

Spain as Friend to Jews Before and During World War II :
An Analysis of Documents Involving Memoranda and Case Studies
from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Introduction

The operation to save Jews of Spanish descent before and during World War II by the Spanish Government, with selected intervention by civil servants and officials, was documented in memoranda, letters, telegrams and personal notations found in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid, Spain. The day-to-day business level of the Ministry was preserved in order to retain a record of the events that took place during World War II. A large portion of the accessible documents referring to Sephardic Jews and Spain's role in securing their safety involved individual case studies and memoranda between lower-level and semi-high officials.

Unfortunately, many pertinent documents have not been released by the government, including much of Franco's personal correspondence and memoranda, which apply to this topic. None of the documents in the archives found by this researcher suggested a personal intervention by Franco. In this study, many case studies have been outlined to give an idea of the scope of lower-level work the Ministry was involved with when dealing with Jewish refugees. The evidence gathered here was fragmentary because of its nature (and due to the overall organization by the Spanish Archives). These factors made it virtually impossible to follow through many case studies to their end. The various case studies presented, however, are important to give a basic understanding of the type of work performed by the Spanish during World War II.

Spain as Sanctuary

As Hitler rose to power in early 1933, the tedious task of relocating persons displaced during World War I and the Russian Revolution was still being carried out. A whole new generation of Jews began to flee from German borders in fear of widespread and indiscriminate persecution by the new Nazi government. With the passing of the Nuremberg Laws, which literally stripped the German Jews of all their basic rights of citizenship, it became painfully clear that anti-semitic persecution was to intensify.¹

The first deportation of the Jews occurred in October 1938, when Germany expelled Polish citizens of Jewish extraction residing within its borders. In November of the same year, following an organized pogrom known as *kristallnacht*, enterprises and capital owned by Jews throughout Germany were confiscated. With the outbreak of World War II, the Jewish population of the territories conquered by Germany was deported, forced into ghettos and later systematically massacred... This "final solution" of the Jewish question was carried out throughout the war with the thoroughness and emotionless efficiency characteristic of the modern warfare state. By 1945, six million

Jews had been annihilated. Throughout these events, a few escaped the dragnet and survived. They became refugees, wandering through Europe and seeking asylum.²

Spain and the Franco government were instrumental in the salvation of a significant number of these “refugees”.

As the war progressed, so did the shocking mass killings by the Nazis. In mid-1942, information began filtering out of the European continent detailing the widespread extermination of Jews; the United States made a conscious attempt to suppress these reports.³ Spain, on the other hand, took charge and began the implementation of a complicated network of diplomats and other Spanish authorities to work in the rescue of Spanish *Sephardim* [Jewish people of Spanish descent] in other countries.

Salvation of Spanish Nationals

Sephardim that applied for Spanish repatriation through the Primo de Rivera Law of 1924, were subjected to Spanish laws of citizenship after their arrival into Spain. Military service was mandatory in Spain, and the *Sephardim* who opted to take refuge in Spain were required to serve (as a native would be required) in a branch of the armed forces. Through a shuffling of relocation campaigns, many families were separated because the husband would be required to fulfill his military duty.

Two cases involving Greek Sephardics were personally addressed by the United States' Ambassador to Spain, Carlton Hayes.⁴ In a letter dated December 6, 1943 to Hayes' good friend, His Excellency Lieutenant General Count Jordana, the ambassador asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his personal attention regarding this matter. A portion of his letter is as follows :

It has come to my attention that the foreign office has requested the French Mission to arrange for the evacuation to North Africa of some seventy-three Sephardic Jews. According to reports reaching the Embassy, these Sephardic Jews have Spanish nationality and possess Spanish passports. I assume that they possess Spanish nationality under the terms of a Royal Decree of 1925 [sic] giving these Sephardic Jews a period of five years within which to opt for Spanish nationality.

One case which has reached the Embassy's attention is that of the family Hassid composed of Rene Hassid, his wife Anna, and children, Pedro, aged five, and Collette, aged three. Rene Hassid was born in 1907 in Greece of Spanish parents. His Spanish nationality was officially recognized by the Spanish Government by Royal Decree No. 78 of November 30, 1928. Upon arrival in Spain on August 11th [1943], he was told that he would have to present himself for military service in 1945. The wife and two small children were notified on the morning of December 4th by the police that they must proceed immediately to Málaga for deportation to North Africa with the rest of the group, but without her husband, who must remain in Spain to do his military service.

Another case is that of the family Hanen Jessua. He, aged sixty-seven, and his son, Hector Jessua, entered Spain in January 1941 as would any citizen returning to Spain.

Mrs. Dora Jessua, with two remaining children, Susana and Jaime entered Spain on August 11th with the convoy. She and the two children are obliged to leave from Málaga to North Africa with the rest of the group, while the husband, Hanen Jessua, is not included in the evacuation, and the boy, Hector Jessua, is informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that he must first be released from the military service obligations by the Ministry of War.

Ambassador Hayes then gently reminded the Count that their two governments have cooperated in the past in such matters, bringing relief to unfortunate peoples of all nationalities. In an extremely diplomatic manner, Hayes expressed the following :

I am preoccupied, however, lest any effort on the part of the Spanish Government to send Sephardic Jews, who possess Spanish nationality, out of Spain will be interpreted abroad as an effort to expel Spanish Jews from Spain. I am afraid that this would lend itself to the allegation that Spain had adopted an attitude toward Jews corresponding to the attitude of Nazi Germany and that as a result Spain's international position would be seriously prejudiced.

I am taking the liberty of suggesting, therefore, that the Spanish Government permit these Spanish Jews to reside in Spain so long as the war lasts and until they can make their own arrangements freely to depart to whatever place they may choose to reside. I am sure that such action by the Spanish Government would be considered as additional cooperation in the humanitarian effort to relieve the distress of Jewish refugees in general.⁵

The ploy Hayes used in his letter combined subtle pressure, touched with concern to express his underlying desire to convince the Spanish Foreign Minister to be more generous with entrance visas, passports, and regulations allowing Jews to reside in Spain for an indefinite time. The Ambassador most likely used the ruse of the two men being separated from their families as an excuse to write to Jordana, in order to exert pressure on Spain to facilitate and initiate more evacuations.

Count Jordana returned a letter to Ambassador Hayes that following week refuting every point Hayes had raised in his letter; the tone of the letter was defensive at times.

Although I have already given you an answer personally, during our meeting yesterday, the 9th of December, regarding the subject of your letter dated the 6th of this month, I would like to point out that the information you used as the basis in your letter is erroneous and on my part, the least I can do is to express to you, purely on personal grounds, that your trusting character has been deceived by tendentious and inexact information. Neither in the case of HASSID nor in that of JESSUA is there any prohibition on the part of the Spanish authorities for them to leave the country, neither the aforementioned, nor any of the others that intend to leave Málaga are obliged to do military service in Spain, and let alone separate them from their families. On the

contrary, they can all leave freely without pressure or difficulty. I am compelled to remark that the head of this Sephardic group, Sr. Canetti, is the one who asked us to grant them permission to leave Málaga and according to their wishes, they have been given all kinds of facilities at their disposal.⁶

Furthermore, the Count informed Hayes that he had the “satisfaction” to communicate to him that Spain was continuing her intense negotiations with the Germans for the release of Spanish *Sephardim* in concentration camps.

