


SWNCC 080 INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
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LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. SWNCC 080 - INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

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1	Mr. Stimson	3/2/45	Seft. State	Memo re supplying IRC with lists of repatriated civilians.
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4	Mr. Stimson	4/14/45	Sec. of State	Letter re equal distribution of food to Allied prisoners of war.
5	Sec of War	3/19/45	Sec of State	Letter re treatment of female prisoners of war held by U.S.
6	J.D. Hickerson	8/1/45	Sec of State	Memo encl. Memo fr JCS to SWNCC re: German Protest against Alleged Attacks on Ships and Trains Marked with the Red Cross (cross ref. 091, German, ser. 204)

080
JRC

MAR 19 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your letter, SWP, of March 3, 1945, transmitting a copy of a letter dated February 23, 1945, addressed to you from the Honorable Marc Peter, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Washington, with a copy of its inclosure, a letter from the Honorable Carl J. Burckhardt, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, inquiring regarding the treatment accorded to female prisoners of war held by the United States. Mr. Burckhardt inquires, in particular, whether women prisoners of war are detained apart from men, in separate camps, or held in the same camps as civilian women internees.

It is the policy of the War Department, as you know, to treat enemy female prisoners of war held by the United States with all the regard due their sex, as provided by Articles 3 and 4 of the Geneva Convention of 1929 Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. These provisions will continue to be followed with regard to any female prisoners of war who may be captured in the future. Additionally, as you are aware, this Government has arranged with Germany to repatriate all female personnel captured, as soon after their capture as the military exigencies will permit.

There are no female prisoners of war presently held in the continental United States, and it is not contemplated that any will be transferred to this country in the future. A limited number of women prisoners of war are held in the European Theater of Operations. Inquiry has been made concerning the specific conditions of their internment in that theater, and a further reply will be made to you when additional information becomes available.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

INFORMATION COPY FOR SWNCC

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STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATI
COMMITTEE

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 Note
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REMARKS:

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G-1/72234
Maj Brown/ccm

APR 14 1945

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McC

WDGAP 383.6 Relief
Supplies, Germany

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter dated 2 April 1945, SWP 854.48 R.C.I./3-1645, concerning the pooling of prisoner of war food parcels, and their distribution in certain circumstances among Allied prisoners of war in Germany, except Russians and Italians, on an equal basis without regard to nationality.

I agree that such a step is desirable to the extent set forth below, and suggest that the American Red Cross be authorized to inform the International Red Cross Committee as follows:

In all cases where American prisoners are segregated and it is possible to do so, food parcels should be distributed to American prisoners of war at the rate of one per week per man.

In camps where various Allied nationalities are intermingled together, parcels should be distributed equally to all prisoners without distinction as to nationality.

Upon the foregoing basis, and the assumption that the pool from which parcels will be thus distributed will be made up of stocks furnished by all the Allied Governments concerned, this Government vests in the Committee full discretion to make the necessary use of food parcels provided for American prisoners of war.

In fairness to the American personnel concerned, the effort should be made to see to it that the provision received by them is not reduced any further than is strictly necessary. Maintenance of records by the International Red Cross Committee as suggested in your letter will help accomplish this. In addition, it has occurred to me that it would be useful to call the point to the attention of the American Red Cross, and to that end I am sending the Chairman of the American Red Cross a copy of this letter, under cover of a letter of which a copy is inclosed herewith.

APR 1 1945

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War



Copy for SWNCC

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Mr. Moody
SWNCC
Room 17A

In reply refer to
SWP 740.0011 P.W./4-545

April 20, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to recent correspondence concerning a proposal of the International Red Cross Committee for the establishment of sanitary and insanity zones in time of war. Particular reference is made to this Department's letter of February 12, 1945 which transmitted to you a copy of this Department's letter to the President of the International Red Cross Committee stating that the United States Government was compelled to view unfavorably any present undertaking to create such zones.

The Swiss and Swedish Ministers, recently called upon Mr. H. Freeman Matthews, Director of the Office of European Affairs of this Department, and left with his memoranda concerning the proposed establishment of a safety zone for the protection of the civilian population of Shanghai. One copy of each of these memoranda is enclosed together with a memorandum summarizing the conversation. The proposed zone is defined in letters addressed to Mr. Matthews dated March 29 and April 5, 1945 by the Swedish and Swiss Ministers, respectively, copies of which are also enclosed.

The Swiss and Swedish Governments indicate that the proposal for the establishment of this safety zone is based upon humanitarian principles and is motivated by a statement, attributed to the Japanese authorities, that Shanghai would be defended militarily at all costs.

While

The Honorable
Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

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While the proposal for the establishment of a safety zone at Shanghai appears to be applicable primarily for the protection of the civilian population of that city, the above-mentioned letters of March 29 and April 5, 1945 indicate that various unnamed internment camps may be incorporated in the proposed zone.

I should appreciate receiving your comment with respect to the proposed safety zone so that appropriate replies may be made to the Swiss and Swedish Legations and if deemed desirable to the International Red Cross Committee which has indicated its support of the plan.

A letter in a similar sense is being sent to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward B. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosures:

1. From International Red Cross, Geneva, March 24, 1945.
2. From Swiss Legation, March 26, 1945.
3. From Swedish Legation, March 27, 1945.
4. Memorandum of Conversation, March 27, 1945.
5. From Swedish Legation, March 29, 1945.
6. From Swiss Legation, April 5, 1945.

