

NATIONAL POWER POLICY COMMITTEE
INTERIOR BUILDING
WASHINGTON

November 10, 1938.

*file
personal
G-2*

198

Dear Missy:

Could I trouble you to show the following cable to the President which Dr. Stephen S. Wise received from Messrs. Zuckerman, Greenberg and Locker, three American Zionists who are in London. As Dr. Wise was out of the city, Mrs. Wise had the cable read to me over the telephone.

"Just received authentic information that German situation is far worse than you know from press Stop Not supposed to reveal details in cable Stop Among arrested Jews scores murdered Stop Many our friends (probably referring to German Zionists) arrested Stop Important to obtain information whether alive Stop Insist not submit information to press Stop Mobilize American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress and Jewish Labor Committee immediate action Stop Don't delay getting in touch with skipper Stop Every minute counts."

I thought I should bring the cable to the President's attention, although I imagine that he has already received much more detailed information from the State Department.

Yours sincerely,

Ben V.C.
Benjamin V. Cohen.

Miss Marguerite LeHand,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

~~Suggested statement for the President to make~~
~~at press conference November 15,~~
1938

The news of the past few days from Germany
has ^{deeply} shocked public opinion in the United States.
Such news from any part of the world would in-
evitably produce a similar ^{profound} reaction among ~~the~~
American people. ^{every part of the nation.} With a view to gaining a first-
hand picture of the situation in Germany I asked
the Secretary of State to ~~order~~ our Ambassador
in Berlin ^{to return at once} ~~to come home~~ for report and consultation.

I myself could scarcely believe
that such things could occur in
a twentieth century civilization.

C.H.

Germany: Extermination of Jews

From a Berlin source which our agent considers reliable, we have the following report on changes in the Nazi Jewish policy:

The new Nazi policy is to kill Jews on the spot rather than to deport them to Poland for extermination there. High officers of the SS reportedly have decided that Berlin shall be liberated of all Jews by mid-March. Accordingly, 15,000 Berlin Jews were arrested between January 26 and March 2. All closed trucks were requisitioned; several hundred children died; several hundred adults were shot. Extension of these methods to other parts of Germany in the near future is expected.

(OSS Official Dispatch, #1597, Bern, March 10, 1943)



DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of _____

CIA 006687

By SR Date MAR 3 1975

January 16, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY'S FILES:

There was a meeting at the White House today at 12:45 attended by the President, Secretary Morgenthau, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Pehle. Secretary Morgenthau had requested the appointment to discuss the problem of saving the remaining Jews in Europe.

The conference lasted about twenty minutes. Secretary Morgenthau advised the President that he was deeply disturbed about the failure of the State Department to take any effective action to save the remaining Jews in Europe. He explained that the Treasury Department, in connection with the operation of the Foreign Funds Control, had uncovered evidence indicating that not only were the people in the State Department inefficient in dealing with this problem, but that they were actually taking action to prevent the rescue of the Jews. The Secretary then asked John Pehle to explain to the President the facts which the Treasury had uncovered. The President listened attentively and seemed to grasp the significance of the various points. He also glanced at the proposed Executive Order and suggested that perhaps the Secretary of War should be on the Board. The President inquired as to why Mr. Crowley was put on the Board and did not seem satisfied that there was any reason to put Mr. Crowley on the Board. The President asked whether Mr. Stettinius had been consulted and referred to the fact that Stettinius had recently reorganized the State Department and that nowhere in the organization chart was there any indication that any particular division was charged with this problem. The Secretary indicated that we had been dealing with Mr. Hull on the general matter and had hesitated to put Stettinius instead of Hull on the Board. Nevertheless, the President indicated that he would like to have the matter taken up with Mr. Stettinius and indicated that he thought Stettinius would be sympathetic. He said he would also like to have Judge Rosenman brought into the picture. The Secretary said he had already talked to Judge Rosenman about the matter.

During the conference the following points were brought out:

- (1) The Secretary said he was convinced that effective action could be taken and referred to the results that his father, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., had obtained when he was Ambassador to Turkey in getting the Armenians out of Turkey and saving their lives. The President said he agreed that some effective action could be taken and referred particularly to the movement of Jews through Rumania into Bulgaria

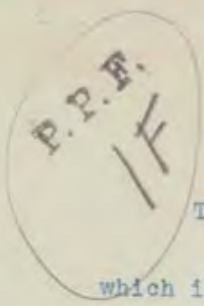
- 2 -

and out through Turkey. He said he thought such channels were wide open at the present time, but that they would not be open if Turkey entered the war.