Obviously, Hayes’ letter was not well received and the subtle pressure conveyed in his letter to Jordana was interpreted as an attack upon the Spanish Ministry. In any case, through a telegram from the armed services,⁷ Mr. Hassid was officially relieved of any military duty in Spain, and on a travel manifest of Sephardics leaving Málaga en route to North Africa,⁸ the entire Hassid family was listed. Apparently, there was a misunderstanding in communications somewhere within the Spanish Government; people were being informed of an obligation to serve in the military, and the Ministry was suggesting the contrary.

David Blickenstaff, representative of the American Relief Organization, personally intervened in behalf of the Jessuas (mentioned in Ambassador Hayes’ letter), to ask for a waiver of military service. It can be assumed that the Jessuas travelled to Málaga as a family also. These examples of Spanish and Allied intervention demonstrate the personal level at which the two sometimes worked during the war. The initial rescue of families through the Primo de Rivera Law did not end the assistance offered by the Spanish Government.

Rescue of Hungarian *Sephardim*

Approximately 825,000 Jews lived in Hungary and the areas Hungary had annexed with German aid at the end of the 1930’s and the beginning of the war. Until March 1944 this large Jewish community remained in relative tranquillity, serving as a place of refuge and transit for refugees from Poland and Slovakia. There were, to be sure, discriminatory anti semitic laws, economic prohibitions, and worst of all, forced labor on the Ukrainian front; by the Spring of 1944, 63,000 Jews of Greater Hungary had fallen victims to the persecution. Although this suffering did not completely undermine Jewish life in many communities, it was only a small hint of what was yet to come.⁹

Everything changed for the worse on March 19, 1944, when the Nazi’s entered Hungary to formally occupy its territory. Hungary went from a non-belligerent of Germany to just another occupied area. This new status meant that Hungary would now experience the horrors of Nazi occupation.¹⁰ A notable difference, however, was the fact that the pro-Nazi government of Dome Sztójay assisted the Germans in the occupation, and ultimately in destroying the Jewish community.¹¹

On March 21, 1944, Adolph Eichmann (the head of a special SS Einsatzgruppen), was ready to proceed with the plans to carry out mass deportations of Jews to concentration camps. This signaled private rescue agencies such as the World Jewish Congress to warn Hungarian Jewry of this imminent danger. The Jews were advised not to wear the “tell-tale yellow star.”¹² In May of 1944 trains from Germany began arriving to transport the Hungarian Jewry to the death

camps.¹³

A list of new ordinances, implemented by the occupying government in July of 1944, was sent by Angel Sanz Briz to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹⁴ These resolutions detailed the persecution being forced upon the remaining 247,000 Jews of Hungary.

- 1) Jewish homes should prominently display a distinctive yellow Star of David on the door of the house, 30 cm in diameter, on top of a black background that is 31 to 51 cm. in size.
- 2) Jews who actually live in homes that are declared for Christian habitation only, should abandon those in a time period of five days and move domiciles to co-habitate with Jewish families in homes for Jews.
- 3) A Jewish family has the right to temporary habitation,* but only if this temporary housing is less than 25 square meters and if the family consists of more than four persons, then they have the right to another living area, sized accordingly in the medium range. Doctors, engineers and others, for professional reasons that demand a larger space, have the right to a separate habitation.
- 4) Christians who have been angered by the Jews will not buy furniture from Jews that have been displaced.
- 5) The destruction of literary works by Jews has begun via burning in furnaces. In the workshops of a cardboard box factory, destruction of these works has been done in the presence of Mr. Kolozsvary, Secretary of State, other personages of the Ministry and the press corp. Kolozsvary-Borza gave a short speech before throwing the first volume into the fire, that ended up being a book of poetry by Kiss Jozsef.
- 6) Another resolution ordered that the Jews should hand over all types of arms that they possess within a time limit of 24 hours.¹⁵

This list is of interest when considering the grave situation facing the Hungarian Jews. By this time, three-fourths of the Jewish population had been deported to various concentration camps. The types of regulations implemented were inconvenient, but not life threatening. Seemingly, the Jews never realized the magnitude of the danger until it was entirely too late.

Spain was first requested to “exert” its influence to help save Jews by a group of Hungarian Jews in Morocco, who had found refuge in Tangier before the war. A goodly portion of these Jewish refugees had managed to build businesses; because of their Hungarian connections, these influential businessmen were up to date on the events taking place in their homeland. Thus, they made contact with the Spanish Government to enlist help in the rescue of Hungarian Jews.¹⁶

These Hungarians, Jewish leaders of Tangier, requested the Spanish High Commissioner in Tetuan, Morocco, to authorize the arrival of five-hundred Jewish children from Hungary. In their appeal, they emphasized three very important considerations: 1) All the children were between the

ages of five and fifteen; 2) There were, at that time, four to five hundred adult refugees ready to leave Tangier (as not to increase the refugee population too intensely) ; and 3) they would arrange for the childrens' transportation through the International Red Cross (and absorb expenses).¹⁷ This request illicited an encouraging response from the commissioner to help, but on one condition: the adult refugees had to leave Tangier to their place of relocation before the Jewish children could enter Morocco.¹⁸ For the next month, an exchange of letters ensued between the office of the High Commissioner in Morocco and the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry.¹⁹

On July 22, 1944, the United States Embassy in Madrid made a formal request to the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry to continue in their humanitarian work to evacuate Hungarian Jews.

There has come to the attention of the Embassy of the United States a press report, as yet unconfirmed to the effect that the International Red Cross has received from the appropriated Hungarian authorities assurance that no further deportations of Jews from that country will take place, together with authorization to direct the evacuation of Jewish children to countries willing to receive them.

In view of the interest which the Spanish Government has manifested in the humanitarian task of saving the lives of the innocent victims of German persecution and in view particularly of its cooperation in recently authorizing the issuance of Spanish visas to 500 Jewish children in Hungary whom it is desired to bring temporary haven in Spanish Morocco, the Embassy wishes to take this opportunity, in the light of the above mentioned press report, to express to the Ministry the hope that that Government will continue to assist in the rescue of the persecuted Jews in Hungary by making temporarily available to them the facilities of Spanish territory....²⁰

Pressure from private group within the United States and England may explain the sudden interest on the part of the Allies. Haim Avni cites that Jewish organizations pressured the Allies to “work vigorously” to rescue the Jews by negotiating with Eichmann to exchange goods for people or by bombing Auschwitz to end the systematic murdering of Jews.²¹ Both requests were denied. An alternative for the United States, then, was to gently pressure neutrals (like Spain), to intercede for humanitarian reasons and rescue Jews.

The British Embassy issued a memorandum labeled “urgent” on July 18, 1944, requesting that the Spanish Government intervene in saving some 1,500 Hungarian Jews by issuing transit visas. The British Embassy accepted complete responsibility for their eventual relocation overseas.²² On a follow up “Nota Verbale”, the United States Embassy reiterated the British request, again assuring that the evacuation of the Jews overseas would indeed transpire, and reminded Spain of its humanitarianism in granting transit visas.²³

An example of Spain's intervention and ability to manipulate German and Hungarian authorities, was expressed in a memorandum sent by the British Embassy to the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry in August of 1944. The “Nota Verbale” expressed the gratitude of the Embassy to the Ministry in taking action to evacuate the 1,500 Hungarian Jews. The Embassy pointed out that the refugees would be allowed to enter Palestine, as to alleviate any preoccupations on the part of the Ministry concerning a potential refugee problem.

The Embassy has now learnt that of the 1,500 refugees in question, the majority have already left Hungary, that 1,200 are at the Belsen-Bergen camp, and that the first group of 500 people is expected to reach the Spanish border during the next few weeks. In view, therefore, of the fact that these people will not have been able to have their visas issued in Budapest, the Embassy has the honour to request that the Spanish Government will be so good to send the necessary instructions to the Spanish authorities on the Franco-Spanish frontier especially in Catalonia (where they are most likely to arrive), authorizing the entry of these people even if they arrive without visas.²⁴

Not only did Spain assist in extricating 1,200 persons from the concentration camp Belsen-Bergen, but Spanish authorities allowed Hungarian Jews to enter the country without the proper papers.

The United States earnestly appealed to Spain in August of 1944 to provide transit visas upon immediate request to anyone possessing American passports or United States visas to enter the U. S. In a two part "Nota Verbale", the United States Embassy informed the Spanish Government that the "Hungarian Government has authorized the departure from Hungary of all Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission into any other country, including Palestine, and that the German Government is disposed to permit the transit of such persons through territories under its control."²⁵ In an accompanying memo dated the same day, the United States Embassy requested Spanish assistance with Hungarian Jews in possession of U. S. passports or visas.²⁶

In a communique to the Ministry in Spain, the United States, and Great Britain jointly transmitted a copy of a declaration issued on August 17, 1944. The declaration addressed the unfortunate situation the Hungarian Jews faced and agreed, "despite the heavy difficulties and responsibilities involved," to accept provisional care of Jews released by the Hungarian Government. The declaration ended by emphasizing that, "in accepting the offer which has been made, they do not in any way condone the action of the Hungarian Government in forcing the emigration of Jews as an alternative to persecution and death."²⁷

By mid-December, the Russians had entered Budapest. The Spanish delegate, Angel Sanz Briz, had received orders to leave Hungary before the Russians arrival (due to differences between the Russian and Spanish governments dating back to the Spanish Civil War). When Sr. Sanz Briz left Hungary, Spain's role in helping Jews came to an abrupt end.

Franco's issuance of Spanish protective papers continued over the protestations of the Germans until the Nazi occupation of Hungary was ended. Yad Vashem reports that by the end of the war, Franco had forwarded 2,750 protective documents to non-Spanish Jews. This was in addition to the passports issued the Hungarian *Sephardim* and the visas given by Franco to 1,200 Jews in 1943.²⁸

Indisputably, for whatever reasons, Franco's Spain was directly responsible for the safety of thousands of Jews escaping Nazi persecution in Hungary.

Rescue of Greek *Sephardim*

Ambivalence was the key word in Spain's rescue of Greek *Sephardim*. At times, the Spanish

Government looked favorably toward the Greek Jewish refugees, extending Spanish protection, issuing visas, etc. In other instances, Spain behaved in the opposite manner, denying entrance into Spain of Greek Jews, and as charged by the British Ambassador to Madrid, Sir Samuel Hoare, Spain even went as far as to set up stumbling blocks to the refugees' entrance.

Although there was no widespread anti-semitism in Spain and the Spanish Government had not adopted the anti-Jewish methods of Nazi persecution, no Spaniard wanted a Jewish immigration into Spain. The Government even went so far as to put obstacles in the way of the *Sephardim* refugees from Salonika although they were technically Spanish subjects. For a second time, this historic branch of the Jewish race had been expelled from its home, once in 1492, when the Jews had been expelled by Ferdinand and Isabella, and again in 1942 when the Germans occupied Salonika whither the *Sephardim* Jews had migrated.²⁹

The Spanish Government, however, took a much more favorable view of their assistance to the Greek Jews. In the published document *L'Espagne et les Juifs* (1949),³⁰ Spain related her efforts to save the Jews claiming that full power of attorney was given to the diplomatic missions to assist and do everything possible at all times, for the descendants of the historically exiled *Sephardim* four-hundred years before.³¹ This contradicts Sir Samuel Hoare's observations, but supports testimony by George Vogel, Secretary at the German Embassy in Athens, who felt the Spaniards were quite accommodating to the Jews because they extended "their protection to Sephardic Jews in Greece, in addition to *bona fide* Spanish nationals."³² In his book, *Wartime Mission in Spain*, former Ambassador Carlton Hayes noted that Spain "was ready to assert a fanciful Spanish 'citizenship' for Sephardic Jews in German occupied territories."³³

These conflicting testimonies do have a basis. Until the spring and summer of 1943, "the Germans and Spaniards continued to haggle about the Spanish Jews" while "the Franco Government carried on a tradition of procrastination."³⁴ On August 2, 1943, progress was made and the German Foreign Ministry agreed to treat the Sephardic Jews as "exchange Jews." These Jews were transported to Bergen-Belsen in Germany, to await clearance to continue to Spain.³⁵

The sudden progress was prompted by Adolph Eichmann who was growing impatient because the repatriation deadlines had passed and many countries still claimed citizens, including Spain.

On July 5, 1943, Eichmann reminded his counterpart in the Foreign Office, von Thadden, that repatriation deadlines had already passed. "We do not consider it worthwhile," he wrote, "to wait any longer or to meet these governments halfway. According to the present status of the final solution, there are now in the Reich area only those Jews who are partners in a Jewish-German mixed marriage and a few Jews of foreign nationality." In order to arrive at a "final solution" in this matter also, Eichmann requested von Thadden to fix one more deadline: August 3, 1943. . . . "In closing," Eichmann wrote, "we ask that you put aside any possible scruples in the interest of finally solving the Jewish Problem, since in this matter the Reich has met the foreign governments halfway in the most generous matter."³⁶

The deadline mentioned was prolonged eventually until December 31, 1943,³⁷ but the urgency of the situation still remained the same. "Several months after the decision on Bergen-Belsen, a representative of the Spanish Embassy in Berlin declared that his government was now prepared to repatriate *all* Spanish Jews in occupied territories."³⁸

The Sephardic Jews in Greece were unique in that many adhered to Spanish customs, language, and culture. The majority of the *Sephardim* lived in Salonika, spoke Ladino,³⁹ and could trace their Spanish descent back to fifteenth century Spain. These facts made it all the more puzzling as to why Spain acted so reluctantly in allowing the passage of the Jews into Spain.

The Jewish community in Salonika also had about 600 Jews who were Spanish citizens. When the deportations started the RSHA [*Reichssicherheitshauptamt*] intercepted messages from the Spanish chargé d'affaires in Athens (Eduardo Gasset) to the Spanish Foreign Ministry in Madrid which revealed that Gasset, with the aid and abettment of the chief of the Political Division of the Spanish Foreign Office (Doussinague) was trying very hard to save Spanish Jews.⁴⁰

The Spanish Foreign Ministry in Madrid, however, blocked the transport of these Spanish citizens by requesting that only fifty Jews be allowed to enter Spain at one time.⁴¹ The Spanish Government did not want an influx of six-hundred Greek Jews all at once. This definitely impeded Gasset's work in Athens.

In March of 1943, Spanish authorities "further revealed their lack of willingness to receive their Jewish nationals by ruling that no refugee should enter Spain until the previous group had left."⁴² As noted, this trend determined the attitude of Spain until December of 1943; on August 1, 1943 the nationals were finally en route to Bergen-Belsen and arrived there on August 13th.⁴³ According to Haim Avni, the question of passports was raised by the Germans with regard to the transport of the nationals from Bergen-Belsen to Spain. The Germans suggested that the transport of Jews be regarded as collective passport, which would expedite the crossing of German, Hungarian, and Bulgarian borders. The Spanish Foreign Ministry opposed this and insisted that the Spanish Ambassador in Athens issue individual passports.⁴⁴

Two major obstacles kept the Greek Jewry in limbo--passports and transportation. Several modes of transit were proposed, but the Spanish Foreign Ministry dismissed all except that by land. The Spanish Government was not willing to accept responsibility for financing nor organizing the actual transit.⁴⁵

Spain regarded the entire repatriation as the outcome of German policy since, were it not for this policy, the Spanish nationals could remain where they were; Spain therefore considered herself exempt from assisting. The differing approaches produced a deadlock that could be broken only if one of the sides were to capitulate.⁴⁶

Spain's obstinate behavior succeeded in forcing the Germans to concede. As preparations for a special train to carry the evacuees to the Spanish border were being made, "Spain suddenly revoked her decision to accept her Jewish nationals from Salonika."⁴⁷

On July 16, 1943 the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin telegraphed to the representative in Athens that “in view of the new instructions my Government cannot authorize repatriation of Spanish Jews *en masse* or even in groups, and Your Excellency may grant visas only in exceptional cases.”⁴⁸

Why the sudden change in attitude? Was Spain turning her back on these Spanish nationals? These questions also plagued the Germans who proceeded with caution concerning the Greek Jews. The Nazis believed Spain would have another change of position and would demand the release of these refugees. With this as their reason, the Germans decided to hold the Greek Jews for two months before transfer to the east (which would translate to “extermination”).⁴⁹

The Spanish Consul in Athens, Romero Radigales, along with the Spanish Consul in Salonika, Solomon Ezratty, began devising a plan to evacuate the nationals to an Italian occupied zone such as Athens. This angered the Germans because they perceived this action as using the Jews to play two Axis powers off against one another.⁵⁰

Finally in the middle of July, 1943, there was yet another change in Spanish attitude. Spain demanded the transport to Bergen-Belsen to be “carried out under optimal conditions, and that all the elderly, the children and the sick, for whom the journey be difficult, be removed from the transport; on August 6, 1943, the Spaniards further requested that their exconsul in Salonika, Solomon Ezrati [Ezratty], and his family be removed from transport and sent directly to Spain, stating that appropriate visas had already been issued.”⁵¹

As the transport of Greek *Sephardim* made its way to Bergen-Belsen, word came on August 9, 1943 that Spain would indeed accept her Sephardic nationals. This change in policy is unexplicable. It is possible that Spain became very apprehensive at the prospect of a large number of Jews immigrating to Spanish soil--after all, Spain was in the practice of accepting only those Jews that were in need of transit, on their way to Palestine, North Africa, or to the Americas. Of the thousands of Jews saved by Spain, only very few remained on Spanish soil indefinitely, all the others were relocated.

Other questions can be raised: Did Spain suddenly feel guilty about renouncing her nationals? Can Spain’s action be attributed to humanitarian reasons? Or did pressure from the Allies and pro-Jewish organizations prompt Spanish officials to change their minds and allow the Greek *Sephardim* a haven? Whatever the reasons, Spain’s reluctant intervention possibly allowed many refugees to perish at the hands of the Nazis, but in the end did save several hundred Greek Jews.

Notable Spanish Support Outside of Spain

On March 21, 1944, the British Embassy made an appeal to the Spanish Government to allow the transit through Spain, of a group of rabbis destined for the British colony of Mauritius. These rabbis, from all over Europe, were seeking an asylum. The British Embassy not only requested Spanish assistance for transit, but it also wanted permanent visas issued; this measure was asked in order to insure the passage of the rabbis. Some occupied countries’ border people were not lenient in cases of Jews seeking refuge elsewhere. A temporary visa could be more readily denied.⁵² The “permanent” visas, of course, were only temporary because the British Embassy had made prior arrangements to evacuate the rabbis to Mauritius after their arrival into Spain.

These rabbis received a great deal of attention from at least three governments. On the same

day the British Embassy appealed to the Spanish Foreign Ministry, David Blickenstaff of the American Relief Organization, wrote to the Ministry with regard to the rabbis seeking a haven.⁵³ A reply by the Spanish Ministry was made on April 18, 1944, informing the British Embassy that the rabbis could indeed pass through Spain in transit on their way to Mauritius.⁵⁴ After receiving a favorable reply from the Spanish, the British sent another memorandum praising the "competent Spanish authorities," and at the end of the correspondence requested additional assistance from the Spanish to issue more passports to another group of rabbis seeking refuge in Mauritius.⁵⁵

The Spanish Ministry was obviously gaining a respected reputation for getting results in their requests to occupied countries to issue passports and visas. In 1944, other countries such as the United States and Great Britain depended heavily on the Spanish Ministry to assist them in securing the safety of certain individuals, such as the rabbis.

During 1944, however, the Spanish authorities contradicted themselves, also. On June 28th, the British Embassy reported that several groups of Jews were turned away at the French border, in Sallent in the province of Huesca, Spain. The memorandum is as follows :

June 9th. A group of 12 men and 10 women, mostly Jews arrived at the frontier. The men were ordered back into France.

June 10th. Another group of 26 arrived at the frontier and was also obliged to return to France.

June 12th. Another group arrived, including a young Dutchman, Joka HENNY, who endeavoured to commit suicided by stabbing himself on being told he would have to return to France. He is now in the hospital at Zaragoza⁵⁶

Evidently, the Spanish border authorities were selective as to who may enter Spain, even though if refused, the refugees would have to return to France on pain of death. The Dutchman must have felt that taking his own life would have been less painful than returning to France where he most assuredly would have eventually been relocated to a concentration camp, and ultimately put to death. These people were obviously fleeing for their lives.

Other occurrences in 1944 suggested a rather antagonistic atmosphere amidst the Spanish rescue effort. The United States Embassy found it urgent to express its displeasure with a situation involving the representative of the American Joint Distribution Committee.

The American Consul General at Barcelona has reported by telephone to the Embassy that on July 18, 1944 a group of some 15 Falangists, some of whom wore insignia distinguishing them as ex-members of the Blue Division, forced their entry at the point of a pistol into the offices and living quarters of Dr. Samuel SEQUERRA which are located on the third floor of the Hotel Bristol. Acts of vandalism are reported to have been committed by the intruders. Dr. Sequerra was not on the premises at the time, and probably owes escape from personal injury to this fortunate circumstance.

The Embassy views this incident gravely inasmuch as Dr. Sequerra, although a citizen

of Portugal, is the representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and inasmuch as it must be assumed in the absence of evidence to the contrary that the assault was directed against him and the Committee's offices with knowledge of and because of his activities on behalf of the said Committee. The Consul General accordingly has been instructed to support such protests to the authorities at Barcelona as may be determined upon in the case.⁵⁷

A thorough investigation was conducted by the Foreign Ministry, and in September the results were released. Apparently, the men were celebrating the eighth anniversary of the "uprising."⁵⁸ Most of the men were Falange members from the old guard who were having a reunion. Some of these men had fought on the Russian Front with the Blue Division, and were uniformed accordingly.

After a substantial amount of alcohol was consumed, around five-thirty in the evening, the group began its rampage and headed for the Bristol Hotel. The group was in control of its actions because they had thought to disconnect the telephone lines in all the fervor and grouped the hotel employees together as hostages. Soon the men were out of control and began ravaging the office and living quarters of Dr. Sequerra, destroying many of his material belongings. After several minutes of uninterrupted terror, the police arrived; two men aged twenty-one and twenty-two were apprehended and arrested.⁵⁹

The Falangist men involved were lashing out at two groups ; unfortunately, the men vented their anger at the Portuguese doctor who was representing the two groups they vehemently disliked-- Americans and Jews. The United States Embassy had pressured the Spanish Ministry with several memos calling for a thorough and complete investigation of the incident. The United States Embassy reminded the Ministry "that it is not the intention of the Spanish Government to permit the perpetrators of this assault against the premises of an American organization to go unpunished."⁶⁰

The Ministry attended to the investigation of the assault expeditiously; the United States Embassy acknowledged its gratitude for the arrest of the two vandals and the measures taken by the Spanish authorities to investigate the "deplorable incident."⁶¹ These instances, however, did not reflect the overall accomplishments of the Spanish Government nor did they detract from the work Franco's government generally pursued. It has been documented in the Spanish Foreign Affairs Archives that thousands of Jews were aided⁶² with visas, passports, and given transit through Spain to escape the ludicrous extermination by the Nazis.

Endnotes

参考文献

1. U. S., Congress, Senate, *The Palestine Question* December 20, 1943, p. 4.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 9. From the general text of the introduction.
4. In general, American Ambassador Carlton Hayes was all but cooperative with regard to the refugee problem in Spain. He denied and blocked several efforts made by American refugee organizations to help save Jews. These organizations visualized Spain as a "conveyor belt" to bring thousands of Jews to their freedom, but

Hayes in all but two occasions (one is included herein) failed to cooperate. David Wyman, author of *The Abandonment of the Jews* (New York : Pantheon Books, 1984), attributes Hayes' behavior to the manner which he viewed his mission in Spain. Hayes had said that he accepted the Ambassadorial duty (April 1942) in order to expedite the winning of the war by stopping Spanish sales of minerals (Wolfram) to the Germans; also, he maintained his decision was prompted by the desire to persuade Spain to abandon the Axis and befriend the Allies. Other actions performed by Hayes suggested that he was not anti-semitic (i. e. he was the co chairman for the National Conference of Christians and Jews), yet he contradicted himself on various issues (i. e. his reluctance to assist the Hungarian Jews in 1944). As Wyman so aptly wrote, "Hayes' behavior remains a riddle." (Wyman, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, p. 225.)

5. Spanish Foreign Affairs Documents, Personal letter from Carlton Hayes to Count Jordana, December 6, 1943, 1716, exp. 5.
6. Spanish Foreign Affairs Documents, Personal Letter from Count Jordana to Ambassador Carlton J. H. Hayes, December 10, 1943.
7. SFAD, No. 63112 ; 63, 48, 591330 : 1716, exp. 15.
8. SFAD, Madrid, May 22, 1944 ; 1716, exp. 15.
9. Avni, *Spain, the Jews, and Franco*, pp. 168-169.
10. Lipschitz, *Franco, Spain, the Jews, and the Holocaust*, p. 52.
11. Avni, *Spain, the Jews, and Franco*, p. 169.
12. Henry Feingold, "The Roosevelt Administration and the Effort to Save the Jews," *Hungarian Jewish Studies* (1969) : p. 218.
13. Lipschitz, *Franco, Spain, The Jews, and the Holocaust*, p. 52. By this time the Germans were struggling in the war effort, yet they continued to deport Jews. Shortly, on June 4, 1944, the Allies entered Rome and on June 6th, the Allies entered Normandy forcing the Germans to retreat.
14. Angel Sanz Briz, a delegate to the Spanish Legation in Budapest, made a concerned effort to keep the Spanish Foreign Ministry informed of political developments in Hungary. (In order to give a perspective of events, a bomb plot to assassinate Hitler failed on July 20, 1944.)
 - * The Spanish word used for apartment in the ordinance was *aposenito*, which traditionally referred to servants' quarters.
15. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 135 : 1716 ; expediente 15, July 15, 1944. See Appendix A, No. 1 for the entire document.
16. Avni, *Spain, the Jews, and Franco*, p. 171.
17. See Appendix A, No. 2 for the actual document. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, 1716 ; expediente 5, May 22, 1944.
18. Avni, *Spain, the Jews, and Franco*, p. 172. See Appendix A, No. 3.
19. See Appendix A, No. 3 for the exchange of correspondence referring back to the above mentioned "condition."
20. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 768 ; 1716 ; exp. 8, July 22, 1944.
21. Avni, *Spain, the Jews, and Franco*, p. 712
22. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 912 ; 1716 ; exp. 5.
23. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 2814 ; 1716 ; exp. 5.
24. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 985 ; 1716 ; exp. 5, August 4, 1944.
25. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 2907 ; 1716 ; exp. 5, August 11, 1944.
26. See Appendix A, No. 4 for the complete documents. It should be noted, from the tone of the second memo (No. 2908), that the U. S. was not aware of U. S. immigrants in Hungary when the original memo (No. 2907), was written. In any case the U. S. asked for Spanish help in securing the safety of these Hungarian Jews.
27. Spanish Foreign Affairs Document, No. 2972 (enclosure); 1716 ; exp. 8, August 24, 1944.
28. Lipschitz, *Franco, Spain, the Jews, and the Holocaust*, p. 68.
Unfortunately, as previously mentioned, access to Franco's personal papers are restricted as of the date this manuscript was written. It is necessary, then, to rely on secondary sources such as Haim Avni and Chaim Lipschitz, who both had the fortunate opportunity to review, in part, the documents not released for public viewing in the archives.
29. Sir Samuel Hoare, *Ambassador on Special Mission* (London : Collins, 1946) , p. 237.
30. *L'Espagne et les Juifs* (Madrid : Bureau d'Information Diplomatique, 1949)
31. Haim Avni, "Spanish Nationals in Greece and their Fate during World War II," *Yad Vashem Studies VIII*, 1970, p. 32.
32. *Ibid.*, p. 33.
33. Hayes, *Wartime Mission in Spain*, p. 123.
34. Nora Levin, *The Holocaust : The Destruction of European Jewry, 1933-1945* (New York : Schocken Books,

- 1973), p. 522.
35. Ibid.
 36. Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of European Jews*, V. II (New York : Holms and Meier Publishers, 1985), p. 447.
 37. In September 1943, the Italians surrendered. Until this time the Italians were able to protect their Jews. After September 1943, the 13,000 Jews under Italian protection lost their reprieve. (Levin, *The Holocaust*, p. 523.)
 38. Ibid., p. 522.
 39. Ladino is a Romance Language, derived from Spanish with Hebrew elements and modifications. It is spoken by Sephardic Jews.
 40. Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, p. 700.
 41. Ibid., p. 701.
 42. Avni, "Spanish Nationals in Greece," p. 46. Also, according to many of the documents from the Spanish Foreign Ministry, David Blickenstaff worked tirelessly to find refuge for these Jews, in order to allow another group to enter. His work consisted, in part, of locating countries willing to take these Jewish refugees (i.e. Palestine, North Africa, Great Britain, the United States).
He had no easy task due to the restrictions imposed upon him by these countries and by Spain. Mr. Blickenstaff on many occasions pleaded with Spanish authorities and to Allied embassies to loosen the strict restrictions, in order to expedite the passage of these unfortunate refugees to a more secure, less threatening environment.
 43. Ibid., p. 54.
 44. Ibid., p. 49.
 45. Ibid.
 46. Ibid., p. 50.
 47. Ibid., p. 51. It should be noted that the Germans were going to set a fare, just as a normal trip to Spain, to be paid by the individual refugees to finance the trip.
 48. Ibid., citing AA-Jm/2218, K-213099. From a telegram sent by a Dr. Heberlain to the German Ambassador in Athens on 7/16/43. (This is only a few weeks before the actual transport took pace. The Spanish had an obvious sudden change of mind with regard to the Salonikan Jews.)
 49. Ibid., p. 52.
 50. Ibid.
 51. Ibid., p. 54. Mr. Ezratty, although the Spanish Vice Consul, was included in the transport, initially. The passports and visas of the Ezratty family (which include children and grandparents) gave Tel Aviv, Palestine as their ultimate destination. A brother-in-law of Ezratty claimed sponsorship for the entire family and promised assistance "until the end of hostilities." However, Mr. Ezratty went to Barcelona where he continued his work until the end of the war. After the war, Mr. Ezratty returned to Greece where he worked vigorously with reclamation efforts and assisted the Jewish refugees in filing for compensation for material items and money taken during the German occupation. (SFAD, entire file ; R1716 ; exp. 1). See Appendix A, No. 5 for a copy of Mr. Ezratty's papers.
 52. Spanish Foreign Affairs Documents, No. 369 ; R2303, expediente 8, March 21, 1944.
 53. SFAD, personal letter from David Blickenstaff to German Baraibar, 1716 ; expediente 6, March 21, 1944.
 54. SFAD, No. 312 ; 1716 ; expediente 5, April 18, 1944.
 55. SFAD No. 657 ; 1716 ; expediente 5, May 24, 1944.
 56. SFAD, 15-E2 ; 1716R ; expediente 3, June 28, 1944.
 57. SFAD, CF-6-2. E. U. 41, July 19, 1944.
 58. This uprising pertains to the start of the Spanish Civil War.
 59. SFAD, 11 9 9012 44 ; R1468 ; expediente 26, September 9, 1944.
 60. SFAD, No. 3155 ; R1468 ; expediente 26, September 28, 1944.
 61. SFAD, No. 3212 ; R1468 ; expediente 26, October 12, 1944.
 62. The Archives possess documents listing by name, thousands of Spanish nationals outside of Spain, seeking asylum. Many of these documents are accompanied by memos detailing the result of what happened to the Jews listed (i. e. where they were being relocated).

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Appendix A: Spanish Foreign Affairs Documents

No. 1

ARBUJAL, J.
LEGACIÓN DE ESPAÑA EN BUDAPEST

EXTRACTO DE NUEVAS DISPOSICIONES DEL GOBIERNO HUNGARO CONTRA LA POBLACION JUDIA DEL PAIS

- En virtud de un nuevo decreto del Ministerio del Interior, el Alcalde de Budapest ha designado las casas que en adelante podrán ser habitadas por judíos obligados al uso de la estrella distintiva. Estas casas deberán ostentar en la puerta de entrada al edificio una estrella amarilla de 30 cm. de diametro sobre fondo negro de 31 por 51 cm.
- Los judíos que habiten actualmente casas declaradas solo para cristianos, deberán abandonarlas en el plazo de 5 días y mudarse a cohabitar con familias judías habitantes en casas solo para judíos.
- Una familia judía tiene derecho a un aposento solamente, pero si este aposento desplaza menos de 25 metros cuadrados y si la familia consta de mas de 4 personas, entonces tiene derecho a otro aposento más o, según, a medio aposento complementario. Los médicos, ingenieros y otros, cuyas circunstancias profesionales exijan un mayor espacio, tienen derecho a un aposento aparte.
- Los judíos que dejen una vivienda pueden llevar consigo todo su mobiliario. La llave deben entregarla al propietario.
- La "Alianza de los Judíos húngaros" es la entidad encargada de entender en todo lo relacionado con la admisión de judíos, aunque bajo el control de las autoridades municipales.
- Los subarrendatarios no judíos que habiten en casas de judíos, pero en casas declaradas para cristianos, pueden quedarse en la misma vivienda hasta que encuentren otra en casa de familias cristianas.
- Los cristianos no tienen derecho a alquilar los departamentos abandonados por judíos, a menos que estén en posesión de un permiso especial de la Alcaldía. En cambio los cristianos pueden cambiar sus aposentos con los judíos que dejen los suyos.
- En lo que concierne a los cristianos que habiten casas declaradas para judíos, podrán quedarse de momento en ellas por un plazo de tres meses. Un decreto posterior regulará su situación de una manera más precisa.
- A los cristianos se les ha rogado no comprar los muebles de judíos que sean desplazados.
- La destrucción de obras de literatura escritas por judíos ha comenzado en los quemaderos al efecto. En las talleres de una fábrica de cartonajes, la destrucción de aquella literatura ha sido hecha en presencia del señor Kobosvary, secretario de la policía.

y de otras personalidades del Ministerio y de la Prensa. Blazaváry-Borza pronunció un breve discurso antes de entregar al fuego el primer volumen, que resultó ser un libro de poesías de Miss Jozsef.

- De las 36000 casas de vivienda existentes en Budapest, 2661 han sido designadas como casas reservadas unicamente a judios por las autoridades competentes.
- La Alcaldia ha publicado un bando ordenando que los judios sin excepcion deberán formular y presentar a las autoridades un inventario de sus muebles y efectos, por triplicado.
- Otro decreto dispone que los judios deberán entregar toda clase de armas que posean en un plazo de 24 horas.
- Los médicos judios vendrán desde ahora obligados a poner las estrellas amarilla distintivo en las placas anunciadoras de su profesion en la casa o consulta donde la tengan establecida, bajo pena de seis meses de carcel en caso de contravención.

No. 2

EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR TENIENTE GENERAL ORGAZ
ALTO COMISARIO DE ESPAÑA EN LÁZARUS.
TEJUNA

Excelencia:

Los que suscriben, residentes en Tánger, tienen el honor de dirigirse muy respetuosamente a V.E. para expresarle el deseo de que tuviese a bien acceder a autorizar la llegada a Tánger de 500 niños israelitas de 5 - 15 años de edad procedentes de Hungría.

Próximamente habrán de dejar nuestra ciudad unos 400 - 500 refugiados israelitas procedentes de Centro Europa y esta circunstancia nos impulsa a solicitar el favor de que por Ud. pudiera concederse la hospitalidad a un número similar de pequeños.

Los que suscriben asumen, desde luego, la responsabilidad del sustento de los niños que V.E. quisiera permitirnos acoger, garantizando que su estancia en esta ciudad no habrá de producir la menor perturbación ni molestia para nuestras queridas autoridades ni para ninguno de los residentes en Tánger.

La organización del viaje y traslado de éstos niños sería efectuada por la autorizada mediación de la Cruz Roja Internacional, quedando así autorizada, es decir, aseguradas toda clase de garantías sobre la elección de los beneficiarios.

Concededores de los humanitarios y generosos sentimientos de V.E. y de España, nos permitimos abrigar la esperanza de que, si ello es factible, querrá V.E. acceder a dar satisfacción a este deseo de apartar y alejar de los peligros y sinsabores de la guerra a un cierto número de criaturas inocentes y confiados en esa generosidad nunca desmentida anticipan a V.E. la expresión de su más profunda gratitud.- Dios guarde a V.E. y a España muchos años.- Tánger, 22 de mayo de 1.944.- Firmado, por Tánger: Isaac Salama.- Jacobo de J. Salama.- Arón Cohén.- Jaime Delmar.- Simey Larques.- Miriam Benain.- J. Abistol.- Mimon Cohén y Salomón D. Lasri.- Por Tejuna: Jacob M. Benmamán y Moisés A. Hincán.-

Es copia:

No. 3

38-B2

S^e-TA



ALTA COMISARIA
DE ESPAÑA EN MARRUECOS

Secretaría Diplomática.

Nombre



Tetuán, 23 de Mayo de 1944.

ASUNTO: Acompaña instancia Comunidades Israelitas Tángier y Tetuán, solicitando entrada Tángier unos 500 muchachos israelitas que sustituirían a unos 500 refugiados próximos salir de Tángier.

RECIBO Y
F. I.

Excmo. señor:

317

Para envío a B. I. ...

La Comunidad israelita de Tángier solicita en instancia dirigida a esta Alta Comisaría, y que en copia se acompaña, se autorice la venida a Tángier de unos quinientos muchachos israelitas procedentes de Hungría. Consideran esta hospitalidad a la próxima salida de Tángier de cuatrocientos a quinientos refugiados de igual religión, procedentes de Centro Europa, que pudieran ser sustituidos por los nuevos acogidos.

Contesto a los firmantes del documento en cuestión que, siendo como son evidentes los sentimientos humanitarios de España y de su Gobierno, someto a éste y para su superior decisión, lo que solicitan; pero que sería de desear, al servicio de una favorable acogida a sus pretensiones, conocer el curso de las gestiones que la Comunidad israelita practica en relación con la salida de los refugiados centro europeos, que debe ser anterior a la llegada de los muchachos húngaros.

Lo someto a la consideración de V.E. para la resolución que estime pertinente.

Dios...

*Jules ...
B. I.
L. V. U. U.*

Sf-TA
24

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

De G. C.

El Jefe de la Sección de Ultramar y Asia saluda atentamente al de Política de Europa y al transmitirle copia del Despacho 1169 del Señor Alto Comisario relativo a la autorización de entrada en Tánger de 500 niños israelitas se permite manifestarle que esta Sección no ve inconveniente en acceder a la autorización que se recaba siempre que se supedita a la salida del otro grupo de hebreos a que alude el Sr. Alto Comisario y que las oportunas gestiones para el viaje de los menores que deban ir a Tánger se practiquen por la Cruz Roja Internacional.

Madrid, 13 de junio de 1944

Señor Comisario
Señor Jefe de Política de Europa
Señor Jefe de Ultramar y Asia
Señor Jefe de Asuntos Exteriores

ETA

Tetuán, 15 de Junio de 1.944.



ALTA COMISARIA
DE
ESPANA EN MARRUECOS

... sigue informando que en Tetuán 500 muchachos israelitas procedentes de Hungría que sustituirían a 500 refugiados alemanes próximos salir de Tánger.-

... diplomática.

Núm. ...

Excmo. Señor:

Como complemento a cuanto tiene la honra de comunicarle a V.E. por mi Despacho nº 1169 ... (Asia), al adjuntarle copia de lo informado que a la Alta Comisaría dirigiera la Comunidad Israelita de Tánger, solicitando la indispensable autorización para la entrada en dicha ciudad de unos 500 muchachos israelitas procedentes de Hungría, me permito hoy enviar a V.E. la incluida copia del escrito que acaba de dirigirme, por conducto de nuestra Delegación en Tánger, el Consejo Dirigente de la mencionada Comunidad por el que, como verá V.E., no solo apoya la súplica hecha por sus correligionarios de Tánger y Tetuán de que se les permita la entrada en Tánger de tales niños, sino que hace suya la garantía dada en el sentido de que se hallan dispuestos a reservarles su mejor acogida haciéndose cargo de ellos, desde su llegada al puerto de Tánger y asegurándoles su manutención y sosten durante todo el tiempo que allí tuvieran que permanecer; al propio tiempo que da cuenta el referido Consejo de las activas gestiones que están realizando para hacer emigrar a países extranjeros un número análogo de refugiados de su misma religión que allí viene sosteniendo el llamado "Comité de Asistencia a los refugiados" de la Comunidad Israelita de Tánger.

En estas condiciones, me permito someter a V.E., informándolo favorablemente, el asunto de la concesión eventual por ese Departamento del indispensable permiso que solicitan dichas Comunidades para esa entrada de niños en Tánger, a la que la Alta Comisaría no ve inconveniente, todas las citadas garantías.

Mucho agradecería a V.E. que, en el caso de concederle tal permiso, tuviera a bien ordenar se comunicara a la Mayor brevedad posible a la Alta Comisaría para hacerle llegar a conocimiento de los peticionarios, en orden a la práctica de gestiones que han de hacer aquellos, tanto para la salida de los niños en cuestión de su país de origen, como para los preparativos de alojamiento de aquéllos por las familias pudientes israelitas de Tánger, de tal manera, que todo ello no produzca la menor molestia ni alteración en la vida de la población de referencia.

Dios guarde a V.E. muchos años.

[Firma manuscrita]

... MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES.-

CR/J.

34

MINISTERIO
DE
ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

Transmitido

Madrid, 22 de junio de 1944

CIFRA

El Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores

al Alto Comisario España

Núm.

Marruecos

CIFRADO

~~Con referencia su Despacho 1372 puede V.E. autorizar entrada Tánger quinientos niños israelitas supeditando concesión dicho permiso a salida grupo refugiados centro europeos aludido su Despacho 1169 y a que gestiones viaje menores se practiquen por Cruz Roja Internacional. -JORDANA~~

Coruniques:

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE
POLITICA EXTERIOR,

Ultramar y Asia

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

A P U N T E

Por Despachos 1169 y 1372 el Sr. Alto Comisario ha transmitido copia de una instancia que le ha sido dirigida por la Comunidad Israelita de Tánger solicitando autorización de entrada en dicha capital para 500 niños israelitas procedentes de Hungría. El General Orgaz ha informado favorablemente la petición, si bien supedita la entrada del aludido grupo de menores hebreos a la salida de Tánger de otro grupo de refugiados centro-europeos asimismo israelitas.

Tanto la Sección de Política de Europa como la de Ultramar y Asia consideran que no hay inconveniente en que se conceda la autorización, supeditándola a la salida del grupo de refugiados centro-europeos aludidos y a que las gestiones para el traslado a Tánger de los menores israelitas se lleve a cabo por la Cruz Roja Internacional.

Si S.E. el señor Ministro lo considerase procedente, se podría dirigir al Sr. Alto Comisario el adjunto telegrama concediendo la autorización solicitada.

Madrid, 22 de junio de 1944

No. 4

I 5 - E 2

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No. 2907

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to inform the latter that the United States Government has been informed, through official neutral channels, that the Hungarian Government has authorized the departure from the territory of all Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission into any other country, including Palestine, and that the German Government is disposed to permit the transit of such persons through territories under its control.

In order that full advantage may be taken of this decision on the part of the Hungarian Government and that no possible avenue of escape may be denied to these unfortunate persons, the Embassy has been instructed by its Government, pursuant to the latter's

urgent/

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- 2 -

urgent interest in the rescue of oppressed and persecuted minorities from German-controlled areas of Europe, to express the hope that the Spanish Government will convey to the appropriate Hungarian authorities at the earliest possible moment an expression of its willingness to receive on Spanish territory Jewish refugees proceeding from Hungary, at the same time instructing its representatives in Budapest accordingly, it being understood that every effort will be made by the United States Government, in cooperation with the British Government, to arrange the prompt onward transportation of such persons from Spain to havens of refuge in United Nations territory and to contribute to their maintenance and support in whatever manner the Spanish Government may deem desirable during the period of their stay on Spanish soil.

The United States Government has taken grateful cognizance of the steps which the Spanish Government has already taken toward the rescue of Jewish refugees

from/

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from Hungary and other German-controlled areas of Europe, and is confident that, motivated by the same high principles of humanity, that Government will continue to devote to this humanitarian task its active support and willing cooperation.

Madrid, August 11, 1944.

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No. 2908

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to its immediately preceding Note Verbale No. 2907 of this date requesting the cooperation of the Spanish Government in facilitating the entry into Spain, in transit to further destinations, of Jewish refugees released from Hungary pursuant to the decision of the appropriate Hungarian authorities to permit the departure from that country of all Jewish persons in possession of entry permits entitling them to admission into any other country, has the honor to inform the Ministry that there are known to be among these refugees a considerable number of persons to whom United States immigration visas were issued on or after July 1, 1941, the date upon which existing visa procedures took effect, but who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of

703:

war/

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war, have been unable to make effective use of such visas.

In the belief that the lives of many of these persons might be saved by means of the issuance of newly-validated visas, consular officers of the United States in Spain and other neutral countries have been authorized, subject to certain specified conditions, to issue to such persons upon personal application visas valid for immigration into the United States, and, in order that the latter may not be denied this opportunity of saving themselves from threatened persecution and possible death at the hands of Nazi authorities, the Embassy would request on instructions from its Government, that the Spanish Government consent to permit the entry into Spain, without reference to customary visa requirements, of all such persons to whom United States immigration visas were issued on or after the date in question, and that it make known this consent to the appropriate German, Hungarian and other German-satellite authorities.

On its part, the Embassy can give to the Ministry
the assurances/

- 3 -

the assurances of its Government that any such persons so admitted into Spain will be adequately maintained while on Spanish soil and evacuated with the least possible delay, and that any who may be found not to be qualified for admission into the United States will be removed from Spain as promptly as possible to other destinations to be arranged by the United States Government.

Madrid, August 11, 1944.

Mod. num. 2 No. 5.

Salvoconducto num. _____



INCE DIRECTO
para la impresión
de cartas
Salomon
Raquel

Excmo. Señor:

EXPIDASE

Don Salomon Ezratty y Botton de 62 años
profesión Proprietario, Viceconsul Hellenico de España Salónica
Natural de Salónica (Grecia)... estado Casado... domiciliado
provincia de Salónica
en Barcelona calle de Rambla Catalunya núm. 76
Fenion locales 11777 Nacionalidad 101 expedida
y con cédula personal de Atenas por el Consulado General de España de Atenas
el 27/3/1943 para salir de España por la frontera de puerto español con validez para
un solo viaje, a cuyo efecto acompaña dos fotografías, reintegrando la petición con
una póliza de una cincuenta pesetas.

Declarando bajo su responsabilidad, que las razones que le obligan a solicitar el mismo son las siguientes:

llamado por su cuñado Alberto Kolbo, residente en Tel Aviv
(Palestina) Calle Rehov Acharon Nº. 22, con objeto de residir
provisionalmente en dicha población hasta la fin de las
hostilidades y poder reintegrar en su puesto del Consulado
de España en Salónica.....

Gracia que espera alcanzar de V. E. cuya viuda guarde Dios muchos años.

Barcelona a 1 de Agosto de 1943
Firma del interesado

Los abajo firmantes, mayores de edad, reconocen la firma anterior, garantizan la bondad de conducta y plena adhesión al Movimiento Nacional del solicitante, y la certeza de los motivos alegados:

Don Elias Calderon Y Eliaon
de 66 años, profesión comerciante
domiciliado en Barcelona
calle de Rambla Catalunya núm. 76
Firma, ..

Don Samuel Abraham
de 61 años, profesión comerciante
domiciliado en Barcelona
calle de Septimania núm. 17
Firma, ..

Excmo. Señor Gobernador Civil de la Provincia.

BARCELONA



JEFATURA SUPERIOR DE POLICIA
DE BARCELONA

DECLARACION JURADA

Don Salmon Ezratty y Botton con su esposa Raquel Revah a los efectos de petición de salvoconducto para paso de frontera y bajo juramento afirma:

1.º Población o poblaciones a las que se propone dirigir:
Tel-Aviv (Palestina)

2.º Gestión que se propone realizar en cada una de dichas poblaciones:
(Detállese las gestiones, personas o centros donde ha de realizarse y todos cuantos detalles permiten comprobar la veracidad.)

Para establecerse provisionalmente en dicha población

Duración aproximada de estancia en cada una de las poblaciones:

Provisionalmente.

4. Relación de documentos que presenta o acompaña, como demostración de la veracidad del fundamento del viaje:

Certificado del Consulado General Británico de Barcelona de fecha 1 de Agosto de 1944, adjunto.

DECLARACION JURADA

5. Salvoconducto anterior: (Expresar fecha, fundamento.)

Pasaporte del Consulado General de España en Atenas bajo N.º 216 de 27 de Mayo de 1943.

6. Divisas extranjeras con que cuenta en España y en el Extranjero para realizar el viaje:

7. Otras manifestaciones:

Barcelona 1 de Agosto de 1944

Firma del declarante.



Los abajo firmantes afirman constarles la veracidad de cuanto anteriormente se declara bajo juramento.

