

883.7 REFUGEES (MISC)

LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. 383.7 REFUGEES (Miscellaneous)

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	Sec of War	5/17/45	Sec of State	Letter encl. excerpt from American Embassy in France re repatriation of liberated French and Russians
1	Sec of War	5/27/45	Sec of State	Letter re liberated Polish prisoners of War in Germany.
2	Maj. Gen. Hilldring	5/30/45		Memo enclosing correspondence circulated for information re: Request for Report on Supply and Displaced Persons at 3rd Meeting of UNRRA Council.
3		6/25/45 6/30/45		Correspondence re* Request for Authorization of 162 Soviet repatriation Officers to proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway.
4	Sec of War	6/26/45	Sec of State	Correspondence re return of Soviet Nationals to Soviet Russia.
5	Col. Chandler	7/27/45	SWNCC	Re Jewish people in U.S. Zones of Occupation in Germany.
6	Sec of War	7/31/45	Sec of State	Memo re participation by American Mil. Attache to participate in investigation of treatment accorded Soviet internees by the Swiss.
7	Sec Stimson	8/11/45	A /Sec State	Letter re agreement to transfer Soviet German POW to Soviet Union
8	Gen. McFarland Mr. Matthews Col. Peck Sec. Reid Mr. Matthews	3/14/46 3/15/46 3/16/46 3/21/46 3/20/46	SWNCC Sec. of State SWNCC, SEC'S. JCS SWNCC	Memo re: Soviet Repatriation Mission in U.S. Zone, Austria (Messages CM-6613 & CM2777)
9	Col. Peck	3/29/46	Sec. SWNCC	Memo re : Removal of Soviet Repatriation Mission in U. S. Zone; Austria.
10 * Filed	Sec. Reid 383.7 FRENCH REFUGEES	5/16/46	JCS	RE: Request of French Government for Assistance in Evacuation of French Nationals from the Far East.
11	Sec. of War	5.27/46	Sec. of State	Re: Repatriation of Germans from Shanghai on or about 15 June.

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

OPD 3393
LtColonel JWK/rbl

- State Member
- Army Member
- Navy Member
- Ass't State Member
- Ass't Army Member
- Ass't Navy Member
- Executive Secretary
- Ass't Executive Secretary
- State Adm. Assistant
- Army Adm. Assistant
- Navy Adm. Assistant
- File

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
 383.7
Refugees - SWNCC
(Cross)

OPD 014.3 (17 May 46)

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Executive Secretary -----
 Ass't Executive Secretary -----
 State Adm. Assistant -----
 Army Adm. Assistant -----
 Navy Adm. Assistant -----
 File -----

27 MAY 1946

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, the repatriation of the Germans referred to in your letter of 17 May is a Chinese responsibility. However, in view of Chinese reluctance to effect repatriation, General Wedemeyer informed the War Department of the situation and strongly urged that the United States take the initiative in the matter since the Germans were and would undoubtedly continue undermining the United States position in China. It appeared at that time that this was a governmental matter and one that should properly be handled by the State Department. However, since State Department representation in China had not become fully operational due to the difficulties of reestablishing offices after the cessation of hostilities, General Wedemeyer took his action.

I agree with you that the removal of these Germans is a necessity, be it military or otherwise. I also agree that the United States would be subject to criticism by the Chinese if we did not meet the shipping date as previously indicated. However, since the War Department informed General Wedemeyer that shipping would be made available, unexpected difficulties have arisen in making the necessary shipping available. Through a series of circumstances, forced on the War Department by public and Congressional opinion, we have had to take steps which now make it extremely difficult for us to meet our previous commitments with Army shipping.

It is true that it is in the national interest to repatriate American civilians from overseas. But in most cases civilians went overseas voluntarily and in furtherance of their own personal interests, whereas military personnel were sent overseas without regard to their personal interests or wishes and in furtherance of national interests. Therefore, in my opinion, governmental agencies would be subject to just criticism if the return of military personnel were to be delayed by placing civilian personnel in a higher priority.

Copy for SWNCC

①

Since two vessels will in all probability be required to effect the repatriation of all the Germans, and the War Department is making one vessel available at the expense of returning armed forces personnel from the Pacific, I request that you authorize the release of the MARINE ANGEL or some other vessel to assist in carrying out this operation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON,

Secretary of War

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1945



MAR 25 1945

C52772

383.7

*Refugees
mission*

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

TOP SECRET

29 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIES, STATE-WAR-NAVY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Removal of Soviet Repatriation Mission
in U.S. Zone, Austria.

Reference: SWN 4067.

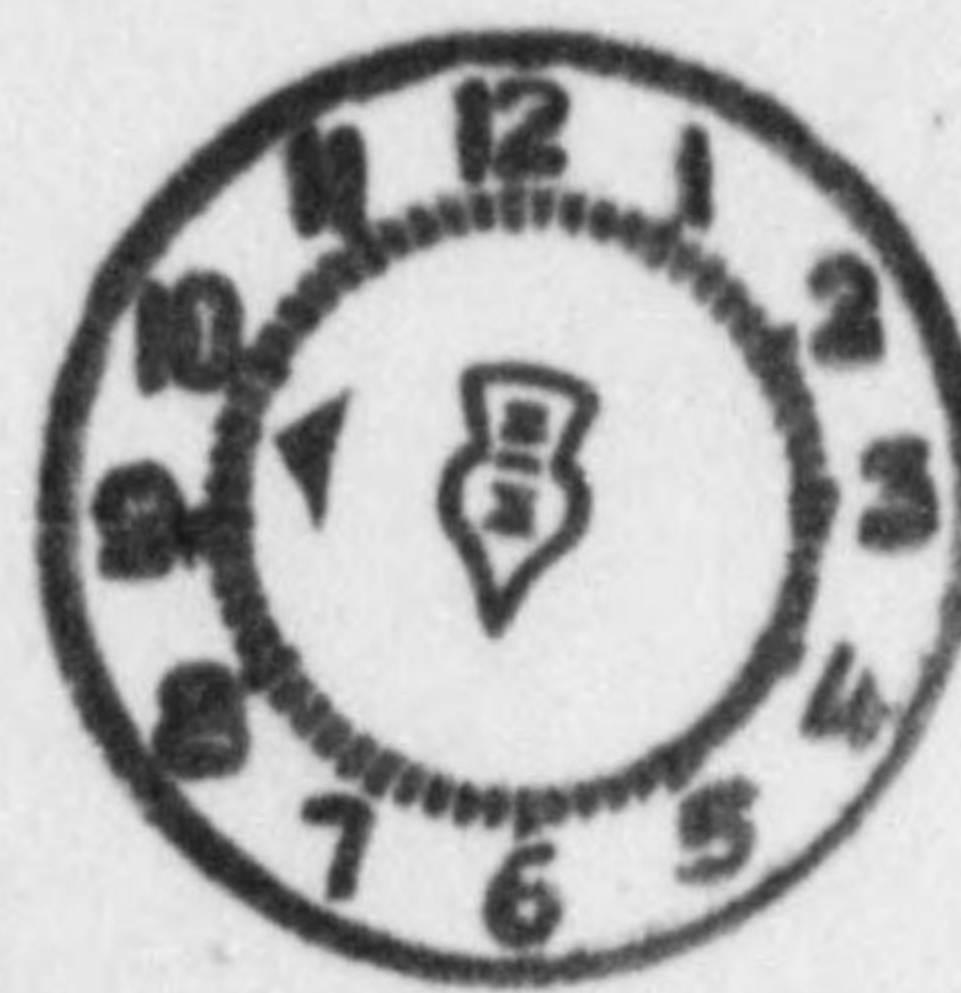
Enclosure: WARX 82416 (Mar 46), Copy No. 22.