- (2) The President referred to the possibility of getting people over the Spanish and Swiss borders.
- (3) The President seemed disinclined to believe that Long wanted to stop effective action from being taken, but said that Long had been somewhat soured on the problem when Rabbi Wise got Long to approve a long list of people being brought into this country many of whom turned out to be bad people. Secretary Morgenthau reminded the President that at a Cabinet meeting Biddle had indicated that only three Jews of those entering the United States during the war had turned out to be undesirable. The President said that he had been advised that the figure was considerably larger. In any event he felt that Long was inclined to be soured on the situation.

Following the meeting with the President and while still at the White House, Secretary Morgenthau called Mr. Stettinius and Judge Rosenman and arranged a meeting at the Secretary's home at 5:30.

The 5:30 meeting was attended by the Secretary, Mr. Stettinius, Judge Rosenman, Mr. Paul, and Mr. Pehle. The Secretary told Mr. Stettinius in plain words that he was convinced that people in the State Department, particularly Breckinridge Long, were deliberately obstructing the execution of any plan to save the Jews and that forthright immediate action was necessary if this Government was not going to be placed in the same position as Hitler and share the responsibility for exterminating all the Jews of Europe. At the Secretary's request Pehle then explained in detail the facts that had been uncovered by the Treasury. Stettinius seemed shocked by these facts although he said he was not surprised about Breckinridge Long since Long had fallen down just as badly and in an equally shocking way in the handling of the exchange of prisoners. Stettinius was very frank in his views on Long's failures and pointed out that in the reorganization of the State Department



file 4-3-44

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which international tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality, and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

In the meantime, in most of Europe and in parts of Asia the systematic torture and murder of innocent civilians -- men, women and children -- by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors, innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos -- and many others -- are being starved or frozen to death, or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking -- the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers -- these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and the Japs are in military control -- free to follow their barbaric purpose.

And one of the blackest crimes in all history -- begun by the Nazis in the days of peace, and multiplied by them a hundred fold in time of war -- the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe -- goes on unabated every hour.

It is, therefore, fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in any of these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done.

That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland, or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany, are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his actions that in his heart he does not share these insane criminal designs. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to

get over the borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessities of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Japanese executioner -- regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return. *Insert A*

In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking.

INSERT A

The War Refugee Board recently established by me will implement this policy with every possible resource.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

4 July 1944

*Noted
JMF*

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

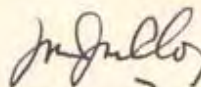
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I refer to your letter of June 29, inclosing a cable from your representative in Bern, Switzerland, proposing that certain sections of railway lines between Hungary and Poland be bombed to interrupt the transportation of Jews from Hungary.

The War Department is of the opinion that the suggested air operation is impracticable. It could be executed only by the diversion of considerable air support essential to the success of our forces now engaged in decisive operations and would in any case be of such very doubtful efficacy that it would not amount to a practical project.

The War Department fully appreciates the humanitarian motives which prompted the suggested operation but for the reasons stated above the operation suggested does not appear justified.

Sincerely,



John J. McCloy



111 South Manhattan Place
Apartment 105
Los Angeles 4, Calif.

August 19, 1944

Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Pehle:-

Re: 486 - 4-22-1944

I just read in a newspaper an announcement of the State Department in regard to the Hungarian Jews and I am happy to learn that the Governments of this country and Great Britain will take care of the Hungarian Jewry as far as they can be transported to Neutral- or United Nations territory. It is my desire to contribute to this aim and wish you would inform me if individuals can give Affidavits of Support for those Refugees to ease their situation or to help them in any other way possible.

At this occasion, I wish to bring to your attention that during recent years thousands of older Jewish men and women (most of them over 70 years of age), from Germany, Austria and Poland, were deported to the town of Theresienstadt-Czechoslovakia (Bohemia), among them my own parents. I would like to know if there is a way to send the few who are still alive (most of them already have died in Theresienstadt) through the facilities of the Red Cross to neutral territory, and if it is possible to contribute food, clothes or money to those who are without these necessities.