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Mr. Moseley
SWNCC
Room 178

April 20, 1945

In reply refer to
SEP 740.0011 P.W./4-545

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The Honorable
James Forrestal,
Secretary of the Navy.

-2-

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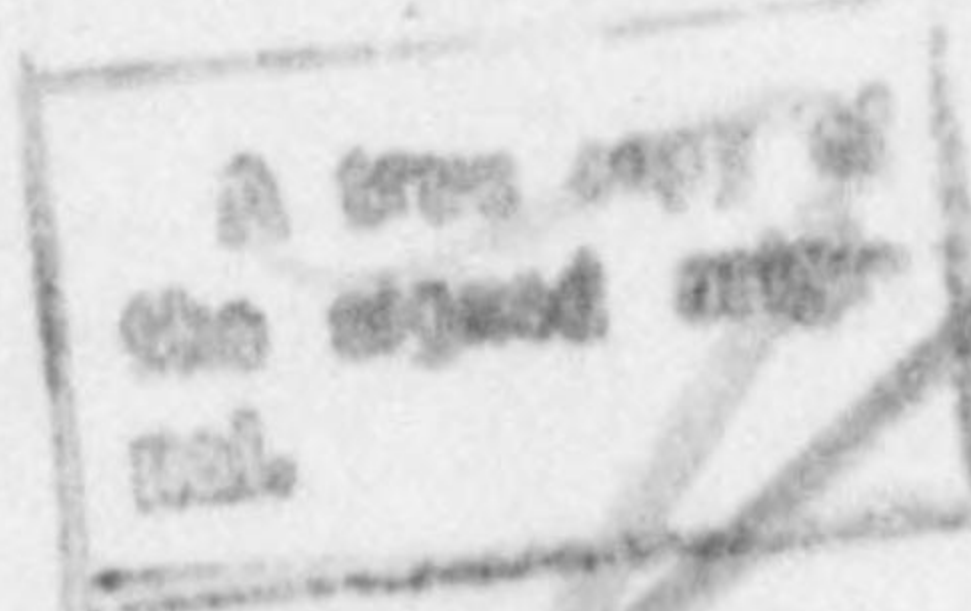
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6. From Swiss Legation, April 5, 1945.



SWP:GTHawley:REHibbard:JSF:MA 4/9/45 4/12/45 FE WE HUR

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The Honorable

APR 6-1945

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your communication of 14 March 1945, reference SWP, concerning recent difficulties experienced by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the distribution of books to German prisoners of war has been the subject of careful investigation. I have also examined the copy of a letter dated 8 March 1945 from Mr. Marc Peter, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the Department of State, and the text of a proposed message which Mr. Peter submitted to your Department before transmittal to Geneva, Switzerland.

The Provost Marshal General, who is charged with carrying out the reorientation program for German prisoners of war in the United States, has been of the view that certain German-language books, though acceptable by ordinary censorship standards, contain material detrimental to the reorientation program. Owing to mechanical and liaison considerations and the unusually heavy inflow of books in February, a large stock of disapproved books accumulated at the Washington headquarters of the International Red Cross which, as a consequence, temporarily lacked sufficient space to receive additional books. As an accommodation, arrangements were made to remove all disapproved books from the Washington headquarters of the International Red Cross and warehouse them at the Enemy Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Fort Meade, Maryland. One load of books has already been removed, and additional books will be picked up as rapidly as the International Red Cross Committee desires. Consequently, I do not believe any more difficulty will be experienced in this regard.

Concerning the reluctance of the International Red Cross to check incoming books against the disapproved lists, I am pleased to inform you that such action will no longer be necessary. Arrangements have been completed whereby the United States District Postal Censor in New York City will honor lists of disapproved books furnished by The Provost Marshal General, and books which are listed as unsuitable from the viewpoint of the reindoctrination program will be withheld by the District Postal Censor. A close liaison has been established between The Provost Marshal General and the District Postal Censor which will

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amply provide for the review of any new books not appearing on any of the prepared lists. In this manner, the International Red Cross will be relieved of responsibility in connection with the sorting or listing of books transmitted to it by the District Postal Censor.

As a result of these arrangements, I feel confident that Mr. Peter will not feel compelled to send the message dated 6 March 1945 to the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, Switzerland. I am certain that the transmission of that message or any other message which indicates that the War Department is conducting a reindoctrination program would be highly inadvisable. However, there is no objection to the sending of a message to inform the International Red Cross at Geneva that certain titles are disapproved for distribution to prisoners of war provided the message does not disclose the nature or the source of the disapproval.

The arrangements which have been worked out should eliminate all claims of duplication of censorship and shipping, and the accumulation of large stocks of books at the Delegation Headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Washington, D. C.

As arranged at the meeting of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War held 28 March, the larger questions of policy involved in the criteria and procedures of the censorship imposed by The Provost Marshal General will be considered by the subcommittee which has been designated by the Board, and will be the subject of a full report to the Board and early consideration by it.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt.) HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War.

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WDGAP 383.7

MAR 2 - 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter dated February 21, 1945, concerning the question of supplying the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva with information as to the repatriation of civilian internees.

I note that the International Red Cross Committee desires to receive lists of civilian internees selected for repatriation and lists of those actually repatriated. The War Department has no objection to your furnishing the International Red Cross Committee with the desired information, and I concur in your suggestion that this be done by forwarding to the International Red Cross Committee, through the American Legation in Switzerland, copies of passenger lists of persons leaving the United States and returning to the United States on exchange vessels.

Sincerely yours,

ARMY L. BISHOP

Secretary of War

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Information copy for the Secretariat, SWNCC