The Enclosure is forwarded for your information.

C. R. Peck
C. R. PECK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Executive Secretary.

SWNCC	
Colonel A. D. Reid	<i>add</i>
Commo. B. L. Austin	<i>JA</i>
Mr. R. E. Cox	=====
Colonel Schulgen	=====
Comdr. Richardson	=====
Mr. H. W. Moseley	<i>JA</i>
Mr. J. P. Gardiner	=====
Lt. Col. V. F. Field	<i>JA</i>
Major H. W. Karbel	=====
1st Lt. T. W. Weiner	=====
Ens. F. Whiteside	=====
File	=====

MAR 30 1946



2421

STATE WAR & NAVY COORDINATING
COMMITTEE

TOP SECRET

9

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
OUTGOING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

**TOP
SECRET**

TOP SECRET

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARAS 51 (1) AND 60 (a). AR 380-5

Joint Chiefs of Staff,
W.D. Ext. 77500,
Col. C. R. Peck, Inf.

28 March 1946

Commander in Chief
U.S. Forces of Occupation Austria
Vienna, Austria

Number: WAR 82416

TOPSEC to Clark from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On recommendation of State Department, action proposed
in penultimate paragraph your P-4575, 13 March, is approved.

End.

Note: P 4575 is CM-IN-2777 (13 March 46).

ORIGINATOR: JC/S

DISTRIBUTION: Admiral Leahy
General Spaatz
General Hull
General Paul
General Vandenberg (for State)
General Echols
Admiral Nimitz
Mr. Petersen
C. of S.

CM-OUT-82416

(Mar 46)

DTG
TOP SECRET

281858Z

jif

COPY NO.

22

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

TOP SECRET

383.7
Refugees
Mac
VFF:aj

SWN-4067
22 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:

Subject: Soviet Repatriation Mission in U. S. Zone, Austria.

- References:
- a. SW-5366
 - b. CM-IN-6613
 - c. CM-IN-2777

Reference is made to SW-5366 dated 14 March 1946 which transmitted CM-IN-2777 for comments of the Department of State on the action proposed in the penultimate paragraph therein.

The Department of State recommends that approval be given to the proposed action, and that a telegram to this effect be sent to CG, USFA, Vienna.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

A. D. REID,
Secretary

COPY FOR SWICC FILE

TOP SECRET

8

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



TOP SECRET

March 20, 1946.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FROM THE ACTING STATE MEMBER:

Subject: Soviet Repatriation Mission in U.S. Zone,
Austria.

There are attached copies of CM-IN-6613 (29 January 1946) and CM-IN-2777 (13 March 1946) which were forwarded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff with the request that the Department of State comment on the action proposed in the penultimate paragraph of CM-IN-2777.

I recommend that approval be given to the proposed action and that a telegram to this effect be sent to CG, USFA, Vienna.

H. Freeman Matthews
H. Freeman Matthews
Acting State Member

Enclosures:

1. CM-IN-6613
2. CM-IN-2777

(8)

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
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TOP SECRET TOP
CORRECTED COPY

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARA 44g and 53a AR 380-5.

From: Headquarters United States Forces in Austria,
Vienna, Austria

To: War Department

Re: P-1666

25 January 1946

Reference number P-1666 TOP SECRET from General
Clark United States Forces in Austria to Joint Chief of
Staff.

I desire to report to you incident in United States
Zone involving members of a Soviet Repatriation Mission.
On evening 23 January 3 officers and 1 enlisted man of the
Soviet Mission stationed at Salzburg were caught by the CIC
in the act of forcibly attempting to kidnap an Austrian
citizen living in Salzburg. One officer was dressed in the
complete uniform of the United States Military Police with
helmet liner bearing markings of the 250th United States
Military Police Battalion, which Unit is stationed in Salz-
burg. Second officer wore a civilian overcoat over his Red
Army Uniform and a civilian hat. Third officer wore a
civilian overcoat over his Red Army uniform and a Red Army
cap without insignia. The enlisted man was driver of car
and wore Red Army uniform. All were armed. Officers were
threatening the Austrian citizen with pistols when arrested
and confined. Acts of this group constitute flagrant viola-
tion of authority of Soviet Repatriation Group and mutual
understanding between me and Konev.

I reported above incident to Marshal Konev by dis-
patching my deputy commander to Konev's Chief of Staffs on
evening 24 January and requested Konev to take custody of
the group at Linz at 1400 hours today where they were deliv-
ered under United States escort. I also asked that the

CM-IN-6613

(29 Jan 46)

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COPY NO. 53④

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CORRECTED COPY

Page 2

FROM: Headquarters United States Forces in Austria,
Vienna, Austria.

Nr: 1-1656

25 January 1946

remainder of the Mission of which these four were a part be withdrawn from the United States Zone immediately as there is evidence that all members of this Mission have been involved in Intelligence Activities since they have been in our Zone. Today I dispatched a letter to Konev confirming the report and reiterating my requests made by my deputy commander to Konev's Chief of Staff last night.

Another Soviet Repatriation Mission to relieve on referred to above is working in United States Zone for 30 days as per agreement between Konev and me. I will see that this one is removed as soon as repatriation work is completed, which I will try to have accomplished by the end of 30 day period.

End

Corrected copy of CM-IN-5926 (26 Jan). Gen MacFarland

ACTION: Gen MacFarland

INFO : Adm Leahy, Gen Arnold, Gen Hull, Gen Hilldring,
Adm Nimitz, C of S

CM-IN-6613

(29 Jan 46) DTG 252209A

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OPERATIONAL PRIORITY
PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARAS 44g and 53a AR 380-5.

