumania is uppermost in our mind and we suggested to you to look into

318631

Prof. William Haber

Jan. 19, 1948

this matter. PCIRO should recognize these people and General Keyes should approve of this recognition. If possible, separate camps should be created as suggested also by Judge Levinthal.

3) The problem of vocational training should be given more attention than it has been done in the past. I refer to Judge Levinthal's report to which we agree on the basis of the information we have received. The World Jewish Congress, when able to operate in Germany, can do something to meet this challenge. I consider this problem of utmost importance in view of the fact that people will become more and more impatient in Germany. The best way to relax existing tensions will be by putting our people to useful work.

4) There is a certain number of small German cities in which Jewish DP's already constitute an important percentage of the population. In some of these cities the percentage is 25, in others 35 up to 50%. It is recommended, therefore, that in such cities Military Government officers should be chosen who have a favorable approach to the DP's problems. Only such officers can avoid frictions.

5) The movement of the so-called illegal ALYIA should not be prevented by the American authorities. This movement should get the tacit assistance by the Military Government as long as it is necessary.

6) Jews who are leaving for Palestine or any other destination of final resettlement should be treated in the same way as people who are repatriated. That means they should get rations for 60 days, or if they choose to, clothing, shoes, underwear, etc. instead of food.

7) All German Jews living outside should be treated as DP's living outside of camps, with a favorable interpretation for those who were hidden during the Nazi rule or who are living in mixed marriages.

8) Special attention should be given to the health situation of the Jews. Reports indicate that TB cases are above average.

9) In order to decrease frictions between DP's and the German population we suggest, that under no circumstances German police or German guards be used to keep order in DP's camps and DP's areas. The authority of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. Occupied Zone, Siebertstr. 3, Munich, should be strengthened, and all their endeavors to expand self administration should be encouraged.

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Prof. William Haber

Jan. 19, 1948

10) We all are aware of the growing anti-Semitism in Germany. Reports indicate that the DP's play a prominent role in the propaganda. It seems necessary to investigate whether the following measures could help in decreasing the existing anti-Semitic trends:

a) Allocation of more means for vocational training courses for Jewish DP's, more schools, more educational courses (Hebrew and other languages).

b) Publication of articles in German newspapers about the Jewish problem.

c) A certain number of German written Jewish papers such as "Die Neue Welt" should be distributed among Germans in key positions.

d) The work started by Judge Levinthal with a certain type of Germans who put themselves at his disposal in fighting anti-Semitism in Germany should be continued and especially the people from the League for Human Rights, the German Peace Society, and other small but important German cultural associations should be enlisted in these efforts.

11) Reports from Germany and Austria indicate that, unfortunately, there is an internal Jewish strife going on. The Revisionists fight the Labor Zionists, and physical violence has broken out among the Jews. The Jewish Advisor, coming from the United States, has the authority to mitigate this regrettable situation. It is clear that such occurrences are not favorable to the Jews as a whole, neither with the Americans nor with the German or Austrian population. The Jewish Advisor, therefore, should use his influence to acquiesce such internal Jewish political strife. The Jewish DP's will have an opportunity in Palestine to express their political views in a normal democratic procedure.

I am grateful for your kind assurance allowing me to approach you whenever it is necessary, and I hope that you will forgive me for trying to submit to you the problems which we here consider most urgent.

With all best wishes and Godspeed,

sincerely yours,

318633

Kurt R. Grossman
Acting Head,
Relief and Rehabilitation Department
World Jewish Congress

MEMO

January 12, 1948

to: Dr. Kubowitzki
from: K.R. Grossman

I had a lengthy conversation with Dr. S. Gringauz concerning the mission of Prof. Haber. Below please find the revised outline for our discussions with Prof. Haber.

O U T L I N E

- 1) Rumanian infiltrates in Austria.
- 2) Recognition of the WJC as an Operating Agency.
- 3) All German Jews living outside should be treated as DP's living outside of camps, with a favorable interpretation for those who were hidden during the Nazi rule or who are living in mixed marriages.
- 4) Jews who are leaving for Palestine or any other destination of final resettlement should be treated in the same way as people who are repatriated. That means they should get rations for 60 days, or if they choose to, clothing, shoes, underwear etc. instead of food.
- 5) Special attention should be given to the health situation of the Jews. Reports indicate that TB cases are more than average.
- 6) In order to decrease frictions in Germany, Haber should be requested to see to it that at present and in the future no German police and no German guards are being used to keep order in DP camps and DP areas. The authority of the Central Committee in Munich should be strengthened and all measures of selfadministration should be encouraged.
- 7) Haber should try to investigate the reason for the increased anti-Semitism in Germany. As reports indicate, the DP's play a prominent role in the propaganda. It seems necessary to investigate whether the following measures could help in decreasing the existing anti-Semitic trends:

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- a) Allocation of more means for vocational training courses for Jewish DP's, more schools, more educational courses (Hebrew and other foreign languages).
 - b) Publication of articles in German Newspapers about the Jewish problem.
 - c) A certain number of German written Jewish papers such as "Die Neue Welt" should be distributed among Germans in key positions.
 - d) The work started by Judge Levinthal with ^a certain type of Germans who put themselves at his disposal in fighting anti-Semitism in Germany should be continued and especially the people from the "League for Human Rights, the German Peace Society, and other small but important German cultural associations should be enlisted in these efforts.
- 8) The movement of the so-called illegal ALYIA should not be prevented by the American authorities. This movement should get the tacid assistance by the Military Government as long as it is necessary.
- 9) The time may come when no Jewish Advisor will be appointed. Therefore, Prof. Haber should support the Central Committee, Munich, in its contacts with the Military Government. The authority of the Central Committee should be entrenched so strongly with the U.S. Military Government in Frankfurt that it can take over at any time the role the Jewish Advisor has played in case that no new appointment will be forthcoming.
- 10) There is a certain number of small German cities in which Jewish DP's already constitute an important percentage of the population. In some of these cities the percentage is 25, in others 35, up to 50%. It is recommended, therefore, that in such cities military government officers

should be chosen who have a favorable approach to the DP's problems. Only such officers can avoid frictions.

11) Reports from Germany and Austria indicate that, unfortunately, there is an internal Jewish strife going on. The Revisionists fight the Labor Zionists and physical violence has broken out among the Jews. The Jewish Advisor, coming from the U.S., has the authority to mitigate this regrettable situation. It is clear that such occurrences are not favorable to the Jews as a whole, neither with the Americans nor with the German or Austrian population. Therefore, Prof. Haber should use his influence to ^{acquiesce} ~~suppress~~ such internal Jewish political strife. The Jewish DP's will have an opportunity in Palestine to express their political views in a democratic normal procedure.

NAME OF SUBJECT

Memo

FROM: K. R. Grossman
TO: Dr. Robert Haber

REGARDING:

Mission of Prof. Haber

Recognition

SEE:

2
Camps - name

January 8, 1948

Dr. S. Gringauz
117 W 96 St
New York 25, NY

Dear Dr. Gringauz :

I should appreciate it if I could talk to you tomorrow or latest Monday, in connection with departure of Professor William Haber as the new Jewish Advisor to Germany. I suppose that you have valuable suggestions to offer and I would like to include these suggestions in our bill of particulars, which we like to present to Prof. Haber.

Will you be good enough to contact me immediately upon receipt of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Kurt R. Grossman

krq iw

318638

January 7, 1948.

Professor William Haber
Department of Economics
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor. Mich.

You are cordially invited attend World Jewish Congress
Office Committee Meeting January 15 3 pm Kindly
confirm acceptance

Schwarzbart

18 words

Charge to World Jewish Congress

IS:sk

VIA WESTERN UNION

318069

CROSS-REFERENCE SHEET

DATE:

1/6/48

NAME OR SUBJECT

Memo

FROM:

K R Grossman

TO:

Dr. Kulowitch

REGARDING:

discussion with Prof. Hales

SEE:

100 - Recognition

SECRET
NO FORN DISSEM
NO UNCLASSIFIED
NO UNCLASSIFIED
NO UNCLASSIFIED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08/14/01 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP

FOR INFORMATION OF THE DIRECTOR, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE
DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ON 12/29/47 AT WASHINGTON, D.C. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD
BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND THE
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE UNIVERSITY.

WJC Headquarters Cable Sheet

Restricted

These Cable Sheets must not be
communicated to anyone not ex-
pressly authorized by the Execu-
tive to receive them

2825 WU D40 PD CHICAGO ILL DEC 29 103P
I.S. I SCHWARZBART WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS NYK

Rec. 12/29/47

DEFINITELY PLANNING TO CONSULT WITH YOU ADVISE YOU LATER AS TO TIME

WILLIAM HABER

318641