

19.6.1944.

*Dr. Brandt (2)*  
Following for Dr. Weizmann from Sztok

According text telegram from friends in Budapest transmitted by Istanbul unless Brandt and other person who accompanied him to Istanbul return to Hungary immediately everything will be lost. Both Brandt and other person are now in Cairo. We hold no brief for other person and must leave his fate to be decided by competent British authorities. But Brandt came as emissary remnant European Jewry who in interests its rescue accepted mission from enemies on clear understanding that he return with reply. Although realising that his return alone and with definite answer may cause his death immediately he is desperately anxious carry out bargain and return in hope that his report about delivery message and its consideration in high quarters will help gain time and prevent precipitation calamity. We consider his return most imperative if slightest chance rescue is to be preserved. We regard this as first indispensable step giving effect to line agreed by Mr. Eden of gaining time and not closing door. For same reason we consider it equally essential that some immediate indication be given to other side of readiness negotiate regarding rescue Jews urging same time immediate discontinuation deportations and slaughter pending meeting. Please do utmost regarding both matters also about my quickest return London as we all believe my first hand contact with Brandt will help clarify matters more than any telegraphic report. Cable.

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
*m. Miller*

CORRECTED COPY OF PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate General, Jerusalem  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: June 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 82

**CONTROL COPY**

It is requested by Shertok that Nahum Goldmann receive the substance of the following message:

The British Embassy has probably informed you of the offer by the Nazis to evacuate, primarily from Hungary, the remnants of European Jewry. Joel Brandt, trusted Hungarian Zionist, brought the message and was sent to Istanbul May 19 on Wehrmacht plane with a view to return within two or three weeks with the reply. The offer ostensibly was to exchange Jews for goods of specified kinds and amounts. The evacuees were to proceed to Spain. On receipt of favorable reply concerning the whole scheme the first substantial transport was to be sent out without consideration. The conditions of the exchange sounded fantastic but it was decided to explore it. We immediately informed the High Commissioner who reported to London in full with request that Washington and you be advised. Every possible aid was given by the Commissioner to assist me to proceed to Turkey for the purpose of interviewing Brandt. My


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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

departure was delayed because of visa difficulties. At Aleppo I eventually met Brandt. It was originally agreed by British authorities Jerusalem Istanbul that Brandt should return to Turkey with a view to ~~proceeding~~ <sup>proceeding</sup> to Hungary from there but his transportation to Cairo, where he is detained, was ordered by higher quarters. Istanbul is now being informed by our friends in Budapest that everything will be lost unless Brandt returns at once. Following my report the conclusions of the executives are that while the exchange proposition may be mere eye wash and that there is a possibility of ulterior motives, it must be assumed that it is not improbable that even preliminary negotiations might result in a substantial number being saved. According to information received by us it was agreed by Eden during conversation with Weitzmann that the policy should be to gain time to avoid the other side obtaining the impression that the Allies are slamming the door and refusing to even give the matter consideration. Although the helpfulness of this attitude is appreciated, it is felt by us that more is warranted. It has been proposed that steps should be taken at once with a view to ~~exploring~~ <sup>exploring</sup> the possibility of meeting with German representatives say in Madrid or Lisbon for the purpose of discussing the rescue of Jews urging at the same time that pending the

meeting deportations and slaughter be discontinued at once. Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, War Refugee Board, Red Cross or any other suitable agency might be the body appearing on behalf of the Allies. It has also been urged that Brandt return at once to report that the message has been delivered and that active consideration is being given to it. I have also requested urgent priority for me to fly to London. It is requested that you act in accordance with this.

A message similar to this has been sent through the British Government to Weizmann.

PINKERTON

  
DCR:FDB:HL

6/28/44

2 - War Ref. Bd.  
Mr. Peck

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate, Jerusalem  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: ~~JUNE~~ 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 89

CONTROL COPY

PH



The War Refugee Board is requested by Isaac Gruenbaum, Jewish Agency, to send the following to Rabbi Wise.

We have received information from Istanbul that confirms deportation of 400,000 Hungarian Jews to Poland and the imminent deportation of remaining 350,000 now concentrated in Budapest and neighborhood. Information that we have received expressly states that direct causes of intensified deportation is the detention of two men. Competent authorities are urged to be impressed their assistance was asked fully trusting, if they are not able to help at least it will not make things worse which they did by the detention two men. Urge therefore, first, immediate return of the two men; second, immediate agreement meeting Lisbon; and third, adoption meanwhile of extraordinary measures, including retaliatory measures, repeatedly suggested with view to interfering with deportation.

PINKERTON

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

DCR:VAG 7/1/44

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*Equal Refugee Ref. m. Palle*

FROM: The American Consul General, Jerusalem  
TO: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: July 11, 1944  
NUMBER: 97

**CONTROL COPY**

*4/13*

*x*

~~SECRET~~

*7/18/44  
Res Palle  
well as  
G. Goldman  
in this  
74*

I have been asked by **Bengurion**, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, to transmit through the War Refugee Board the following message to Nahum Goldman:

On behalf of the Jewish Agency Executive, please transmit to President Roosevelt the following:

A proposal emanating from apparently influential enemy sources at Budapest has been received by this agency. The readiness of the Nazis to release one million Hungarian Rumanian Jews, after two years of continuous slaughter of European Jews, on the condition known to the Department of State and proposing negotiations to that end is indicated in this proposal. Jewish Agency immediately transmitted this proposal to the Governments of America and Britain. A well known Budapest Zionist was the Jewish Emissary whom the Nazis sent with this proposal. At the present time he is detained in Cairo by British security authorities. The Jewish Agency earnestly appeals to you not to allow this unique and possibly last chance of saving the remains of European Jewry to be lost although it is fully realized that the exigencies of war are primary consideration. Even if there may be some doubts concerning the proposal in its present form we would urgently and

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respectfully submit that suitable arrangements be made to discuss the proposal with representatives of the enemy group from which it emanated, and that the door should not be closed. Therefore we plead that you may see fit to give your support to the following proposals which the Jewish Agency has also submitted to the Government of Britain: (1) Through appropriate channels to intimate to other side immediately, readiness to nominate representative to discuss rescue and transfer the largest number of Jews possible, and (2) to intimate to the other side that the preliminary condition to any discussion is the discontinuance of deportations immediately.

PINKERTON

DCR:MPL  
7/13/44