SUPPLEMENTARY COPY

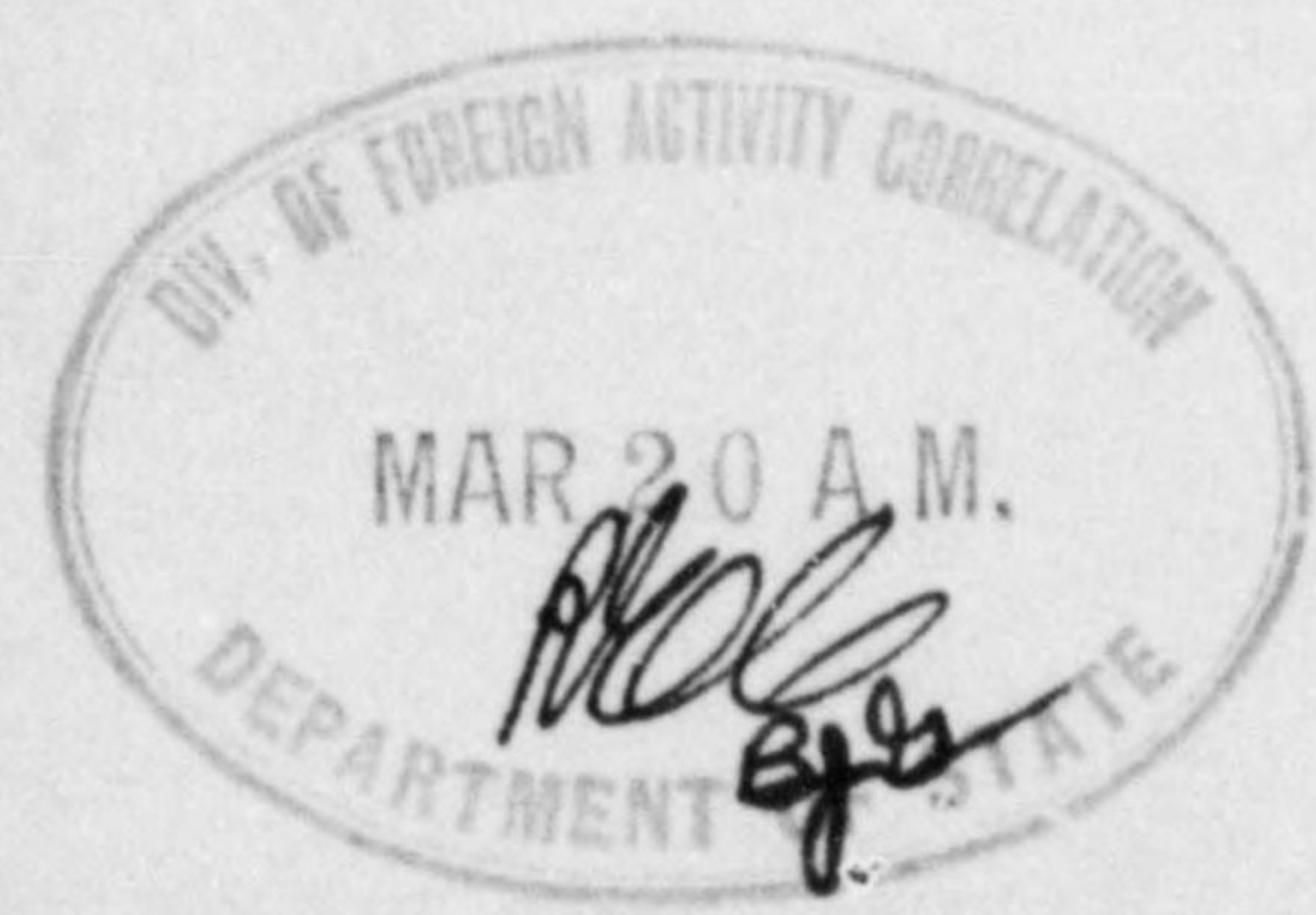
FC-REC
EUR-Matthews

From: CG USFA Vienna Austria
To: War Department
Nr: P 4575 13 March 1946

From USFA cite PASGS to JCS from Clark pass to State
Dept. TOP SECRET P 4575.

FC-REC

Corrected DTG to message number.



Supplementary copy of CM-IN-2777 (13 Mar) JCS

- ACTION: JCS
- INFO : Adm Leahy
- Gen Spaatz
- Gen Hull
- Gen Paul
- Gen Vandenberg(State)
- Gen Hilldring
- Adm Nimitz
- Mr Petersen
- C of S

CM-IN-3296 (15 Mar 46) DTG 131737A 1s

TOP SECRET

MAR 15 1946

COPY NO.

42

8

*RETURN TO
Classified Message Center
Room 2D 9A*

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 TOP SECRET TOT

**TOP
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OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
 PER PARAGRAPHS 44g and 53a, AR 380-5.

From: CG, USFA, Vienna, Austria

To: War Department

DTG: 13 NPT

13 March 1946

TOP SECRET. From USFA cite PASGS to JCS from Clark
 pass to State Department.

Soviet Mission in US Zone is subject.
 Soviet repatriation mission in some form has been
 operating in Salzburg since last May. There has been ample
 time to complete their task if these missions had concentrated
 their full efforts on repatriation. My TOP SECRET message
 P-1666 dtd 25 Jan sets forth some of the activities engaged
 in by such missions. The group referred to in that message
 was immediately returned to the Soviet occupational area and
 a new mission continued repatriation activities.

The Soviet Command requested that the time of the
 new mission be extended in order that it could complete its
 work. An extension to 20 Feb was granted. At the time
 extension was requested the Soviet Command pointed out that
 there were great numbers of repatriable Soviets in the US
 Zone, and when questioned further on this subject, it was
 revealed that their lists included White Russians, Western
 Ukrainians, and Balts, which groups are not within the scope
 of my Soviet repatriation directives. They even went so far
 as to state we should deliver to Soviet authorities without
 question anyone desired by them. It was pointed out that the
 Soviet Command possessed a statement of the policy of the
 United States on the subject of forced repatriation, which I
 transmitted to Marshal Konev on 5 Jan, and that the US element
 would not deviate from this policy.

GM IN 2777

(13 Mar 46)

TOP SECRET

COPY NO. 75724

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INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET TOT

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

**TOP
SECRET**

Page 2

From: CG, USFA, Vienna, Austria

DTG: 13 NPT

13 March 1946

On 20 Feb the Soviet Command again requested an extension of time sufficient to allow the mission to complete its work. While I am satisfied the Soviet Missions could have completed their work long ago if the group we have had in the zone had made repatriation their primary task, I agreed to a further extension until 15 March, and at that time I informed Marshal Konev no further extension of time would be granted and requested that he inform the mission to complete its work by that time.

On 28 Feb the screening board, composed of US and Soviet Mission members, began interviews at mixed camps containing principally declared White Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, etc., among whom Soviet citizens might be expected to be found. As a result of the Soviet representatives taking notes during interviews, many persons failed to appear before the board as directed, evidently fearing reprisals against friends and relatives living in Soviet-occupied territory. As a result the Soviet representative recently abstained from taking part in the screening. Instead, Colonel General Zheltov on 4 March submitted a list of approximately 1700

CM IN 2777

(13 Mar 46)

TOP SECRET

COPY No. 75724 61

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INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE
TOP SECRET TOT

**TOP
SECRET**

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

Page 3

From: CG, USFA, Vienna, Austria

DTG: 13 NPT

13 March 1946

names of alleged Soviet citizens whose repatriation was demanded. The Special United States Officer Board set up to determine Soviet citizenship will have completed examination of this entire list by 15 March and will have determined what persons on the list will be subject to forcible repatriation in accordance with War Department cable 89544 of 20 Dec 45.

The Soviet Command has failed to appear before this citizenship board and to present evidence in support of its demand for the names submitted by it. As a result I am convinced that it is using every device to prolong the stay of its mission in the US Zone. As reported in my P-1666, these missions are engaged in intelligence work, which is no small part of their activity in the US Zone.

I am most anxious to require Soviet Mission at Salzburg to quit the US Zone not later than 1 April, but before doing so I am clearing with you for fear that such action, although entirely justified in my opinion, may leave US open to a Soviet claim of breach of agreement. If I am authorized to send out this Mission, I intend to prevent its returning until either a new scheme of operations of such missions in US occupational territories has been worked out here, or at governmental level. If I am authorized to handle this situation, I will remove the present mission by 1 April, and permit a new one of reduced strength to reenter US territory only for a limited time and for a specific purpose on the basis of any new and concrete evidence submitted to me by Marshal Konev.