Thanking you again for the fine work of the War Refugee Board and trusting to hear from you soon, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Herbert Luft
HERBERT LUFT

VIA AIR MAIL

~~SECRET~~

we finally sent (as revised on recommendation of the BCOS) the point he immediately raised is whether our message implies an attempt, under the guise of military operations, to change the occupational boundaries already agreed upon by our three governments. Frankly, if I should have forces in the Russian occupational zone and be faced with an order or "request" to retire so that they may advance to the points they choose, I see no recourse except to comply. To do otherwise would probably provoke an incident, with the logic of the situation all on the side of the Soviets. I cannot see exactly what the British have in mind for me to do, under such circumstances. It is a bridge that I will have to cross when I come to it but I must say that I feel a bit lost in trying to give sensible instructions to my various commanders in the field.

On a recent tour of the forward areas in First and Third Armies, I stopped momentarily at the salt mines to take a look at the German treasure. There is a lot of it. But the most interesting - although horrible - sight that I encountered during the trip was a visit to a German internment camp near Gotha. The things I saw beggar description. While I was touring the camp I encountered three men who had been inmates and by one ruse or another had made their escape. I interviewed them through an interpreter. The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick. In one room, where they were piled up twenty or thirty naked men, killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said he would get sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to "propaganda".



If you could see your way clear to do it, I think you should make a visit here at the earliest possible moment, while we are still conducting a general offensive. You would be proud of the Army you have produced. In the first place, the U.S. ground and air forces are a unit; they both participate in the same battle all the way down the line from me to the lowest private. I can find no evidence whatsoever of any mutual jealousy, suspicion or lack of understanding. In fact, I know of one or two Major Generals in the Air Force that one of my Army Commanders would accept as Division Commanders today.

Next, you would be struck by the "veteran" quality of the whole organization. Commanders, staffs, and troops, both air and ground, go about their business in a perfectly calm and sure manner that gets results. I am quite certain that no organization has ever existed that can re-shuffle and re-group on a large scale and continue offensives without a single pause, better than can Bradley and his staff.

Another thing that would strike you is the high average of ability in our higher command team. In recent telegrams to you I explained something of

-2-
~~SECRET~~ BR

Waffen-44
44-Standortkommandantur
Dachau

140
Dachau 3, den
Femmel Dachau 293

~~7 April 1945~~
7 May 1945

Betreff:

Bang:

Anlagen: Dear Mother and Father,

You have, by this time, received a letter mentioning that I am quartered in the concentration camp at Dachau. It is still undecided whether we will be permitted to describe the conditions here, but I'm writing this now to tell you a little, and will mail it later when we are told we can.

It is difficult to know how to begin. By this time I have recovered from my first emotional shock and am able to write without seeming like a hysterical gibbering idiot. Yet, I know you will hesitate to believe me no matter how objective and factual I try to be. I even find myself trying to deny what I am looking at with my own eyes. Certainly, what I have seen in the past few days will affect my personality for the rest of my life.

We knew a day or two before we moved that we were going to operate in Dachau, and that it was the location of one of the most notorious concentration camps, but while we expected things to be grimy, I'm sure none of us knew what was coming. It is easy to read about atrocities, but they must be seen before they can be believed. To think that I once scoffed at Voltaire's book "Out of the Night" as being preposterous! I've seen worse

2

Waffen- 44
44-Standortkommandantur
Dachau

Dachau 3, den
Fernruf Dachau 293

Betreff: rights than any he described.
erug: The trip south from Ettlingen was
Anlagen: pleasant enough. We passed through Donaueschingen
and Aulendorf and as we entered Dachau, the
country, with the cottages, rivers, country estates and
Alps in the distance, was almost like a tourist resort.
But as we came to the center of the city, we
met a train with a wrecked engine - about fifty
cars long. Every car was loaded with bodies.
There must have been thousands of them - all obviously
starved to death. This was a shock of the first
order, and the scene can best be imagined. But
neither the sight nor the scene were anything when
compared with what we were still to see. E

More Coyle reached the camp two days
before I did and was a guard so as soon as I
got there I looked him up and he took me to
the crematory. Dead 44 troopers were scattered
around the grounds, but when we reached the
funeral house we came upon a huge stack of
corpses piled up like kindling, all made so that
their clothes wouldn't be wasted by the burning.
There were furnaces for burning six bodies at once,
and on each side of them was a room twenty
feet square crammed to the ceiling with more
bodies - one big stinking rotten mess. Their faces

ORIGINATORS FILE No.

SHAFF MESSAGE FORM

CALL

CIRCUIT No.

PRIORITY

TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

NR 21

SPACES WITHIN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM

ORIGINATOR

DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN

(A)

SHAFF FWD

Supreme Commander

DDE/nmr

19 April 1945

TO FOR ACTION

ATWAR

TO (W) FOR INFORMATION (INFO)

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS

GR

156

(REF NO.)

FWD 19461

(CLASSIFICATION)

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

WE CONTINUE TO UNCOVER GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS IN WHICH CONDITIONS OF INDESCRIBABLE HORROR PREVAIL. FROM EISENHOWER TO GENERAL MARSHALL FOR EYES ONLY. I HAVE VISITED ONE OF THESE MYSELF AND I ASSURE YOU THAT WHATEVER HAS BEEN PRINTED ON THEM TO DATE HAS BEEN UNDERSTATEMENT. IF YOU WOULD SEE ANY ADVANTAGE IN ASKING ABOUT A DOZEN LEADERS OF CONGRESS AND A DOZEN PROMINENT EDITORS TO MAKE A SHORT VISIT TO THIS THEATER IN A COUPLE OF C-54s, I WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE THEM CONDUCTED TO ONE OF THESE PLACES WHERE THE EVIDENCE OF BESTIALITY AND CRUELTY IS SO OVERPOWERING AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT IN THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE NORMAL PRACTICES OF THE GERMANS IN THESE CAMPS. I AM HOPEFUL THAT SOME BRITISH INDIVIDUALS IN SIMILAR CATEGORIES WILL VISIT THE NORTHERN AREA TO WITNESS SIMILAR EVIDENCE OF ATROCITY.

DL

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

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ORIGINATING-DIVISION

SHSC

NAME AND RANK TYPED. TEL NO.

Lt.Col.E.R.Lee,ADC 4170

AUTHENTICATING SIGNATURE

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APR 19 1945 12 27

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DOD DIR. 5200.10, June 29, 1960
NE by WGL date 7-5-67

Cable, General Eisenhower to General Marshall concerning Nazi horrors, April 19, 1945

http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents/holocaust/1945_04_19_DDE_to_Marshall.pdf

Together with the camp senior these agencies and their chiefs formed the central authority of the camp.

The camp was further divided into "blocks" (Blocks) and "cells" (Stuben). And each block and each cell, in turn, had its "senior" and "secretary", called Blockaeltester (Stubenaeltester) and Blockschreiber (Stubenschreiber) respectively.

This system of internal controls served the interests of the SS most effectively. In order to deal with the enormous number of prisoners, they only had to deal through the men of the central authority to whom the subsidiary camp authorities were responsible. The SS issued general orders; the particulars of carrying these orders out were left to the internal organization of the prisoners.

It was the familiar Nazi technique of indirect rule. To guard against sabotage under this set-up, the SS at Dachau, as everywhere else, employed its own systems of prisoner spies and informants inside the camp and applied the most ruthless forms of terror whenever necessary. As agents the SS made particular use of the minority of criminal prisoners (about 700)--sometimes disguised by red patches as political prisoners.

Under these conditions it is evident that to be part of the camp administration afforded the best possible means of survival. In an official position the individual enjoyed not only a certain sense of personal power and security, but could also negotiate deals which brought him and his friends certain small privileges in work, food, clothing, and living conditions. Hence, the struggle for survival in the camp to the extent that it was manifested in overt actions frequently took the form of fighting for power through the camp administration. In this process, of course, certain groups emerged among the political prisoners who seized positions of control and exploited them for their own personal benefit and for that of members of their group. Moreover, in an atmosphere, filled with terror, fear, threats, starvation and death, many of the old legitimate political prisoners themselves became corrupted and degenerated to the level of the criminals, i.e., used the brutal, criminal methods of the SS and the "greens".

There are numerous reports about thefts, beatings, and killings by political "Capos" in different positions. When this stage was reached where prisoners persecuted fellow prisoners instead of preserving a sense of common solidarity, the success of the SS method of control was, of course, complete. However, it would be incorrect, as pointed out above, to identify these groups with any social or political label. Even when they abused their power to the excess of criminal activities, they never acted as representatives of a definite social or political group, but merely

The Holocaust Revisited

imagery. All available imagery on Auschwitz acquired between 4 April 1944 and 21 January 1945 was examined.

Background: Construction of the various Auschwitz camps began in spring 1940. Auschwitz I, the so-called Main Camp, was operational by fall of that year. The development of Birkenau (Auschwitz II), began in fall 1941 with Russian prisoners of war as construction crews. The I. G. Farben industrial facility, referred to as "Buna" (Auschwitz III), was begun at Monowice in April 1941. Expansion of these facilities was virtually continuous until the evacuation of the area by the Nazis in January 1945. The operation of these vast petrochemical facilities was a joint SS and I. G. Farben venture. Farben had full access to a source of slave labor—prisoners from Auschwitz and local British prisoners of war—and the SS received the salaries paid their prisoners.

Crippling the German petrochemical production system was a high Allied priority, so the targeting of the Farben complex was inevitable. The late date of the reconnaissance effort is probably attributable to the plant's production status; it produced no significant amounts of fuel until 1944. Another factor was probably the distance from Allied air bases—about 750 miles from England and 700 miles from Italy.

Photo Evidence: The mission of 4 April 1944 produced very little photographic coverage of the I. G. Farben complex. It was not until the 26 June 1944 mission (Photos 1 & 1A) that an overall view of the complex, both as to extent and purpose, could be interpreted. For our study, however, even the partially successful mission of 4 April provided positive evidence.

Auschwitz I

Background: Details of the origin of the camp have been outlined earlier, but some additional comments are appropriate. It was at this facility that experiments in mass extermination by using *Zyklon-B* gas were first carried out. Rudolf Höess, the notorious camp commandant, initially tested the use of that gas on Russian prisoners of war in 1941. The first gas chamber and crematorium, number I by the Nazi numbering system, was later constructed at this camp. The Main Camp penal barracks for problem prisoners (Barracks Block 11), and the medical experimentation barrack located here would both become infamous.

Photo Evidence: Analysis of the facilities at Auschwitz I (Photo 2) combined with the collateral information, corroborate eyewitness accounts of its description. We can identify Gas Chamber and Crematorium I, the Commandant's quarters, the camp headquarters and administration buildings, the prisoner registration building, the individual barrack blocks and the infamous "execution wall" between barrack blocks 10 and 11. This latter facility was used for the exemplary execution of "problem" prisoners. Death was inflicted either by hanging or shooting against the execution wall. In addition to the above, the camp kitchen, guard towers, and the security fencing can all be identified.

On the photography of 4 April 1944, a small vehicle was identified in a specially secured annex adjacent to the Main Camp gas chamber. Eyewitness accounts describe how prisoners arriving in Auschwitz-Birkenau, not knowing they were destined for extermination, were comforted by the presence of a "Red Cross ambulance." In reality, the SS used that vehicle to transport the deadly *Zyklon-B* crystals. Could this be that notorious vehicle? While conclusive proof is lacking, the vehicle was not present on imagery of 25 August and 13 September 1944 after the extermination facility had been converted to an air raid shelter.³

³ *Ibid.*



Photo 2: Auschwitz I, 4 April 1944

The Extermination Process

Background: Extermination operations in progress at Birkenau were recorded on aerial photography of 25 August 1944. By that time, rail transports of prisoners were being channeled into Auschwitz from locations throughout occupied Europe in a desperate attempt to achieve the "Final Solution" prior to the collapse of the Nazi war machine. After a trip lasting from a few hours to days, those who survived the journey faced a selection process. SS "doctors" screened the prisoners to determine those fit to be used as slave laborers and those to be exterminated. Those selected as laborers were sent "to the right" while those to be exterminated were sent "to the left," according to numerous eyewitness accounts of these last tragic moments.⁷

Photo Evidence: A 10X enlargement of imagery acquired on 25 August covers only the southern third of Birkenau and is of very high quality for its day (Photo 4). The imagery illustrates eyewitness accounts of the death process at Birkenau. A rail transport of 33 cars is at the Birkenau railhead and debarkation point. Prisoners can be seen beside the train. The selection process is either under way or completed. One group of prisoners is apparently being marched to Gas Chamber and Crematorium II.

⁷ Kraus and Kulka, *The Death Factory*, pp. 130-141.