CM IN 2777

(13 Mar 46)

TOP SECRET

COPY NO. 75724 *61*

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OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

Page 4

From: CG, USFA, Vienna, Austria

DTG: 13 NPT

13 March 1946

I have discussed this matter with both McCreery and Bethouart who are experiencing the same difficulties in their zones and feel that little progress can be made toward repatriation under the present set-up. They both are as anxious as I to get rid of these missions, feeling that their most important work is espionage. McCreery is making appropriate recommendations to his government on this subject.

End.

NOTE: P 1666 is CM IN 6613 (29 Jan 46) Gen MacFarland

ACTION: JC/S

INFO : Adm Leahy, Gen Spaatz, Gen Hull, Gen Paul,
Gen Vandenberg (For State), Gen Hilldring, Adm Nimitz,
Mr Petersen, C of S

CM IN 2777

(13 Mar 46)

DTG 13/NPT mec

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COPY NO. 75724 *61*

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CS 2340

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

382.7
Refugees MR.

TOP SECRET

16 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIES, STATE-WAR-NAVY
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: **Soviet Repatriation Mission in U.S.
Zone, Austria.**

Reference: **SM-5266, 14 March 1946.**

Enclosure: **Copy No. 21 of CM-IN-3296 (15 Mar 46).**

The Enclosure is forwarded for your information.

C. R. Peck
C. R. PECK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Executive Secretary.

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TOP SECRET



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JS-00
JS-01
JS-07
JS-013
JS-001

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET
OPERATIONAL PRIORITY
PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARAS 44g and 53a AR 380-5.

SUPPLEMENTARY COPY

From: CG USFA Vienna Austria

To: War Department

Nr: P 4575 13 March 1946

From USFA cite PASGS to JCS from Clark pass to State Dept. TOP SECRET P 4575.

Corrected DTG to message number.

Supplementary copy of CM-IN-2777 (13 Mar) JCS

- ACTION: JCS
- INFO : Adm Leahy
- Gen Spaatz
- Gen Hull
- Gen Paul
- Gen Vandenberg(State)
- Gen Hilldring
- Adm Nimitz
- Mr Petersen
- C of S

MAR 11 8 10 AM '46



CM-IN-3296

(15 Mar 46) DTG 131737A 1s

TOP SECRET

COPY NO. 21

TOP SECRET

HWK:lmm

SWN-4023
15 March 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

Subject: Soviet Repatriation Mission in U.S. Zone,
Austria.References: a. SWNCC 46/8
b. SWN-3652

The enclosed copies of CN-IN-6613 (29 January 1946) and CN-IN-2777 (13 March 1946) were forwarded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff with a request for the comments of the Department of State on the action proposed in the penultimate paragraph of CN-IN-2777.

It is requested that the comments of the State Department be forwarded to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee for transmittal to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

H. FREEMAN MATTHEWS,
Acting ChairmanEnc.
CN-IN-6613
CN-IN-2777

SWNCC FILE

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

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I am most anxious to require Soviet Mission at Salzburg to quit the US Zone not later than 1 April, but before doing so I am clearing with you for fear that such action, although entirely justified in my opinion, may leave US open to a Soviet claim of breach of agreement. If I am authorized to send out this Mission, I intend to prevent its returning until either a new scheme of operations of such missions in US occupational territories has been worked out here, or at governmental level. If I am authorized to handle this situation, I will remove the present mission by 1 April, and permit a new one of reduced strength to reenter US territory only for a limited time and for a specific purpose on the basis of any new and concrete evidence submitted to me by Marshal Konev.

CM IN 2777

(13 Mar 46)

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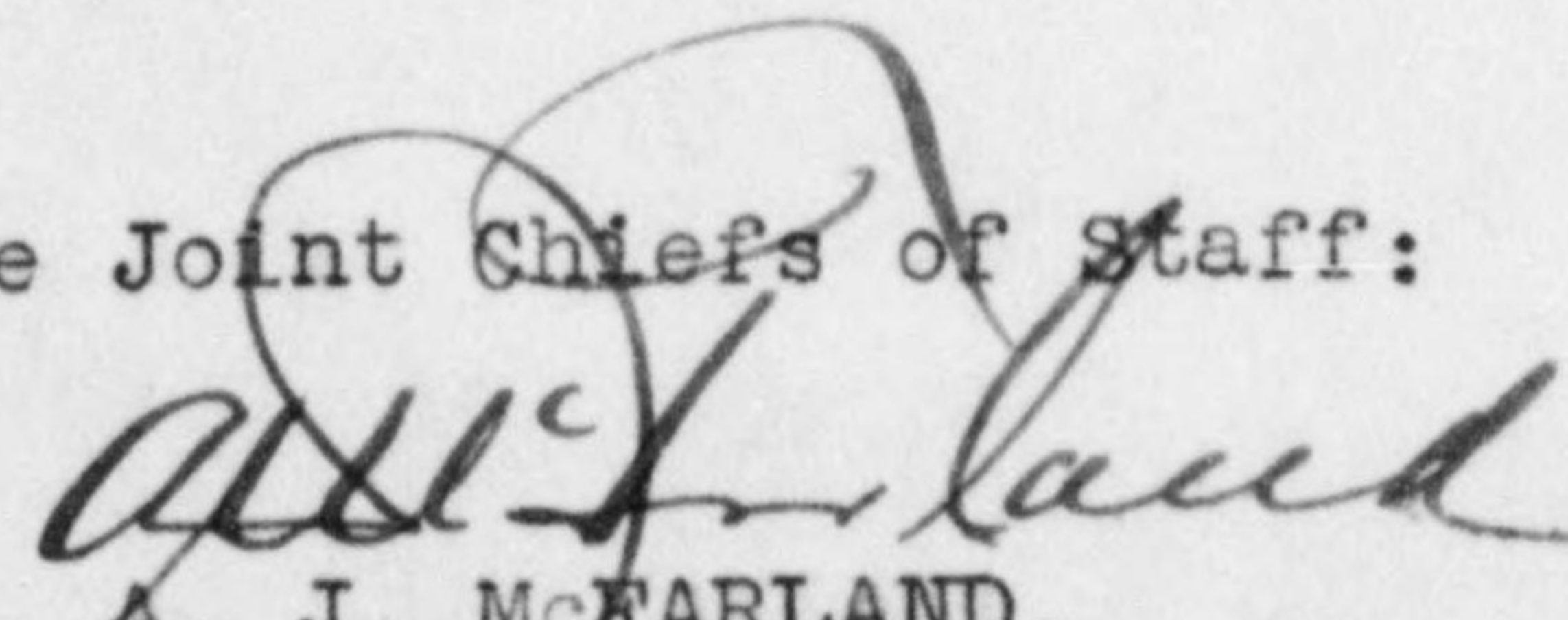
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.383.4
Pms-SM-5266
14 March 1946.**TOP SECRET**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Soviet Repatriation Mission
in U.S. Zone, Austria.References: a. SWNCC 46/8
b. SM-4517, 20 December 1945.

The enclosed copies of CM-IN-6613 (29 January 1946) and CM-IN-2777 (13 March 1946) are forwarded for information. The Joint Chiefs of Staff request the comments of the Department of State on the action proposed in the ~~final~~ ^{penultimate} paragraph of CM-IN-2777.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:


A. J. McFARLAND,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Secretary.2 Enclosures:
CM-IN-6613 (Copy No. 53)
CM-IN-2777 (Copy No. 61)**TOP SECRET**

⑧

The Honorable

The Acting Secretary of State

AUG 11 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This will acknowledge your letter of 27 July 1945, SWP 711.62114/7-1845, in which you confirm an agreement with the Under Secretary of War, pursuant to which the transfer to Germany for repatriation to the Soviet Union of the group of 153 German prisoners of war now held at Fort Dix, New Jersey, has been postponed pending a further investigation by officers of our respective Departments of the citizenship status of each individual in this group. I note further that you have informed the Soviet Embassy of the foregoing action, and of the further fact that a review of these cases will take approximately ten days to two weeks.

I am informed that the investigation referred to above was completed on 2 August 1945, and that interrogation of this group disclosed facts from which it might be determined that seven of the prisoners are not Soviet citizens and should not be transferred to Russian custody. It would be appreciated if you would furnish to the War Department a copy of the report to be submitted by your representatives concerning this investigation, and the decision taken by you with respect to the further repatriation of those prisoners whom you determine to have the status of Soviet citizens.

At such time as the War Department is informed of your decision concerning these prisoners, arrangements will be made for the early return to Germany for transfer to Soviet custody of those who are Soviet citizens. In this connection, the Commanding General, U.S. Forces, European Theater has informed the War Department that it is proposed to effect delivery of these prisoners at Hof, Germany (approximately half-way between Nuremberg and Leipzig along the Autobahn). The officer who will be in charge of the transfer to Soviet authorities is Major Suffield, Headquarters 76 Infantry Division at Hof.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. COMDR. WELFUS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. BARDINER	.....
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER
MR. L. E. SPITTALL
ENL. J. WHITEIDE

COPY FOR SWNCC

734

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383.7
SECRET

G-1
Lt. Col. Yudelson/72234/jic

WDGAP 383.6 (7 Jun 45)

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

7 - AUG 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A further message has now been received from the Commanding General, U.S. Forces, European Theater, concerning the allegations made by the Soviet Embassy as to the mistreatment of its nationals held at Bachau and Alka. This complaint already has been the subject of correspondence between our Departments.

A thorough investigation of these allegations has now been completed by the Theater, the results of which are set forth in detail in CH-IN-28864 (28 July 45). A copy of this message has been made available to your Department. This investigation discloses that the allegations are unfounded; that prompt and effective measures for the care and protection of liberated Soviet nationals were taken by the military authorities; and that these measures were hampered by the looting and rioting carried on by these liberated personnel.

In view of the fact that the allegations were originally submitted to the Commanding General, U.S. Military Mission, Moscow, and after informal consultation with your Department, that officer has been directed to reply to the Russian authorities, informing them of the results of this investigation. It is suggested that your Department may wish to inform the Soviet Embassy, Washington, of the action that has been taken.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

COPY FOR SWNCC

723
SECRET

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SECRET

WDGAP 383.7 (24 Jul 45)

G-1/73528
HRK/vk

JUL 31 1945

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter dated 24 July 1945 inviting the view of the War Department as to advisability of participation by the American Military Attache in Switzerland on a proposed commission to investigate treatment accorded Soviet internees by the Swiss.

The presence of a representative upon the commission might subject the United States to embarrassment, if dispute or other unfavorable circumstances should attend the conduct or result of the investigation. In view of the possibility of such a consequence and in the absence of any reason making participation necessary, this Department concurs with the opinion of the Department of State that no officials of the United States should serve in connection with the proposed investigation.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

WDGSA - 383.7 (24 Jul 45)

SECRET

COPY FOR SWNCC

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2 ASW
1 Chief of Staff

1 Approval
2 Signature

WDSOA - E & S

Lt. Pierst, 71259

Special Jewish Representatives in U. S.
Zone, Germany

27 July 1946

SUMMARY:

1. In letter dated 26 June 1946 to Secretary of War, American Jewish Conference proposed appointment of special Jewish representatives to assist in non-relief aspects of Jewish stateless and nonrepatriable persons in U. S. zone, Germany. On 20 June Deputy Director, BPR, answered that problem was under diligent study by War Department and military authorities in Europe. On 5 July, American Jewish Conference renewed its request, stating that UNRRA officials had stated that final decision was up to military authorities.
2. In letter dated 11 July to S/W, Congressman Celler urged appointment of special Jewish representatives. Cable to Mr. McCloy was dispatched on 14 July presenting problem and suggesting that he discuss it with appropriate officials. (OM-Out 32207) Congressman Celler and American Jewish Conference were advised that matter was under active consideration.
3. OM-In-22701, of 20 July stated that Mr. McCloy, General Clay, and General Hildring had no objection to the proposal, that relationship of proposed special representatives to Inter Governmental Committee on Refugees should be considered, and that appointments should be made under UNRRA auspices. As result of this cable, meeting was held on 25 July attended by representatives of OASW, CAS, UNRRA, State Department, and Inter Governmental Committee on Refugees. UNRRA undertook on behalf of military authorities to select appropriate representatives from American Jewish organizations, and to coordinate and supervise their activities. The Inter Governmental Committee Representative advised informally that there would be no objection to the proposal.
4. Attached letter for signature of Major Somers, Assistant Executive, OASW, informs American Jewish Conference that United States military authorities will permit the principal American Jewish organizations to appoint at their own expense, and under UNRRA auspices, a limited number of special representatives satisfactory to United States Group, Control Council, Germany, to assist with problems of Jewish stateless and nonrepatriable persons in U.S. zone of Germany. The American Jewish Conference is advised to communicate immediately with UNRRA for purpose of making necessary arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION:

5. That attached letter to American Jewish Conference be signed and dispatched.

COORDINATION:

6. BPR (Col. Beach); LLD (Lt. Col. Harlow); OASW (Maj. Somers); Department of State (Mr. Geo. Warren); UNRRA (Messrs. Abe Feller and Hqs. Pierce); and Inter Governmental Committee on Refugees (Miss Martha Biehle), JCS Mil. Permit Sec. (Col. Sweeney), OPD European Hq. (Lt. Col. Kerwin).

DISPATCHED FROM O.A.S.W.

28 July 1946

Information Copy For
Secretariat, SWROOWM. C. CHANLER
Col., GSC

Acting Director

651

5

Mr. Louis Lipsky, Chairman
Executive Committee, American Jewish Conference
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, 17, New York

Dear Mr. Lipsky:

I refer to your letter dated 26 June to the Secretary of War and to Mr. Grossman's supplemental letter dated 5 July to Colonel Hill concerning the problem of adequate representation for Jewish stateless and nonrepatriable persons in the U. S. zone of Germany.

In the absence of the Assistant Secretary of War, I am writing to advise you that the U. S. military authorities will permit the principal American Jewish organizations to appoint at their own expense, and under UNRRA auspices, a limited number of special representatives who are satisfactory to the United States Group, Control Council, Germany, to assist with problems of Jewish stateless and nonrepatriable persons in the U. S. zone of Germany.

In order to simplify administrative arrangements, UNRRA has agreed to coordinate and supervise on behalf of the military authorities the appointment and activities of such representatives as it already does with respect to voluntary welfare agencies working in Germany. The War Department suggests that for the purpose of making necessary arrangements, the American Jewish Conference communicate immediately with Mr. William Pierce, Displaced Persons Division, UNRRA, with whom the War Department has discussed this matter.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

DAVIDSON BRIDGES
Major, Art Corps
Assistant Executive



1958

SECRET

SWNCC	
BEL. MCGARTHY	.....
BBMR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. BOX	.....
LT. BEL. PENNYER	.....
LT. BOMER. BEILFUS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARRNER	.....
LT. BOMER. JENSEN	.....
LT. BEL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

26 JUN 1945

The Honorable
 The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With further reference to your letter of 5 May 1945 regarding the alleged program of the Anglo-American Command in Europe which prevents the return of Soviet nationals to the Soviet Union, the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations has reported that no steps have been taken within the theater to delay the repatriation of liberated Soviet nationals.

For your information I am inclosing an extract copy of the Theater Commander's report.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

1 Incl
 Copy of Theater Command-
 er's report, dtd 14 Jun 45

Secretary of War

"COPY FOR SWNCC"

SECRET

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SECRET

The following is an extract of a report from the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, dated 14 June 1945.

1. Inquiries instituted among the armies within this theater have failed to disclose any steps taken to delay the repatriation of liberated Soviet nationals such as are alleged by the Ambassador of the USSR.

2. Attention is invited to the fact that it is the stated policy of this headquarters that no employment undertaken by a United Nations displaced person should be allowed to delay his repatriation against his will.

3. As regards the repatriation of liberated Soviet citizens, every available means of transportation by land, sea and air has been used for this purpose since the first Soviet nationals were uncovered by the troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force after the invasion of France. To date more than 400,000 are known to have been repatriated or sent into the Soviet zone of occupation.

4. Before the junction of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and Soviet Forces in Germany, the only means of repatriation was by sea and, in spite of the acute shortages of shipping, Soviet nationals were repatriated via Marseilles, Cherbourg and ports in the United Kingdom.

5. At a conference held between representatives of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and the Supreme Command of the Red Army at Halle on 23 May 1945, a plan for the repatriation of Soviet citizens liberated by forces under Anglo-American Command and of Allied nationals liberated by the Red Army was mutually agreed and is now in effect. According to this plan, it is hoped that up to 30,000 or more Soviet citizens per day will be returned to the Soviet zone of occupation.

6. The impossibility of obtaining accurate figures will be appreciated. However, according to the latest estimates, more than a million Soviet citizens await repatriation from the areas of Germany occupied by the Allied Expeditionary Force and from the Western European countries. All possible means will be taken to effect this with the utmost speed, in accordance with the Halle Plan and any further arrangements that may be made.

7. Pending their repatriation, Soviet citizens are being, and will continue to be treated in accordance with the terms of the Yalta Agreement of 11 February 1945, subject only to operational, supply and transport limitations."

SECRET

383.7

MAY 12 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of 5 May 45 inclosing a copy of a note of translation from the Soviet Ambassador concerning an alleged program of the Anglo-American command in Europe which prevents Soviet nationals liberated in Germany from returning to their homeland, and a copy of your acknowledgment of the Soviet communication. With the view of furnishing you additional information for use in further clearing up the apparent misconceptions of the Soviet Government which have arisen from press reports, I have asked the Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, to make a report of the exact measures taken by our field commanders to facilitate the repatriation of Soviet nationals liberated from German control. This information will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

Copy for SWNCC

395

SECRET

HAF/od
WDSCA
71259

JCD

1 CHIEF OF STAFF
2 SECRETARY OF WAR

1 APPROVAL
2 SIGNATURE

WDSCA, Room 2 Supply Fr.
Lt. H.A. Pierst, 71259

WDSCA 383.7(22 June 45) Request for Authorization of 162 Soviet Repatriation Officers to Proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway. 30 June 1945

SUMMARY

1. In letter dated 21 June 1945 to the Secretary of War, Acting Secretary of State Grew transmitted copy of note from the Soviet Charge d'Affaires dated 20 June, in which it was stated that on 23 May and on 4 June Lt. General Golubev of the Soviet Supreme Command requested that 162 Soviet repatriation officers be authorized to proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway to assist in repatriation of Soviet citizens but that as yet no reply had been received to either request. In letter dated 29 June 1945 to the Acting Secretary of State, the Secretary of War acknowledged receipt of the Acting Secretary of State's letter and informed him that the views of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and of General Deane, Chief of American Military Mission in Moscow, to whom the requests had been made, were being ascertained and that he would be advised upon receipt of their views. GM-OUT-23028, 26 June 1945 to SHAEF and to General Deane summarized the note of the Soviet Charge d'Affaires and requested their comments and recommendations. GM-IN-26415 of 27 June 1945 from General Deane and GM-IN-26470 of 29 June 1945 from SHAEF reported that a reply to the Soviets had been dispatched on 9 June but had been considerably delayed. The substance was transmitted to General Golubev on 23 June and the actual text on 26 June, both after the note of the Soviet Charge d'Affaires dated 20 June had been written. SHAEF stated that 153 Soviet liaison officers were already working under General Dragun in the SHAEF area, that repatriation was proceeding rapidly and smoothly, and that it was therefore considered unnecessary to have additional Soviet repatriation officers.

2. The attached letter to the Acting Secretary of State for the signature of the Secretary of War advises the Acting Secretary of State of the substance of the replies from SHAEF and General Deane and suggests that the Soviet Charge d'Affaires be informed of the reason for the delay and the fact that the Soviet Government has been officially notified of SHAEF's reply.

3. Recommendation: That the attached letter to the Acting Secretary of State be signed and dispatched.

COORDINATION

4. G-1 (Lt. Colonel Tudelson).

JUL 4 - 1945
NOTED-OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
WAT

J. H. HILLMAN
Major General
Director, Civil Affairs Division

Incl
Ltr to Actg. Sec/State for
Sig Sec/War

Information Copy For
Approved [Signature]

Information Copy For
Serial [Number]

Coxeter
O/T. 33 (21 June 45)

552

3

JUL 4 - 1945

The Honorable

The Acting Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Supplementing my letter of 29 June 1945 with reference to the 162 Soviet repatriation officers, I have now received the full story from the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, and from General Deane.

The note from the Soviet Charge d'Affaires accurately states that on 25 May General Golubev requested permission from SHAEF for 162 Soviet repatriation officers to proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway to assist in repatriation of Soviet citizens, and that a similar request was made on 4 June to General Deane. SHAEF's reply was written on 9 June and sent by mail, but was delayed considerably. In view of the delay, General Deane asked SHAEF to radio the essential features of the letter. This was received by General Deane on 23 June and immediately transmitted to General Golubev. The letter from SHAEF arrived on 26 June and was immediately given to General Golubev. SHAEF took the position in its letter that 153 Soviet liaison officers were already working under General Dragun in the SHAEF area, that repatriation was proceeding rapidly and smoothly, and that it was therefore considered unnecessary to have additional Soviet repatriation officers.

Inasmuch as the Soviet note of 20 June was written before receipt of SHAEF's reply, I suggest that you inform the Soviet Charge d'Affaires of the reason for the delay and the fact that the Soviet Government has been officially notified of SHAEF's reply. Paraphrases of the cables from SHAEF and General Deane have been furnished to the State Department through the usual channels.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

MEMO FOR RECORD: In letter dated 29 June S/W informed Actg. S/S that views of SHAEF and Gen. Deane were being ascertained with respect to a Soviet request for permission on behalf of 162 repatriation officers. CM-OUT-23028 of 26 June 1945 was dispatched to SHAEF and General Deane. In reply, CM-IN-26415 of 27 June was received from Gen. Deane and CM-IN-28470 dated 29 June 1945 from SHAEF explaining the full story. State Dept. is on distribution list of these cables through G-2. Purpose of letter for sig. S/W is to supplement ltr of 29 Jun on basis of foregoing replies from SHAEF and Gen. Deane.
HAF

SECRET

HAF/ed

1 CHIEF OF STAFF
2 SECRETARY OF WAR

1 APPROVAL
2 SIGNATURE

WDSGA, Econ. & Supply Br.

Lt. H.A. Pierst, 71259

WDSGA 385.7(22 June 45)

Request for Authorization of 162 Soviet repatriation Officers to Proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway. 25 June 1945

SUMMARY

1. In letter dated 21 June 1945 to the Secretary of War, Acting Secretary of State Grew transmitted copy of note from Soviet Charge d'Affaires dated 20 June, in which it is stated that on 23 May and on 4 June Lt. General Golubev of the Soviet Supreme Command requested that 162 Soviet repatriation officers be authorized to proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway to assist in repatriation of Soviet citizens. The Acting Secretary of State requests that he be informed of the War Department decision in order that he might reply to the Soviet Charge d'Affaires. He states that his understanding is that the War Department feels that since there are already a large number of Soviet repatriation officials in the American zone there is no necessity to grant the request for additional personnel.

2. War Department policy with respect to the Soviet request should not be determined until the views of SCAEF and General Deane have been ascertained. This is particularly important in view of article 2 of the US-USSR Yalta Agreement of 11 Feb. 1945 providing for access of repatriation representatives and also in view of the fact that on 20 April 1945 SCAEF reported that the Soviet Government had been requested to furnish additional repatriation officials (SCAEF, G-5 Displaced Persons Weekly Report No. 30).

3. The attached letter to the Acting Secretary of State for the signature of the Secretary of War acknowledges receipt of the Acting Secretary of State's letter and informs him that the views of SCAEF and of Gen. Deane, Chief of American Military Mission in Moscow, are being ascertained and that he will be advised of the War Department policy after receipt of their views.

4. Cables are being dispatched immediately to SCAEF and Gen. Deane summarizing the note of the Soviet Charge d'Affaires and requesting their comments and recommendations.

5. Recommendation: That the attached letter to the Acting Secretary of State be signed and dispatched.

COORDINATION

6. G-1 (Major Brown)

Incl

Ltr to Asst. Sec/State for
sig Sec/War

J. H. HILLDRING
Major General
Director, Civil Affairs Division

0 8781

537

Sumner

3 (3)

JUN 29 1945

The Honorable

The Acting Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of 21 June 1945 with attached copy of translation of a note from the Soviet Charge d'Affaires requesting that authorization be given to permit 162 Soviet repatriation officials to proceed to Western Germany, Denmark and Norway. In your letter, you request that the War Department inform you of its decision in order that you may make an appropriate reply to the Soviet Charge d'Affaires.

It appears from the note of the Soviet Charge d'Affaires that the Soviet request was directed first to General Barker of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and then to General Deane, Chief of the American Military Mission in Moscow. I do not consider it advisable for the War Department to make a decision in this matter until it is informed by the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and General Deane of what action, if any, has been taken with respect to the Soviet request. Accordingly, cables are being dispatched to the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and General Deane and you will be notified promptly of the War Department position as soon as replies are received.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt) *[Signature]*

Secretary of War

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 21, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

You will find attached a copy of a translation of a note which was handed to me by the Soviet Chargé d' Affaires on June 20 requesting that authorization be given to permit 162 Soviet repatriation officers to proceed to western Germany as well as Denmark and Norway for the ostensible purpose of assisting in the repatriation of Soviet citizens in these areas.

I understand that this question is now under discussion by the War Department and that, in general, it is felt that since there are already a large number of Soviet repatriation officials in the American zone there is no necessity to grant the request for additional personnel. It is my understanding that no American repatriation officers have been permitted to enter the Soviet zone in Germany and, therefore, in discussing this question with the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires, I informed him that I assumed that, if favorable consideration was given to this request, it would be on a reciprocal basis. He informed me that he had no instructions in this regard but stated that he assumed this might be the case.

Since this is a matter which comes within the competence of the War Department, I am forwarding the note to you for appropriate consideration and action. I should appreciate being informed of the decision of the War Department in this matter in order that I may make an appropriate reply to the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure:
From Soviet Embassy,
June 19, 1945.

The Honorable
Henry L. Stinson,
Secretary of War

COPYTRANSLATION

Embassy of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics,
Washington, D. C.

June 19, 1945

Sir:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the following.

On May 23, in Halle, Lieutenant General Golubev, representative of the Soviet Supreme Command has transmitted to Major General Barker, representative of General Eisenhower's staff a memorandum in which it was requested to admit Major General Vershinin, representative of the Commissioner of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on Repatriation Affairs and a group of repatriation officers under his command on the territory of Western Germany as well as to admit Soviet repatriation officers on the territory of Denmark and Norway. A similar request was stated in the letter of June 4 by General Golubev to General Dean, Chief of the American Military Mission in Moscow. In both cases the matter pertained to sending 162 persons including 137 persons to Western Germany. Until now the administration on Repatriation Affairs has not received a reply to the above-stated requests.

The Soviet Government hopes that the United States Government, in accordance with the agreement of February 11, will give urgent instructions to appropriate American military authorities to admit the group of General Vershinin on the territory of Western Germany occupied by the American troops.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

The Honorable
Joseph C. Grew,
Acting Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

HAF/ed
WDSGA
71259

Refer to 3527

2 ASST
1 CHIEF OF STAFF

1 APPROVAL
2 SIGNATURE

WDSGA - E&R Branch
Lt. H.A. Fierst, 71259

WDSGA 334 UNRRA(21 May) Request for Report on Supply and Displaced Persons at 3rd Meeting of UNRRA Council. 30 May 1945

SUMMARY

1. In letter dated 19 May from Assistant Secretary of State Acheson to Assistant Secretary of War, UNRRA's request to the War Department for a report on supply and displaced persons problems at the third meeting of the UNRRA Council, to be held in London on 16 July, was indorsed.

2. The attached letter for signature of Assistant Secretary of War states that Mr. Acheson's letter is being referred to the Combined Civil Affairs Committee and suggests that State Department representatives discuss the matter at an early meeting.

3. Recommendation. That the inclosed letter to the Assistant Secretary of State be signed and dispatched.

Incl
Ltr to Asst Sec/State
for Sig Asst Sec/War

J. H. HILDRING,
Major General,
Director, Civil Affairs Division.

SWNCC	
COL McCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
LT. COMDR. BEILFUSS	.....
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	.....
MR. J. P. GARDINER	.....
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	.....
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	.....
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	.....
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

COPY FOR SWNCC

2

JUN 4 - 1945

Honorable Dean Acheson
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dean:

In reply to your letter of 19 May 1945, I agree with the importance you attach to having military representatives report on supply and displaced persons problems at the third meeting of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Council in London on 16 July 1945. I am referring your letter to the Combined Civil Affairs Committee and suggest that the State Department representative on that Committee discuss the matter at an early Combined Civil Affairs Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN J. McCLOY

MEMO FOR RECORD: Letter dated 19 May from Asst. Secretary of State to Asst. Sec/War indorsed UNRRA's request to WD for report at 3rd mtg of UNRRA Council to be held in London on 16 July, such report to cover both supply and displaced persons problems. Ltr was forwarded to CAD by OASW for necessary action and preparation of reply for signature of ASW. Lt. Col. Cameron has been requested informally to circulate copy of Acheson's letter among members of CCAC. HAF

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 19, 1945

Dear Jack:

The Department is in process of completing plans for the third meeting of the UNRRA Council which will be held in London on July 16. I understand that UNRRA has already requested the War Department for a report at this meeting similar to the one made by military representatives at the Montreal conference, and I would like to add my personal endorsement to their request.

The UNRRA supply problem is so closely linked with past and future civil affairs programs that any review of the former which may occur during the next Council meeting can not very well be complete without a report from military authorities, and without military representatives being on hand. The UNRRA Council meeting will also concern itself particularly with the Displaced Persons problem. I therefore hope that in addition to Army supply representatives, provision can be made for SHAEF officers who are familiar with the Displaced Persons problem to attend the London meeting.

Perhaps you will want to refer this matter to the Combined Civil Affairs Committee for consideration and action. If so, I am sure that Mr. Matthews will be prepared to express the views of the Department in detail.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dean Acheson
Assistant SecretaryThe Honorable
John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING
COMMITTEE

STATE

 Mr. Cox
 Mr. Moseley
 Mr. Gardiner

WAR

 Colonel McCarthy
 Lt. Colonel Pennoyer
 Major Field
 Major Gunther
 Lt. Spittall

NAVY

 Commander Richardson
 Lt. Comdr. Rockefeller
 Lieutenant Geilfuss
 Ensign Whiteside

 Note
 Circulate
 File

REMARKS:

G-1/73528
DWB/vk

MAY 26 1945

May 17, 1945, SWP, concerning the
to liberated Polish prisoners of war
armed forces and the possibility of
ed to Poland against their will.

European Theater of Operations, has
investigate the allegations made by
atter. Upon receipt by the War De-
will at once be informed of the facts
reply may be made to the Polish

urn to Poland against their will of
y the Allied armed forces in Western
ation by the Combined Chiefs of Staff,
quiry on this subject by the Polish
Combined Chiefs of Staff reach a de-
thereof.

Sincerely yours,

(Sg.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

Copy for SWNCC

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

(1)

G-1/73528
DWB/vk

WDGAP 091 Poland

MAY 26 1945

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter dated May 17, 1945, SWP, concerning the treatment allegedly accorded to liberated Polish prisoners of war in Germany by the American armed forces and the possibility of these prisoners being returned to Poland against their will.

The Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, has been requested by radio to investigate the allegations made by the Polish Embassy in this matter. Upon receipt by the War Department of his report, you will at once be informed of the facts in order that an appropriate reply may be made to the Polish Embassy.

The question of the return to Poland against their will of Polish nationals liberated by the Allied armed forces in Western Europe is now under consideration by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, as a result of an earlier inquiry on this subject by the Polish Ambassador. As soon as the Combined Chiefs of Staff reach a decision, you will be informed thereof.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

Copy for SWNCC

~~SECRET~~

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See 383.10

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

MAY 17 1945

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Following the receipt of your letter of 4 April 1945 transmitting a note for the attention of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force received from the American Embassy, Paris, I forwarded the correspondence to the Supreme Commander. He furnished his comments in a letter dated 28 April 1945. There is inclosed, an extract of the pertinent part of his letter.

Subsequent to dispatch of his letter dated 28 April 1945, the Supreme Commander stated in a cable to the War Department that he now plans for overland repatriation to be provided to the extent possible for liberated Russians in the Zone of Interior of France and for liberated Frenchmen in Russia; that the French Government may handle the problem through their military authorities dealing directly with Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

I hope that I have given you the information you desired.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. SIMMONS

Secretary of War

Incl
Extract of letter from
SCAEF dtd 28 Apr 45

Copy for SWNCC

CONFIDENTIAL

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(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Extract of Letter from the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, dated 28 April 1945

* * * * *

"2. The situation indicated by the French Foreign Office is, of course, well known at this headquarters. It has been handled for many months in close cooperation with the French Ministry of Prisoners of War, Deportees and Refugees. It is not, however, a problem which is susceptible of quick and easy solution.

"3. Supreme Headquarters, AEF, responsibility for Soviet citizens uncovered in France is as follows:

a. Prior to 11 February 1945:

- (1) In Forward Zones military commanders had ultimate responsibility for all displaced persons uncovered. However, they normally delegated this responsibility to the local French authorities as soon as conditions permitted.
- (2) In the Zone of the Interior, the French authorities were wholly responsible.
- (3) Approximately 30,000 Soviet citizens were moved prior to 11 February 1945 by agreement with the French Government, from Forward Zones to the Zone of the Interior, since, for operational reasons, it was extremely difficult to retain these people near the combat areas.

b. After 11 February 1945: As a result of the Yalta Agreement, U.S. and British commanders cannot now delegate responsibility for the care etc., of Soviet citizens to French authorities. Soviet citizens uncovered after the signature of the Yalta Agreement are therefore retained in Germany or in Forward Zones and looked after as a direct military commitment. 370,000 Soviet citizens are now being looked after by the military authorities.

"4. Supreme Headquarters, AEF plans for repatriation are as follows: Displaced Persons claiming to be Soviet citizens are interviewed by Soviet Repatriation Representatives. If their claims are accepted, they are then moved to centers which are under direct Russian control. These

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centers are supplied by Allied Military authorities and are under instructions of this headquarters, in no way a commitment of the French Government.

"5. The movement of these and other Soviet citizens back to Russia is necessarily dependent on the availability of transportation. So far 8,000 have been repatriated from Continental Europe. It is planned to repatriate an additional 23,000 in April and May by sea.

"6. Approximately 3,000 liberated French citizens have been repatriated from the U.S.S.R. to France, and well over 7,000 can be expected shortly.

"7. The Combined Chiefs of Staff were asked by this headquarters to provide additional shipping. They stated on 7 February 1945 that the matter was under consideration by the British Chiefs of Staff, who would be responsible for the necessary arrangements, but that plans should contemplate repatriation of Russians overland in view of the shortage of shipping.

"8. At Inclosure #1 is a statement showing:

- a. The number of Soviet citizens known to be in Western Europe.
- b. The number of French citizens estimated to be in the Russian Zone in Germany and in Poland."

* * * * *

1 Incl
Appendix 'A'

CONFIDENTIAL

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1. Soviet citizens known to be in Western Europe:

	<u>Displaced Persons</u>	<u>Prisoners of War</u>
France	65,000	20,000
Belgium	10,000	5,000
Netherlands	2,000	
Occupied Germany	350,000 (including working PW)	30,000
Unoccupied Germany	<u>500,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
<u>Total</u>	1,382,000 displaced persons and prisoners of war.	

2. French citizens estimated to be in the Russian Zone in Germany and in Poland:

	<u>Displaced Persons</u>	<u>Prisoners of War</u>
	700,000	170,000

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl #1