

5059/38
Msgr. Valerio Valeri
Nuncio
Paris
December 1938

Regarding Franz Knuppel -- a Jewish merchant, refugee from Germany , who now resides in France . he must emigrate from France and does not know where to go. He asks the Holy See to intercede for him.

4573/38
Apostolic Nunciature of France
21 November 1938

Reference to excerpts with regard to racism expressed by Cardinal Schuster in the Milan Cathedral. The newspaper also summarized the letter of Cardinal Verdier addressed to Cardinal Di Malines which His Excellency as without doubt has seen in the newspaper "Croix," Saturday 19 [u.sc.](#)

Referring to this letter by Cardinal Verdier, Mr. d'Ormesson published this morning in "Figaro" an article that I attach, in which he reminds France to take its place int he world as a great "Catholic" nation.

Finally "l'Epoque" with the pen of Mr. Pichon comments (See attachment) on an article from the "Osservatore Romano" about race. The title is really exaggerated and wrong. "The Vatican commends the Cardinals for denouncing the fascist heresy." I suppose this is an error of the printer who wanted to write "racist."

Article follows in French.

4513/38 (repetition of above)

3235
3 Settembre 1938
Apostolic Nuncio Benedetto Aloisi Masella
Rio De Janeiro

The Holy Father has been informed. I received your reports about the "Right of Asylum" in Brazil
.....the viewpoint of the Government, that it is not permissible to give asylum to common criminals, corresponds to the truth, and he noted with paternal satisfaction the noble intent of the Government to avoid that this asylum become a refuge for delinquents unworthy of such a favor.

However, because of the delicacy of this matter, the Holy Father thinks it is opportune to limit the communication to the Foreign Minister and not enter into details.

1615/38
29 aprile 1938
To His Excellency
Monsignor Cesare Orsenigo
Apostolic Nuncio

Your Excellency:

I hasten to inform you that the Holy Father invites Your Excellency to come to Rome after the arrival in Italy of the Chancellor of the Reich, for he desires to inquire about the religious situation in Germany

23457
Berlin W. 35
(Rauchstrasse, 21)
May 7, 1938
Apostolic Nunciature
Germany

Your Dispatch arrived April 29, in which you communicated the Holy Father's invitation to come to Italy after the Chancellor's visit. I arranged to come to Italy the following week; unfortunately I was stricken with influenza together with Monsignor Colli and DiMeglio: the first is an in-patient in Vienna, the second is in bed in Berlin. Since they are now on the way to recovery, I hope to leave for Rome on Monday, pass through Vienna, and come as rapidly as possible.....

To His Eminence
Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli
Secretary of State of His Holiness
Vatican City

No. 252/38
Apostolic Delegation
United States of America
1811 Biltmore Street
Washington, D.C.
May 7, 1938

To His Excellency Domenico Tardini
Secretary of the Sacred Congregation
of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs

The comments found these days in the secular papers about the Fruher's visit regarding the relationship between the Reich and the Holy See, may be seen summarized in the editorial, marked in red on the attached newspaper and cartoon. I send it for your information

+ A. G. Cicognani, Del. Ap.

No. 1946/38

May 23, 1938

I received your esteemed Report N. 252/38, of May 7th, in which Your Excellency enclosed an article from the "Washington Post" about Mr. Hitler's visit in Italy and the rapport of the Reich with the Holy See.

.....

To His Excellency

Msgr. Amleto Cicognani

Apostolic Delegate

Washington, D.C.

25448

Berlin W. 35

(Rauchstrasse, 21)

November 24, 1938

Apostolic Nunciature

Germany

Subject: New Year's Discourse

Your Eminence,

Allow me to respectfully submit the text of a brief discourse that I prepared for the New Year's greeting to the Chancellor of the Reich, which I must soon submit to the Protocol Office, and is now due.....

To His Eminence

Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli
Secretary of State of His Holiness
Vatican City

2 pages - Attachment to Report N. 25448 dated November 24 1938
In response to the attachment Cardinal Pacelli wrote in his own hand:

Apostolic Nuncio
Berlin
November 30, 1938

I submitted the text of your usual discourse for the New Year which you sent me (Report N. 25448) on the 24th.

His Holiness suggested that Your Excellency lower the tone a bit of the discourse. "Keep to the substance," he added, "without being so poetic."

It is my duty to communicate this for such is the mind of the August Pontiff....

3487/38

Letters in German to Cardinal Pacelli (August 27, 1938)from Cardinal Faulhaber.

Also in German Pacelli's response in German dated September 12, 1938.

7367/39

With a letter of March 31, 1939, Cardinal Faulhaber, Archbishop of Monaco, wrote in the name of the Bavarian Episcopate and the Cardinal Archbishop of Breslavia:

Followed by Monsignor Dell'Acqua's Notes

Notes

October 13, 1939

Permission for 3,000 Germans (non-aryan) to emigrate to Brazil

It is known that last June the President of Brazil, in honor of the Holy Father, authorized 3,000 non-aryan Germans to enter Brazil .

The following is a letter dated July 20, in which His Excellency Monsignor Berning, Bishop of Osnbruk and President of the "St.

Raphaels=verein” of Hamburg (an association of help to refugees), made known to the Secretariate of State that some conditions were placed by the “Immigration Office of Rio de Janeiro for the granting of 3,000 visas (especially those deposited for every family of 20 Contos de Reis=) which were so expensive that few would be able to benefit from this concession, we wrote (Dispatch N. 4936/39 of July 29) to His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate of Rio de Janeiro begging him to do what he could to obtain mitigation of these conditions. To the same Apostolic Nuncio, on the same subject, and for the same purpose, we wrote again on September 19 pp.(Dispatch N. 6359) sending him a copy of the letter of Rev. P. Grosser, Secretary General of Raphaels=verein, transmitted to the Secretary of State by the Apostolic Nunzio of Berlin (Report of September 2 u.s. N.132 (28.454), in which these difficulties were made known.

The Apostolic Nuncio of Rio de Janeiro has not yet responded to these two Reports.

Dell’Acqua

7367/39

7367/39

With a letter of March 31, 1939, Cardinal Faulhaber, Archbishop of Monaco, wrote in the name of the Bavarian Episcopate and the Cardinal Archbishop of Breslavia.

To His Excellency

Most Reverend Monsignor Aloisi Masella Benedetto

Apostolic Nuncio

Rio de Janeiro

With Dispatches N. 4936 and 6359 respectively of July 29 and

September 19 u.s., I asked Your Excellency to take steps with that Government in order to obtain some mitigation of the conditions attached to the concession of 3,000 visas for non-Aryan Germans to enter Brazil.

I would be most grateful to Your Excellency if you would solicitously reply to inform emof the results of this matter.

difficulties created for the immigration office, observing that, to give twenty contos de reis, almost none of the Jewish-Catholic families disposed to emigrate to Brazil would be in a position to be able to depart, especially since the Jews, emigrating from Germany, cannot bring with them the 10% of their holdings, because they would have to possess --says the Sankt Raphaels Verein -- about 39,000 RM (39 thousand marks), corresponding to about 275,000 lire (275 thousand Italian lire), in order to have the right to bring the required amount, that is, the equivalent of 2,800 RM (280 marks) in gold.

Besides the Sankt Raphaels Verein writes that they cannot gather, in these times, a good Committee to gather money for this purpose, though this had good results in Holland and in Switzerland .

It seems that there remains --according to the Sankt Raphaels Verein -- that the North American charitable committee, whose funds are very limited, and that at any rate the help of twenty contos de reis for each family cannot be obtained.

-----Cesare Orsenigo, Apostolic Nuncio

To His Eminence

Cardinal Luigi Maglione

Secretary of State to His Holiness

A 1939 document No. 8346, signed by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli and sent to the Vatican Ambassador of Brazil , concerns the immigration of 3,000 German Jews. It consists of 42 pages in Italian. An excerpt from pages 23-24 follows:

“In fact, a comparison between the published text by the official Nachrichten-Bureau and the complete text, which arrived later in the hands of the Supreme Authority of the Church, shows that the latter is not relevant, with regard to giving prudent advice to the State Authorities. We invite you to protect the religious convictions of the Catholic citizens from every excess of zeal and utopia; and in a special way we refer to Hitler’s Youth, which we experienced in the past. It is truly surprising, and today for the Holy See it is still incomprehensible, that in the text destined for the public the very passages of the decree which were directed to stop the past and imminent abuses have been cancelled. It is strange that the norms recognizing these facts contained condemnation for those circles, against which the hostile activities had often incited the Catholic population, the Episcopate and the Holy See, should have been hidden to the public, thus avoiding the normal and educative results, of this part of the decree.

“Besides, the Holy See recognizes that the Government Notes refrain from giving an explanation regarding the principles expressed in the Notes of July 26, about the natural limits between the actions of the Church and those of the State. Referring to the need for the Church to promote, without jeopardizing the freedom of every group and of every State, that which is of its own competence, and to keep alive from the religious point of view the application of external norms of truth and of morality, we answer in the Notes recalling the program of the National Socialist Party, the only norm for reconstruction of the German State. And without even attempting to give a clear explanation or an objection to what the Holy See has presented, the Notes of the Government qualify as “political Catholicism” every evaluation that is founded on religious principles, of the social and government problems made by the Church and, without any distinction, declares war on every similar idea. Thus it confirms, in a clear, unequivocal way, that the opposition to “Political Catholicism” does not have as its purpose, as has been affirmed until now, to eliminate in the future past aspirations of political parties. But to such expression it gives rather an interpretation that is in essence deprived of every juridical foundation and results in misunderstanding, negation and persecution even of those forms of activity that form part of the essential duties of the Church which we cannot possibly **renounce**.”

B. Documents

Volume 1

Le Saint Siège et la guerre en Europe

(March 1939-August 1940)

No. 27, pp. 127-128.

Great Britain's Minister [Francis] Osborne to
Monsignor [Domenico] Tardini
(A.E.S. 2386/39, original memo)

Rome , May 6, 1939

rec'd 6:30 p.m.

Britain's first response to Pius XII's peace conference proposal.

1. The preliminary reaction of Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax is one of warm appreciation of the courage and faith displayed in the Pope's initiative.

2. It is understood that the purpose underlying the suggested conference is to afford an opportunity for discussion of the questions of Danzig and Franco-Italian relations. In these matters His Majesty's Government are not immediately concerned as principals, and would therefore desire, before returning an official reply to the Vatican , to have an opportunity of exchanging views with the French and Polish Governments. Lord Halifax would be glad to know whether these Governments have already been approached by the Vatican and whether His Majesty's Government are therefore at liberty to consult them.

3. He would also be interested to learn whether His Holiness had any ideas or suggestions as to where the suggested conference should meet, who would preside over it, and whether there were any question of its being held in Rome under Vatican auspices, i.e., presumably, in the Vatican City.

4. Lord Halifax also ventures to express the hope that His Holiness, when his project takes final shape, will have due regard to the position and the feelings of the President of the United States .

5. A principal difficulty foreseen by Lord Halifax lies in the possible reactions of those who might detect in the proposed conference an introduction to what they would fear would prove to be another Munich Conference, and he hopes that, when the project matures, His Holiness will have particular regard to this danger.¹

¹This memorandum essentially repeats the May 5 dispatch from Halifax to Osborne, D.B.F.P. Third Series, V. no. 380, pp. 435-436.

No. 44, p. 146.

His Excellency Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate in
Washington to the
Under-Secretary of the N.C.W.C., Monsignor [Howard J.] Carroll
Enclosed with report no. 366/39 (A.E.S. 4632/39, orig.)
Washington, May 15, 1939

The Pope wishes to inform President [Franklin D.] Roosevelt of the steps taken toward peace talks.

On May 3rd His Eminence Cardinal [Luigi] Maglione, Secretary of State of His Holiness, upon orders received from the Holy Father, directed the diplomatic representatives of the Holy See in France, Germany, England, Italy and Poland to consult with the heads of these governments in order to determine their intentions concerning peace, and to emphasize the opposition among all peoples to war, and if possible to bring about a realization that the present international difficulties could find their best solution in a conference of the nations concerned, rather than in wars and constant threats of war. The proposal of a conference was subordinated to the possibility, necessity or usefulness of such a meeting in the present uncertain political situation.

The steps taken by the Holy See to learn the sentiments of these governments, and to create a better international feeling have had a measure of success. In fact the Holy See is of the impression that the governments consulted are sufficiently well disposed for peace and reluctant to enter into war. There has also been a noticeable betterment of the general situation and a conference does not seem necessary at the present time. In the opinion of the Holy See the previous tense situation has somewhat subsided.

The Holy Father desires that the President of the United States be advised of these steps, through the offices of the Apostolic Delegate, and that he be further informed that His Holiness had intended to invoke his assistance and cooperation in the event that the European Powers had acceded to the suggestion of a Conference.

No. 89, pp. 207-209.

His Excellency [Amleto] Cicognani in Washington to
Cardinal [Luigi] Maglione
Rome, July 11, 1939

*The Apostolic Delegate communicates with Secretary of State
Sumner Welles regarding the conversation of June 29 on the international situation.*

The following excerpt is taken from the memorandum by Monsignor Ready, Secretary General of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, who was present.

Mr. Welles then spoke of the present serious preoccupation of the United States Government in the recurring crises in Europe and the Far East, which threatened the peace of the world. Mr. Welles said he spoke to His Excellency at the request of President Roosevelt and the President was particularly concerned that all the forces for peace should work co-operatively to gain for society a much desired reign of peace amongst all nations. Mr. Welles said he expressed the mind of the President in holding that the Holy Father's influence amongst the nations was a principal consideration for believing that a peaceful settlement might be brought to society in this troubled time.

Mr. Welles referred to the President's appeal to Hitler and Mussolini, April 14, 1939. In that appeal, the President hoped that through a conference all matters affecting the friendly relations of nations could be explored. Mr. Welles said that this Government's

first concern was to avert war; that war could be averted only when nations agreed to settle the economic and territorial disputes which led to enmity amongst nations. Mr. Welles said the United States Government was prepared to take part in a conference of nations to adjust the present causes of world unrest. Such a conference could be successful only if the nations came to it in good faith and with a sincere desire for peace.

Mr. Welles said that the President believed the same moral law which kept the peace between individuals operated between nations; that a spirit of aggression by an individual against his neighbour upset the peace of a community. The same thing was true amongst nations. If world society was to be constantly fearful of aggression on the part of certain nations, then there could be no hope for peace nor for the solution of world and national problems which pressed heavily upon all governments.

Mr. Welles then spoke of the reports he had received about the Holy See's endeavors for peace in the last months and said that the action of the Holy See had given great encouragement to the Government of the United States. Mr. Welles then repeated the earlier declaration that the President desired to work co-operatively with everyone and every government striving for peace; that the President believed a conference for the settlement of economic and territorial claims should be arranged in order to avert war.

His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate replied that the President's communication of April 14 had been transmitted to the Holy See, as requested by the President through the United States Department of State; that the Holy See felt great difficulty in following up the message of April 14 because the governments addressed believed that they were unfairly singled out from amongst the nations...

No. 97, pp. 215-217

Memo by Monsignor Tardini
(A.E.S. 5414/39, autogr.)

Vatican, August 16, 1939

Consists of alleged Press information, sent by Great Britain's Minister. The Internuncio of Holland wired the same information.

Press Release

Two identical communications from the German and Italian Embassies to the Holy See respectively were consigned today to the Cardinal Secretary of State's Office in the Vatican.

After asserting their strong attachment to peace and expressing their deep sympathy with the efforts which the Holy See is continually making in the interests of a peace with justice and "even with certain sacrifices" (this is probably a reference to a remark in the Pope's recent letter to the French-Canadian Catholics, sent through Cardinal Maglione Maglione), the German and Italian Governments state that they wish once again to show their firm desire to solve peacefully the differences which today divide Europe. With this object in view they make known that, while being ready immediately to defend themselves against all attempts to impose arrogant decision upon them by force, they submit to the democratic powers the following "final proposals" for a settlement by agreement.

1. A 30 day truce, with a reciprocal promise not to take any steps on either side, in order to secure time to organise a conference of the Foreign Ministers of France, England, Italy, and Germany.

2. Since the British guarantee to Poland contemplates the fact that Poland is to be the judge whether the *casus belli* clause should function in case of a threat to her independence, Great Britain will transmit to Poland the solution of the Danzig question reached by mutual agreement between the four Foreign Ministers, asking her whether she considers her independence threatened or not by that solution. A reply that this independence is not threatened would signify Poland's acceptance of the solution.

3. Once this ~~question—considered~~ question—considered today the most dangerous of all in consequence of the mechanism of the guarantee which is the sole one that leaves the nation guaranteed the arbiter of the *casus belli*—is removed, the truce can be extended in order that the four Ministers may gradually examine the other questions in the order they may decide.

The two Axis Governments finally express the hope that the acceptance of their proposals may lead to a general slackening of tension, favourable to a gradual and pacific discussion of all outstanding questions, and manifest their confidence that the Holy See will give its moral support to the end that this "extreme and concrete contribution to peace may not remain unheard."

No. 130, p. 248.

Great Britain's Minister Osborne to Monsignor Tardini
Br. Leg. no. 38/94/39 (A.E.S. 6819/39 orig.)
Rome, August 26, 1939

Great Britain's minister wishes to transmit personally to the Pope, Lord Halifax's thanks for the message of peace.

I have been instructed to convey personally to the Cardinal Secretary of State, or even directly to the Pope himself, a message of appreciation of His Holiness' broadcast appeal for peace.¹

In view of these instructions, and since His Eminence is not available, do you think that His Holiness would be disposed to receive me in audience so that I may personally deliver Lord Halifax' message in accordance with his instructions? If so, the earlier I can be received the better. A telephone message to the Legation (80.846) will always reach me.

I enclose for your personal information a copy of the communication I have prepared for delivery.²

¹ Cf. Halifax's telegram to Osborne dated August 25 (no. 124, note 1).

² Document not found.

No. 134, p. 251.

Great Britain's Minister Osborne to the Secretariat of State
Br. Leg. no. 38/96/39 (A.E.S. 6819 orig.)
Rome, August 26, 1939

From London, the following proposal was suggested: Make Danzig and Corridor a free city, protected by the other Powers.

His Majesty's Minister to the Holy See has received the following telegram addressed to him from London by Sir Ernest Graham-Little M.P.:

"Deeply moved by fatherly message from His Holiness. Humbly suggest following action in present crisis. Polish Corridor and adjacent territory to become independent state like Monaco, Lichtenstein, Tangier, guaranteed or administered by disinterested Powers, securing complete freedom for all nationals and for trade. Poland might accept suggestion if His Holiness deigned to propose it."

Mr. Osborne has replied that he has forwarded a copy of this telegram to the Secretariat of State.

No. 246, pp. 372-373.

President Roosevelt to Pope Pius XII
(A.S.S.11.863, 1940, autogr.) Edit. FRUS 1940, vol. I, p. 125.
Wartime Correspondence, 31.
Rome, August 26, 1939

Great Britain's minister wishes to transmit personally to the Pope, Lord Halifax's thanks for the message of peace.

Rome, August 26, 1939

From London, the following proposal was suggested: Make Danzig and Corridor a free city, protected by the other Powers.

Washington, February 14, 1940

Roosevelt thanks the Pope for receiving Myron Taylor, who will serve serving as intermediary for working to work toward peace and harmony among peoples.

In my letter of December 23, 1939 I had the honor to suggest that it would give me great satisfaction to send to You my own representative in order that our parallel endeavors for peace and the alleviation of suffering might be assisted.

Your Holiness was good enough to reply that the choice of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as my representative was acceptable and that You would receive him.

I am entrusting this special mission to Mr. Taylor who is a very old friend of mine, and in whom I repose the utmost confidence. His humanitarian efforts in behalf of those whom political disruption has rendered homeless are well know to Your

Holiness. I shall be happy to feel that he may be the channel of communications for any views You and I may wish to exchange in the interest of concord among the peoples of the world.

I am asking Mr. Taylor to convey my cordial greetings to You, my old and good friend and my sincere hope that the common ideals of religion and humanity itself can have united expression for the re-establishment of a more permanent peace on the foundations of freedom and an assurance of life and integrity of all nations under God.

Volume 5

Le Saint Siège et la guerre mondiale

(July 1941-October 1942)

No.473, pp.684-690.

Ambassador Myron Taylor to Pope Pius XII

(A.E.S. 6699/42, orig.)

Vatican City , September 19, 1942

The United States will fight until total victory; the Pope must not be carried away by Axis propaganda in favor of a peace compromise.

To His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

A statement by Myron Taylor made September 19, 1942, as a basis on which the parallel efforts for a just and moral peace of His Holiness and President Roosevelt may rest.

It is of high importance that, at this juncture when the Allied Powers are passing to the offensive in the conduct of the War, the attitude of the United States Government with respect to the present world struggle be restated to the Holy See.

Before the war became general, President Roosevelt, in parallel effort with the Holy See, explored every possible avenue for the preservation of the peace. The experience of those days of fruitful cooperation, when the high moral prestige of the Holy See was buttressed by the civil power of the United States of America , is a precious memory. Although totalitarian aggression defeated those first efforts to prevent world war, the United States looks forward to further collaboration of this kind when the anti-Christian philosophies which have taken the sword shall have perished by the sword, and it will again be possible to organize world peace.

In the just war which they are now waging the people of the United States of America derive great spiritual strength and moral encouragement from a review of the utterances of His Holiness Pope Pius XII and of his venerated Predecessor. Americans, Catholic and non-Catholic, have been profoundly impressed by the searing condemnation of Nazi religious persecution pronounced by Pope Pius XI in his *Mit Brennender Sorge*; *Brennender Sorge* : by the elevated teaching on law and human dignity contained in the *Summi Pontificatus* of Pope Pius XII; by the famous Five Points laid down in 1939 by the same Pope as the essential postulates of a just peace; and by the forthright and heroic expressions of indignation made by Pope Pius XII when Germany invaded the Low Countries. Now that we are fighting against the very things which the Popes condemned, our conviction of complete victory is one with our confidence in the unwavering tenacity with which the Holy See will continue its magnificent moral leading.

Because we know we are in the right, and because we have supreme confidence in our strength, we are determined to carry through until we shall have won complete victory. The only thing that would make us lay down the arms taken up in defense of national security and world decency would be the complete and forthright acceptance of the Atlantic Charter and the Manifesto of the United Nations—the provisions of which, by the way, are in substantial agreement with the Holy Father's above-mentioned postulates for a just and lasting peace. Our cause is just. We fight, with conscience clear, for the moral rights of our nation, and for the liberties of our people; our victory will ensure those rights and liberties to the world. Even our enemies know that we seek no aggrandizement. Precisely for the reason that our moral position is impregnable, we are not open to the compromises usual to those who look for merely material gains, and who will bargain for half a loaf if they cannot have the whole. A peace-loving people, we exhausted every honorable means to remain at peace; in the midst of peace negotiations, we were foully attacked by Germany's partner in the Orient. Like Austria , Czechoslovakia , Poland and the rest, we were made the victims of Axis aggression at the very moment when their diplomats were talking peace. How then could we have confidence in the word of any Axis Power? In the conviction that anything less than complete victory would endanger the principles we fight for and our very existence as a nation, the United States of America will prosecute this war until the Axis collapses. We shall not again allow ourselves to be imperilled from behind while we are talking peace with criminal aggressors of the kind referred to in the *Summi Pontificatus* as men without faith to the plighted word.

Our confidence in final and complete victory is based upon the most objective foundations. There is nothing of emotional optimism or wishful thinking in it. We are prepared for a long war. We foresaw early reverses. But in the end, we know that no nation or combination of nations can stand against us in the field.

In the first place, we are a nation united as never before in our history. Axis propaganda had made itself felt in the United States as elsewhere before our entry into the war, and we know they are boasting of divisions among us. Let no one be deceived. Our very love of peace made it difficult for some of our people to see the world menace of Nazism. Pearl Harbor opened their eyes. The dishonorable attack of Japan at the very moment when her special ambassador was talking peace at Washington united overnight Americans of all shades of opinion. Among the architects of this unity are the foremost Catholic leaders in our country, the bishops and the prominent laymen of all racial strains. Their public utterances and the editorial statements of Catholic papers after the aggression of Pearl Harbor can be summed up in these words: Prosecute the war to a victorious conclusion; and then bend every effort for a peace that will be just, charitable and lasting. Most notable of all Catholic pronouncements was that contained in the letter of the Catholic Hierarchy to the President of the United States pledging the whole-hearted cooperation of Catholics in the nation war effort. This letter, individually authorized by the Bishops of the United States, solemnly engaged "the lives, the treasure and the sacred honor" of American Catholics in the defense of their freedom against aggression. The response of the President was historic: "We shall win this war" wrote Mr. Roosevelt, "and in victory we shall seek not vengeance but the establishment of an international order in which the spirit of Christ shall rule the hearts of men and of nations".

The same unity based on high purpose pervades all the people of the United States. Contrary to Axis propaganda claims, the vast majority of our people are responsive to Christian inspiration, even though many may not be practical church-goers. The Axis charge that there are sixty million Atheists in the United States is sheer nonsense—a perversion of statistics on church membership and attendance by which the persecutors of religion are trying to use the church for their own sinister purposes. ...

There is reason to believe that our Axis enemies will attempt, through devious channels, to urge the Holy See to endorse in the near future proposals of peace without victory. In the present position of the belligerents, we can readily understand how strong a pressure the Axis powers may bring to bear upon the Vatican. We therefore feel it a duty to support the Holy See in resisting any undue pressure from this source. It is for this reason that we feel impelled to make known our views on the subject of peace, and to point out that the growing power of the United States is now being applied to re-establish those principles of international decency and justice which have been so well expounded by the Holy See. We are not so close geographically to the Vatican as some of our enemies, nor are we in a position to enjoy as many of the indirect day-to-day contacts as they. Nonetheless, we have the fullest confidence that due weight will be given to the considerations advanced by a nation which numbers among its citizens so many millions of devout Catholics, and whose government is in such close agreement with the principles enunciated by the Holy See on the issues of this war and the kind of peace which must follow it.

The people of the United States have a deep and sympathetic understanding of the Holy Father's desires for peace as he looks out upon a world convulsed with the harrowing spectacle of death and destruction on every side. The promotion of world peace, we know, is one of the great functions of the Holy See. Though deferred, that peace will come—not a specious peace of strategy nor a short-lived peace of compromise. It will be the peace of "justice and charity" for which the Holy Father has so often prayed; it will be the peace "in which the spirit of Christ will rule the hearts of men and of nations" as promised by the President of the United States. The United States and its allies will win that peace. And in its consolidation, we should want nothing better than a continuation of those parallel efforts made by the Pope and the President before the war became general. In such a continuation, so devoutly to be hoped for, much can be accomplished to ensure that the peace will be lasting. ...

The war aims of the United States are peace aims. The world knows them. The Atlantic Charter lays down conditions which in our deepest conviction are irreducible. Any proposal under the plausible title of a "negotiated peace," which falls short of these aims, would only tend to confuse issues which we are determined to keep clear and to decide definitively.

No. 476, pp. 692-694.

Pope Pius XII to Ambassador Myron Taylor
(A.E.S. 6795/42, orig. typed with Pius XII's autographed corrections)
Vatican, September 22, 1942

The Pope is not disposed toward a peace compromise that would consist of oppression of the rights and consciences of certain nations.

We have read your Memorandum very carefully,¹ and We have found it intensely interesting.² The issues are so clear-cut; of the definite, determined stand of the United States government it leaves no shadow of doubt.

It gave Us great satisfaction to know^a from Your Excellency how united in this hour of national trial are all^b the Catholics of the United States, under the enlightened leadership of the Bishops,^c and that^d between the Bishops and the President and his Government there exist^e such sincere relations of mutual trust.

It has been a pleasure for Us to hear Your Excellency recall^f President Roosevelt's aim and efforts to bring about a peace that will be worthy of man's personal dignity and of^g his high destiny. This peace, as We have constantly repeated, must be based on justice and charity. It must take into consideration the vital needs of all nations; all must find it possible of fulfillment; it must bear within itself the seeds of longevity. Moreover, to Our mind, there is not the slightest chance of a peace being genuine and lasting, unless, to begin with, the mutual relations between governments and peoples, as well as those between individual governments and their own peoples, are based not on utilitarianism,^h arbitrary decrees or brute force, but on fulfilmentⁱ of contracts made, on the sacred observance^l of justice and law, tempered by Christian charity and brotherly love^m on reverence for the dignity of the human person and respect forⁿ religious convictions; and unless the worship of God again exercises its due influence in the individual and national life of all peoples.

For this reason, despite what any^o propaganda may say to the contrary, We have never thought in terms of a peace by compromise at any cost. On certain principles of right and justice there can be no compromise. In our Christmas allocutions of 1939, 1940, and 1941 the world may read some of these essential principles expressed in unmistakable language, We think. They light the path along which We walk and will continue to walk unswervingly. It is deeply gratifying to Us to know that the peace aims of the United States have given full recognition to these basic principles of the moral order. The world need have no fear, nor hope either, that any pressure from without will ever make Us change Our direction or falter in Our clear path of duty. Geographic and other circumstances do make it possible for Us to have more frequent contact with some nations than with^p others which are at war. And how deeply We feel this separation from so many of Our dear children, how it pains Our paternal heart, God alone knows. Hence,^q the visit of Your Excellency has been^r all the more welcome and pleasurable to Us. But the^s principles guiding Our hopes and efforts for world peace have their foundation deep, and We shall never approve of, much less further a peace, that gives free rein to those who would undermine the foundations of Christianity and persecute Religion and the Church.

¹ Regarding Pius XII's decision to give a written response to Taylor, Monsignor Tardini wrote: "His Holiness wanted to give His Excellency Taylor a summary in writing of what he had told him during the audience of September 22. These notes were given to His Excellency Taylor by the Holy Father during the third, and last, audience on September 26."

² Cf. Nos. 472, 473.

^a *corr. pour* hear ^bhow... all *ajouté pour* that ^care united *rayé* ^dthere exist *rayé* ^eand his...exist *ajouté* ^fIt...recall *ajouté au lieu de* No one is more keenly aware than we of ^g*ajouté* ^h*corr. pour* the sacred observance ⁱon observance *ajouté* ^mtempered... love, *ajouté* ⁿa man's *rayé* ^o*corr. m* tempered... love *ajouté* ^pa man's *rayé* ^q*corr. pour* foreign ^r*ajouté* ^s*ajouté* ^t*corr. pour* This makes ^uhas been *ajouté* ^v*ajouté* ^w*ajouté pour* The.

No. 477, pp. 694-695.

Ambassador Myron Taylor to Pope Pius XII
(A.E.S. 6702/42, orig.)

Vatican City, September 22, 1942

Collaboration with the British will introduce religious tolerance in Russia .

INFORMAL MEMORANDUM ON THE RUSSIAN POST-WAR POSITION ¹

Early in the Russian campaign distinction was made, to accord with Christian principles, between the rights and well-being of the Russian people, and those mistaken theories of Government and the practices of the Government then in power.

It was not sought to divorce the Russian people from the enlightened benefits of and salvation through religion and its observances, but rather to hold out to the Russian people the promise of a better life, with real religious freedom.

That government and people are giving their lives and all they possess to fight the Hitler peril to their freedom.

Who shall say that, as an ally in a Cause so just, even the Russian Government itself may not yield to the influence of an association with Christian Allies and the great moral force of their Cause and become a responsible and beneficent member of the family of peace-loving nations dedicated to the future prevention of war. Certainly, without Russian adherence to the United Nations Charter, and to those settlements which will be made at the end of hostilities, the future stability of Europe , and of the world, will be less certain of attainment.

It would seem logical, both from a moral as well as a practical standpoint, that the effort should be earnestly made to bring Russia more and more completely into a world family of nations, with identical aims and obligations.

The Russian Government's present intentions may be illustrated by its signature to the Atlantic Charter and its preamble, which, among other things, asserts adherence to the principle of Religious Freedom, and by its expressed attitude toward Poland, the Baltic and Balkan States, in the discussion of post-war settlements. We are led to believe that the field is open for collaboration—and generous compromise. This attitude, if encouraged and translated into reality, means much for the future security and welfare of the Baltic States, the Balkan States, and of Europe.

Great importance can likewise be attached to the value to Russia of a developed international organization to prevent Germany (Prussia particularly) from rearming and precipitating another war. This consideration is of very practical value, Russian economic self-containment considered. She is asked to surrender, in return for the advantage of security, only that she cease her ideological propaganda in other countries, and to make religion really free within her borders.⁻²

¹ Submitted during the September 22 audience.

² On the same day Monsignor Tardini recorded his impressions regarding the document: "This memo on Russia demonstrates that the Americans believe it is possible for a Communist Government, once it wins the war, to enter the European family of nations like a meek lamb. This is far from the truth. If Stalin wins the war, he will be the lion that will devour all Europe. I told Taylor [cf. nr. 480] that neither Hitler nor Stalin will be able to remain quiet and tranquil in the European family of nations. I am surprised that such obvious matters are not understood by those who govern and by such high-ranking political personalities."
(A.E.S. 6702/42)

Vol. 5, No. 479, pp. 702-703.

Ambassador Myron Taylor to Pope Pius XII

(A.E.S. 6702/42, orig.)

Vatican City, September 22, 1942

*Deportation of Jews in France and the examination of measures to be taken to protect ~~them~~ them.*¹

Since July 16th arrests and deportations of men, women and children from France have proceeded with mounting fury and intensity spreading from the occupied zone, where 28,000 were arrested, to the unoccupied zone, from which 11,500 have already been deported. Men, women and children of all ages have been included. The victims seem to be those refugees who entered France since 1933. Only those who have United States visas actually stamped in their passports are exempted. Women convalescing from operations and from childbirth, men who have fought in the French armies in the present war and children as young as two years of age have been included. In the early days of the deportations women were given the choice of leaving children as young as two years of age behind. Most mothers accepted this choice. Later cables indicate that all children as young as two years of age are now themselves under threat of deportation. They are being taken from homes and camps maintained by private organizations in unoccupied France, such as the OSE and the Swiss Red Cross.

Cables from churches, non sectarian organizations, Jewish organizations, and offices of the J.D.C. in Geneva, Marseille, and Lisbon report that 5,000 children are now being cared for in unoccupied France and that 1,000 to 3,500 of these are under immediate threat of deportation. The cables which are received almost hourly by all refugee organizations in New York beg urgently that immediate action be taken to rescue these children through emigration to the United States.

On August 13th, Messrs. McDonald, Baerwald and Warren requested Honorable Sumner Welles to intervene with the Vichy Government to halt the deportations. On the same day a request was wired to Archbishop Rummel to consider the possibilities of requesting intervention by the Vatican. Later the Department of State reported that Mr. S. Pinkney Tuck, Chargé d'Affaires at Vichy, had been instructed to intervene vigorously to request that deportations be cancelled at least with respect to those whose emigration was in prospect. No report on the results of this action has been received from the State Department although it is noted that United States visa holders in the meantime have been exempted from deportation. Archbishop Rummel reported that he had conferred with the Apostolic Delegate immediately. ...

¹ Document dated September 9, 1942, when Taylor was leaving America. It was submitted during the papal audience of September 22.

No. 488, pp. 722-723.

Pope Pius XII to Ambassador Myron Taylor⁻¹

(A.E.S. 7001/42, copy with corrections by Pius XII)

Vatican, September 26, 1942

Pope's intervention on behalf of civilians exposed to bombings.

The Holy See has always been and still is greatly preoccupied, out of a heart filled with constant^a solicitude, with the fate of civil populations defenceless against the aggressions of war.

Since the outbreak of the present conflict no year has passed, that We have not appealed in Our public utterances to all the belligerents—men who also have human hearts moulded by a mother's love—to show some feeling of pity and charity for the sufferings of civilians, for helpless women and children, for the sick and aged, on whom a rain of terror, fire, destruction and havoc pours down out of a guiltless sky. ~~(Nov.~~ (November 1940, Easter, 1941). Our appeal was little heeded, as the world knows, and tens of thousands know to their own personal grief.

Now We have been asked to take occasion of this visit of Your Excellency to repeat Our appeal in a personal way, and to ask you to carry it to your esteemed President of the United States, of whom Your Excellency is so worthy and so valued a Representative. To refuse to comply with such a request would seem to bespeak little confidence in the noble sentiments of Christian brotherhood and generous sympathy for innocent victims of wrong, of which ~~you~~ Your Excellency and the President have given conspicuous^c proof.

We lay Our appeal, therefore, before you in behalf of countless human beings, children of our one, same Father in heaven; and if aerial bombardments must continue to form part of this harrowing war, let them with all possible care be directed only against objects of military value and spare the homes of non-combatants and the treasured shrines of art and religion.

¹ On September 26 Taylor was received by Pius XII for the third time before his departure for America. Monsignor Tardini arranged the documents in Taylor's file: "September 26, 1942. In this morning's audience His Holiness gave His Excellency Taylor the following documents: 1. Response to the President (cf. no. 485). 2. Summary of His Holiness' talk during the September 22nd audience (cf. no. 476). 3. Notes on the bombing of civilians (see above). 4. Memo on prisoners in the hands of the Russians (cf. no. 489). 5. Notes on the Information Service with the United States (cf no. 490)."

^a *corrigé pour* fatherly ^b *adjoit en marge* ^c *corrigé pour* splendid. *Une premiere correction, puis rayee noble.*

No. 489, pp. 724-725

Pope Pius XII to Ambassador Myron Taylor

(A.E.S. 7005/42, orig. autogr.)

Vatican, ~~26 septembre 1942~~ September 26, 1942

Regarding the condition of prisoners in Russia.

There is scarcely need to stress the fact, already well known, that the Holy Father has done all in His power to alleviate the suffering and misery caused by the war, and this particularly in the interest of prisoners and internees, striving very especially to procure for them and for their families the comfort of an exchange of news.

Receiving countless heart-rending appeals especially in recent months from Italy and Rumania for news of prisoners of war in the hands of the Russians, His Holiness has sought to give His attention also to these unfortunates, availing Himself, in this mission of mercy, of the good offices of the government of the United States of America very especially and of several others.

Because all these efforts have thus far failed and in view of the constant increase in the number of requests received from all quarters, official and non-official, for some news of these prisoners, His Holiness does not hesitate now to make an appeal directly to His Excellency President Roosevelt, whose influence can be inestimable and perhaps decisive, especially since at present the desires of the Holy See in this regard could be easily satisfied. It is only asked that, in accordance with the usual international regulations, some information, of a general and innocuous nature, regarding these prisoners be made available.

It is well to recall at this time that the Holy See has not ceased to interest itself in the Russian prisoners in the hands of their enemies, and is disposed to devote itself still more assiduously to this task if that were to meet with the pleasure of the Russian Authorities.

Vol. 5, No. 490, p. 726.

Pope Pius XII to Ambassador Taylor

(A.E.S. 7005/42, copy)

Vatican , ~~26 septembre~~ September 26, 1942

Pope's appeal to provide information service to prisoners.

Impressed very forcefully by the increasingly numerous and insistent appeals directed to Him from all quarters for news of close relatives and intimate friends in the United States of America, His Holiness is desirous that, if at all possible, the information service of the Holy See, which is carried on in the interest of prisoners, refugees and civilians alike, now be extended to the United States. In expressing this desire His Holiness is deeply encouraged by the knowledge that this activity has already provided for countless thousands in many parts of the world a measure of tranquility and peace of mind and by the assurance that the inestimable benefits of this merciful enterprise might easily be extended to the United States .

To this end, therefore, He would request that His Excellency the President of the United States seek to facilitate the arrangements necessary for the establishment of this service.

A very large number of requests for such information from the United States have already been received; that the number has not been multiplied many times is due solely to the fact that, unfortunately, the Holy See has been obliged to let it be known that, temporarily at least, it cannot accept such requests.

In the case of those few requests of an urgent nature which have been forwarded to the United States on the recommendation of Ecclesiastical Authorities, the obstacles and difficulties that have been encountered have been such as to counsel the complete cancellation of this very important service.

In the United States , as elsewhere, the Apostolic Delegate would be charged with the direction and control of this service. He would receive and forward the small, open forms on which it is permitted to write a message of not more than twenty five words of a purely personal character, intended to relieve the anguish or preoccupation of a distant loved one. These messages are rigidly censored before being sent from Vatican City , but the Holy See is quite willing that they be submitted for censorship in the United States if this would facilitate the matter.

Vol. 5, No. 492, pp. 727-729.

Monsignor Tardini to Ambassador Myron Taylor

(A.E.S. 7007/42, copy)

Vatican , ~~26 septembre~~ September 26, 1942

Report on religion in Russia

RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN RUSSIA .

Strictly personal memorandum giving summary of consideration expressed by H. E. Mons. Tardini in conversation with H.E. Myron Taylor¹.

1. There is no indication that any of the numerous churches closed to the faithful in past years have been reopened, nor that high taxes, imposed for the exercise of public worship on those few churches which have remained open, have been reduced. Father Leopold Braun, Rector of the only Catholic Church in Moscow writes: "There is talk of a reopening (of the churches) but I have no certain ~~proof~~^{proof}."

2. Nor is there any indication that any priest, who is a Russian citizen, has been freed from prison or from the sentence of deportation to which he had been previously condemned.

According to latest available statistics it would seem that there are still approximately one hundred Catholic priests of the Archdiocese of Mohilew detained in prison or in concentration camps.

3. For more than a year now there has been no news of His Excellency Mons. Edward Profittlich, Titular Archbishop of Andrianopoli and Apostolic Administrator of Estonia . Archbishop Profittlich, a citizen of Esthonia, was arrested at Tallinn June 28, 1941 and deported to the Urals, probably in Kasan.²

~~4. Communists in Albania and Montenegro were recently found to be in possession of "instructions" from Moscow recommending that they "cultivate the division between the various religions and direct their attack particularly against catholicism".~~
catholicism."

5. Father Braun has pointed out that the ~~organization~~ organization of the militant ~~russian~~ Russian atheists ceased some time ago to be active and that, furthermore, official-antireligious publications are no longer printed but he noted that copies of some such publications are still on sale.

¹ With regard to this encounter, Monsignor Tardini noted: "September 27, 1942. 12 o'clock. His Excellency Taylor came to say good-bye. I gave him some notes about Russia. I added that, according to the information in our possession, the religious situation in Moscow is a little different than in other parts of the country. Stalin wants to show the diplomats that there is religious freedom in Russia and, therefore, in Moscow the churches are frequented freely and those who practice their religion are not disturbed. This is not so in other parts of Russia. Furthermore, a good number of Catholic priests, Russians, are either still in prison or in exile.

"Mr. Taylor told me that the United States is making every effort to insure religious freedom in Russia: Whenever Stalin asked for or asks for arms or when he asked for or asks for loans, the United States has insisted and insists on this matter.

"Mr. Taylor adds that it is necessary for Russia to become part of the family of nations. To which I answer that Stalin (him only?) will not be comfortable in any family."

"On the genesis of the document, there is another note by Tardini: "Notes given today to Mr. Taylor. In the September 2 conversation, Taylor spoke about Russia and I observed that there was no proof that Stalin had changed the Communist program in religious matters. Mr. Taylor recalled the Notes I had given him last year [cf. nr. 82] and asked for another copy. And I promised to satisfy him." (A.E.S. 7007/42).

² Cf. nr. 94 #10; and *Actes*, vol. 3, doc. 307, p. 460; doc. 487, p. 768.

Volume 6

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre

(March 1939-December 1940)

Vol. 6, No. 20, pp.82-83

Chief Rabbi Herzog to Cardinal Maglione

No number (A.S.S. 1939 Varia 934, orig.) Jerusalem, May 1, 1939

Request for Papal Audience.

You have probably heard by now from Mr. Macaulay, the Irish Legate to the Holy See, of my desire for an audience with His Holiness, the Pope.¹ I wish to place before the Supreme Pontiff a matter of a religious nature, altogether non-political, which is of vital importance to Jewry. Kindly try to arrange that audience in principle and let me know, by wire, if possible.² I shall then suggest to His Holiness, through you, a range of alternative dates within the next few weeks. You will readily appreciate that a journey to Italy, particularly at the present time, is no small matter and the arrangements must therefore be planned well ahead. There is with the Supreme Pontiff a letter of recommendation from my dear friend Cardinal Macrory, Primate of ~~AI~~ all Ireland, addressed to the Pope long before His Election.³

Monsignor Montini's Notes:

Check in ~~Archives.~~

Archives. His Holiness cannot receive ~~him.~~ He him. He will be able to speak with the Cardinal Secretary of State.

¹ See no. 15.

² Monsignor Montini responded to the Minister of Ireland asking him to inform Mr. Herzog; see no. 23

³ Unpublished.

Vol. 6, No. 23, p. 86

Monsignor Montini to Macaulay, Minister of Ireland to the Holy See

(A.S.S. 1813, draft)

Vatican, May 13, 1939

The Chief Rabbi will be received by the Cardinal Secretary of State

Your Excellency,

With reference to Your Excellency's letter of April thirteenth regarding the desire of Dr. Isaac Herzog for an Audience of the Holy Father,¹ I have the honour to inform you that Dr. Herzog, if he comes to Rome, will be received by His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State.² I am also to request Your Excellency to be good enough to have this answer communicated to Dr. Herzog³

¹ See no. 15.

² In fact, Herzog only came to Rome toward the end of February 1940 and was received on February 28 by Cardinal Maglione (A.S.S. 11149).

³ As the answer to his letter of May 1st (see no. 20).

Vol. 6, No. 65, p. 143

Minister Osborne of Great Britain to Monsignor Tardini

W/18/30 (A.E.S. 8789/39, orig.)

Rome , September 13, 1939

News about the bombing of the Germans in Poland .

You told me yesterday that His Holiness the Pope might take an early opportunity of urging on the belligerent Powers the observance of the laws for humanising war which they have announced their intention of respecting.

In this connection it will be interesting to see whether the news which I have just heard over the radio is confirmed, namely, that the German General Staff has announced its decision to shell and bomb open cities and villages in Poland because the inhabitants, misled by their Government, have opposed the advance of the German troops into Poland.

It hardly sounds credible, but if it is, it might be worth bringing to His Holiness' attention.

Vol. 6, No. 125, pp. 211-212.

Cardinal Maglione to Bishop Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago Telegram (A.E.S. 91/40)

Vatican , December 31, 1939

Thanks for the gift offered to the Pope by the American Jewish organizations.

Holy Father is pleased devoted homage paid glorious memory of His unforgettable Predecessor through conspicuous charitable offering.¹

In the light of the doctrine and of the example of Christ who proclaimed and made men brothers in Himself and who taught them to discern His own Person in the poor and the suffering the August Pontiff feels deep satisfaction and gratitude for this munificent and beneficent act.

His Holiness charges Your Excellency to convey the expression of His sincere thanks to all the donors upon whom He implores from God the choicest gifts.

I shall later communicate to Your Excellency in what manner and through which committees you may provide for the distribution of the fund.²

¹ See no. 126.

² See no. 131. Bishop Sheil thanked the directors of the "United Jewish Appeal" in a letter of December 29: "Is it not bitter mockery, an odious hypocrisy, for any man who professes to believe in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man to hate and to persecute his fellow men? Can any man truthfully say he loves God unless he loves his neighbor? The Evangelist, St. John , answers that question in powerful and graphic language. "Let us therefore love God because God first hath loved us. If any man say, I love God and hateth his brother he is a liar. For he who loveth not his brother whom he seeth, how can he love God whom he seeth not. And this commandment we have from God that he who loveth God, love also his brother." It must be evident therefore, that Catholics or Protestants who foment racial and religious hatred are traitors to the religion they profess.

My dear Jewish friends, this magnificent gift of yours in memory of the Great Pope Pius XI deserves and should receive the gratitude and admiration of every Catholic worthy of the name. It is further evidence of the traditional generosity of your people towards their neighbors and fellowmen. It should still forever the tongues of those who charge you so unjustly of narrow, exclusive racialism.

Be sure, dear friends, we Catholics can sympathize with you to the full in the suffering, the oppression and injustice to which your people have been so cruelly subjected. Like you, we also have our refugee problem, thousands of men, women and children who are the victims likewise of intolerance and tyranny. The refugee problem is not a problem of any one race or religion, but a problem which affects all humanity. It is a problem which can be solved only by men of good will standing together.

We will gladly join hands with you in striving to build a better world where men and women may live long in peace, harmony and security, as God Almighty intended them to live. We will labor eagerly with good men and women from which millions of human beings suffer so grievously. We are eternally grateful to you for the noble tribute of esteem and admiration you have paid to our great Pope, Pius XI, of blessed memory.

No words I am able to command can adequately express my profound and abiding gratitude for your princely gift to our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII. I am sure that our Holy Father will be deeply moved by the noble spirit which prompted you to honor in this gracious and generous manner the memory of his predecessor, that truly great and godly man, Pope Pius XI of happy memory.

No man in our day or generation fought more vigorously or courageously the fanaticism of intolerant racialism than Pius XI. When cruel and tyrannical laws were enacted against your people, his fearless voice was raised in indignant protest. He denounced racial intolerance and hatred as contrary to the laws of God, to the dictates of right reason and to the welfare of civilization. Consequently, any man or group of men, who fosters this ignorant and malignant spirit of racialism is the enemy of religion and of civilization. It seems beautifully appropriate therefore that you should honor the memory of this courageous champion of human rights by enabling his most worthy successor to bring some small measure of relief to the victims of this odious type of tyranny.

Although the Jewish people have suffered, more perhaps than any other people, from the excesses of malign racialism, yet the painful problems growing out of this inhuman, ungodly fanaticism, are by no means exclusively Jewish problems. They are of profound and vital concern to Catholics, to Protestants and to men of good-will everywhere. Least of all can we Americans be indifferent to the victims of tyranny and oppression. Our traditions, our institutions, our national spirit and temperament, nurtured by and rooted in the soil of liberty, make tyranny in every form peculiarly odious to us.”

Vol. 6, No. 172, pp. 265-266.

Cardinal Maglione to Bishop Boyle, Bishop of Pittsburgh

(A.S.S. 7324, draft)

Vatican , March 21, 1940

Thanks for the gift offered to Cardinal Hlond by the Americans and a request to continue the help.

I acknowledge receipt of a check in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) forwarded through His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate by the Bishops' Committee for Polish Relief for transmission to His Eminence Cardinal Hlond.¹ It gives me pleasure to assure Your Excellency that the said amount has been consigned to His Eminence in accordance with the desires expressed by your Committee.

At the same time, I am to tell you of the deep interest and appreciation with which the Holy Father is following the labors of your Committee in favor of prostrate Poland . Since the beginning of the war, the sad plight of this Christian people has been one of His heaviest preoccupations, and He has spared no efforts in providing alleviation for their sufferings. The burden has been greater than His resources, already strained by the numerous demands which the present untoward conditions in Europe have occasioned, would permit Him to expend; so that it was with heartfelt satisfaction that He welcomed the generous action of the American Bishops to raise funds for the relief of His beloved and sorely tried children in Poland. His Holiness wishes Your Excellency and your confreres in the Hierarchy to be assured that He reposes the greatest confidence in the assistance that you will furnish Him in carrying out this noble mission of charity, and that whatever moneys you may be able to collect for this purpose will be immediately put to use where the need is greatest. From a full heart, the Common Father sends His affectionate Apostolic Benediction to Your Excellency and to your brother Bishops as well as to all who contribute to this noble cause.

¹ See no. 139.

Vol. 6, No. 196, pp. 296-298.

The Secretariate of State to Ambassador Taylor

(A.S.S. 7515, draft)

Vatican , April 26, 1940

Information on the work of papal assistance to Poland .

The Secretariate of State to His Holiness has the honor to address this communication to the Personal Representation of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope for the purpose of making known the efforts which have been made and are being made by the Holy See to afford assistance to the stricken people of Poland.¹

In carrying out their sacred mission of apostolic charity, the Sovereign Pontiffs have always been in the fore-front of those who seek to alleviate the suffering which is the inevitable concomitant and consequent of war. Thus during the world war of 1914-1918, the then Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Benedict XV of venerated memory, marshalled the resources of the Holy See, in men and in treasure, for the relief of the civilian populations in war-torn countries and for the amelioration of the lot of military prisoners. It is well known also that this Pontifical work in favor of afflicted humanity was continued throughout the period of destitution which, notably in Germany , followed the cessation of hostilities.

The sad conditions ensuing upon the occupation of Poland in the autumn of last year made an instant appeal to the paternal compassion of the present Holy father Who immediately sought by every means in His power to extend, in addition to spiritual comfort, that material help which was so sorely needed by the people of that country. Beginning in October 1939, official representations were made to the Government of the Reich with a view to securing passage into Poland of the relief at the disposition of the Holy See.² The replies of the German Government to these and to repeated subsequent representations were dilatory and evasive.³ An endeavor was then made to send money to the distressed Poles on order that they might be in a position to help themselves, but the restrictions imposed and the unfavorable rate of exchange offered were such as to justify the fear that by this means only a small proportion of effective aid would ultimately reach its destination. When it finally became evident that it was not the purpose of the German Government to permit the Holy See, in its own name, to minister to the needs of these people in their tragic plight, there remained no recourse but to look elsewhere for means of arriving at the desired end.

Accordingly when information reached the Holy See that the German Government had agreed to allow the American "Commission for Polish Relief" to send supplies into Poland and to station representatives there for the purpose of supervising the distribution of these supplies to the civilian population, the Holy See saw in this permission a possible channel for communicating its own relief to the Poles. It is true that at the same time it was reported reliably from Berlin⁴ that the German authorities, while authorizing the representatives of the "Commission for Polish Relief" to remain at Warsaw to receive the supplies shipped from America, would not permit them to exercise effective supervision over distribution. Nevertheless, in spite of this discrepancy in the information in its possession, the Holy See, in view of the urgent necessity of getting immediate aid to a people in desperate straits, has decided to avail itself of the good offices of the American "Commission for Polish Relief" as one of the agencies through [which] it will work in its efforts to succor the Poles. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate at Washington , under instructions from this Secretariate of State, has already turned over to the said Commission a considerable initial contribution, and other sums are on deposit in American banks for further contributions.⁵

The Holy See is convinced that the work of the "Commission for Polish Relief" will be greatly facilitated among the Polish people, most of whom are Catholics, if the widest possible publicity is given, both in America and in Poland , to the fact that the Holy See is contributing largely to the Commission's work of relief. To this end, it has been suggested that consideration might be given to the advantage which would derive in many ways from the presence in Poland as representatives of the Commission of two Catholic citizens of the United States .

The Secretariate of State, therefore, expresses the hope that the Personal Representation of the President of the United States to His Holiness the Pope may inform His Excellency the President of the motives which actuate the Holy See in its contributions to this noble charitable undertaking, and that His Excellency may find it possible to lend the high prestige of his support to the achievement of the two purposes set forth in the preceding paragraph.

Monsignor Montini's Notes:

Prepare Italian translation,
translation. Send copy to Berlin and to Washington.⁶
Approved and delivered to Mr. Taylor, April 26, 1940.

¹ See no. 192.

² See particularly no. 104 and 107.

³ See no. 124 et 136.

⁴ See no. 178.

⁵ See no. 182.

⁶ The content of this message was communicated to the two representatives on April 30 (A.S.S. 7515).

Vol. 6, No. 201, p. 306.

The Chief Rabbi to Cardinal [Joseph] MacRory

Telegram no. 223 (A.E.S. 4562/40, orig.) Jerusalem, May 12, 1940

The Grand Rabbi asks the intervention of the Holy See for the Polish Jews in Lithuania.

Entreat you plead speedily for intervention Holy Father with Lithuanian Government behalf Polish Jewish refugees including many distinguished rabbis now at Vilna threatened forcible repatriation to German and Russian occupation zones. Jewish Relief Organisations ready provide their maintenance and arrange gradual emigration to Palestine and overseas.

Enclosure

Cardinal MacRory to Cardinal Maglione

No number. (A.E.S. 4562/40 ~~autogr.~~
autogr.) Armagh, May 14, 1940

The Cardinal sends a telegram from Chief Rabbi Herzog.

I received yesterday the enclosed cable from Rabbi Herzog, Jerusalem, who is Chief Jewish Rabbi.¹ Before going to Palestine he spent many years as a Rabbi here in Ireland and he and I were good friends. I suppose that is the reason why he now appeals to me to plead for the intervention of the Holy Father.

I am sorry to add to your many cares, but I consider it my duty to bring this matter under Your Eminence's notice.²

¹ See no. 15 and 20.

² Response to Cardinal MacRory on May 31, 1940 (A.E.S. 4562/40) that his recommendation would be given consideration.

Vol. 6, No. 225, p. 328.

The Secretariat of State to the Representation of the President of the United States

(A.S.S. 76224, draft)

Vatican, June 5, 1940

Request for information about the Poles arrested and deported by the Russians.

The Secretariat of State to His Holiness has the honor to make the following communication to the Representation of His Excellency the President of the United States to His Holiness the Pope.

Information has been received¹ to the effect that some twenty thousand Poles, of the more cultivated classes, were arrested at ~~Lwów~~ Lwów by the Soviet authorities on or about April 15, 1940, and deported to Western Siberia, particularly to ~~Turkestan~~ Turkestan. The Secretariat of State will be very thankful for any news which the Representation of His Excellency the President of the United States may be able to obtain and to communicate in regard to this reported deportation and to the present fate of the deportees.²

¹ Probably by the Ambassador of Poland.

² See no. 332.

Vol. 6, No. 257, pp. 364-365.

The personal Representative of the President of the United States Myron Taylor to Cardinal Maglione

No number (A.S.S. Guerra 1939, Polish-Civil-Pol. 10, orig.)
Rome, July 15, 1940

Recognition of the efforts of the Holy See in Poland .

The Personal Representative of the President of the United States to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, presents his compliments to His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State and has the honor to advise that he has submitted to the President the *note verbale* N. 7515 of April 26, 1940¹ with reference to the unsuccessful efforts which the Holy See has been making to send relief to Poland and, at the request of the President, has the honor to submit the following with reference thereto.

Both the President and the people of the United States are deeply sensitive of the great efforts which His Holiness, the Pope, has made, not only to preserve but also to induce peace on the earth; and, as well, the great services which have been rendered by His Holiness in alleviating and seeking further to alleviate, the suffering that has been occasioned by war.

The Government of the United States is also deeply concerned and anxious that the maximum of relief should be extended to the civilian populations of war stricken areas in Europe .

There are a number of organizations, associations and private persons engaged in raising money for this purpose in the United States . The Government has no connection with any of these private organizations except that provided by the Neutrality Act,² and the government is not a participant in any of their respective activities. The Government has no function in connection with their administration and no control over their activities so long as they conform to the law.

The only agency for relief which is either official or quasi-official so far as the Government of the United States is concerned is the American Red Cross.

The Government is, of course, concerned that there should be coordination between these various agencies, so that there will be no conflict which would be prejudicial to the main purpose of relieving the destitution and suffering due to war conditions. It is also clear that these activities should be coordinated so that there should be no conflict as between them in connection either with the time which each sets for the raising of monies by public subscription or with the disbursement of this aid in such a way as to produce the maximum relief.

It is beyond the power of the President to name the members of the commission as suggested, as this power rests exclusively in the Commission for Polish Relief. The substance of the specific requests therefore has been transmitted to the Commission for Polish Relief, and doubtless that organization will communicate direct to the Holy See with reference thereto.

The Personal Representative of the President has been further requested to express the hope that the Secretary of State to His Holiness, the Pope, will inform His Holiness of the deep sympathy which the President has for the humanitarian purposes upon which he has been so effectively engaged.

¹ See no. 196.

² November 4, 1939, see FRUS 1939, I, ~~680~~. 680.

Vol. 6, No. 332, pp. 431-432.

Edward Reed¹ to Nuncio [Francesco] Borgongini Duca in Italy

No number (A.S.S. Guerra 1939, Polish-Civil-Pol. 10, orig.)

Rome, October 6, 1940

The United States can do nothing for the Poles ~~residing in~~ residing in territory occupied by the Russians.

With reference to three communications, nos. 7263, 7624 and 7625, all dated June 5, 1940,² which were addressed to the Honorable Myron C. Taylor by the Secretariat of State of His Holiness concerning the whereabouts and welfare of certain Polish nationals, I have been directed by the Secretary of State of the United States to request Your Excellency to be good enough to inform the Secretariat of State of His Holiness that, according to information received by my Government from its Embassy in Moscow, the Soviet authorities have refused to undertake investigations on behalf of the Government of the United States for the purpose of ascertaining the whereabouts and welfare in the ~~Soviet~~ Soviet Union of persons who are not American citizens.³

It is understanding of my Government that persons of Polish nationality now in Soviet occupied Poland are considered by the Soviet Government to be citizens of the U.S.S.R. and, as such, are not the appropriate subjects of an inquiry on the part of a foreign

government. Although my Government is aware of the unfortunate plight in many instances of these Polish nationals, it regrets, however, that there would appear to be nothing which it, or its representatives in Moscow, might do on behalf of the individuals or groups named in the communications from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness.⁴

¹ Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Italy .

² See no. 225; the two other Notes Memos were not published.

³ The United States had almost insurmountable difficulties to protect the North American citizens in Polish territory occupied by the Soviets, see FRUS Soviets (FRUS 1940, II, 177) .

⁴ The Nuncio sent Reed's letter to Cardinal Maglione on October 9 (report no. 8196).

Volume 7

Le Saint Siège et la guerre mondiale

(November 1942-December 1943)

Vol. 7, No. 251, pp. 430-431

President Roosevelt to Pope Pius XII

(A.E.S. 5495/43, orig. signature autogr.). Edit. *Wartime Corresp.*, pp. 91-93 ~~F.R.U.S.~~ FRUS 1943 vol. 2 *Europe* , pp. 919-920

Washington, June 16, 1943

rec'd, July 13, 1943

Roosevelt appreciates Pius XII's efforts regarding Italy and promises that the air attacks will be limited to military objectives.

Your Holiness:¹

The communication of May 19, 1943 from Your Holiness² setting forth in eloquent language the deep feelings of emotion with which Your Holiness views the devastating effects of war on Italy strikes a very responsive chord in my heart. No one appreciates more than I the ceaseless efforts of Your Holiness to prevent the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 and subsequently to limit its contagion. Your Holiness is familiar with the repeated efforts which were made in 1940 by this Government, and by many elements within the United States to deter the Chief of the Italian Government from plunging his country and countrymen into a ruinous war whose outcome, I reminded him even at that time, could only prove disastrous.

The sympathetic response of Your Holiness to the many appeals of the Italian people on behalf of their country is understood and appreciated by me. May I say that Americans are among those who value most the religious shrines and the historical monuments of Italy . However, my country - men are likewise united in their determination to win the war which has been thrust upon them and for which the present government of Italy must share its full responsibility. My countrymen and I deplore the loss of life on both sides which must result and the destruction of property and resources.

Attacks against Italy are limited, to the extent humanly possible, to military objectives. We have not and will not make warfare on civilians or against non-military objectives. In the event it should be found militarily necessary for Allied planes to operate over Rome our aviators are thoroughly informed as to the location of the Vatican and have been specifically instructed to prevent bombs from falling within the Vatican City . This may be an opportune time to warn Your Holiness that I have no reason to feel assured that Axis planes would not make an opportunity to bomb Vatican City with the purpose of charging Allied planes with the outrages they themselves had committed.

My country has no choice but to prosecute the war with all force against the enemy until every resistance has been overcome. Your Holiness will understand, I am confident, that in this struggle for human liberty no exception can be made to the full prosecution of the war against any legitimate military enemy objective. Any other course would only delay the fulfillment of that desire in which Your Holiness and the governments and people of the United ~~Nations and Nations~~—and I believe the people of Italy ~~likewise are joined—the~~ likewise are joined —the return of peace on earth.

Believe me, with the assurances of my highest regard, Yours very sincerely,

¹ The letter was announced by a telegram from Cicognani, no. 1184, of June 17, 20 h. 51, received in the Vatican at 13 h. of the 18th. It was sent with Report 782/43 of the same day in the Department of State dispatch bag that arrived in the Vatican on July 13. In the telegram and the report Cicognani does not add anything with the transmission of Roosevelt's response.

² Cf. no. 200.

Vol. 7, No. 272, pp. 458-459.

President Roosevelt to the Apostolic Delegate Cicognani in Washington

(A.E.S. 4087/43, copy)

Washington, June 29, 1943

The President promised that, as soon as Fascism has been removed, Italy would be able to choose its own government. Meanwhile the United States must continue the war, but had no intention of damaging Rome's artistic and cultural patrimony.

The Secretary of State has shown me your letter of June 15¹ containing a further communication from His Holiness concerning the position of Italy in the present unhappy conflict.²

His Holiness again expresses his concern over the fate of the Italian people. Unfortunately, the government of Italy for a period of twenty years has glorified the use of force and has used it ruthlessly against the Greeks, the Ethiopians, the Albanians—to mention only a few of the victims of Fascist aggression. The people of Italy have been made the instrument of this pagan policy. When the Italians are liberated from Fascist domination and are free once more to demonstrate their innate good judgment, they will be given an opportunity to choose the kind of government based on democratic principles that they may wish to establish. It is my intention, and in that I am joined by the people of the United States, that Italy will be restored to nationhood after the defeat of Fascism and will take her place as a respected member of the European family of nations.

I have noted the observations of His Holiness with respect to the possibility of the bombardment of Rome. As in the past careful consideration has been given to the expressions of opinion of His Holiness. I recently reassured His Holiness with respect to the bombing of Vatican City. I trust His Holiness will understand that should the conduct of the war require it, recognized military objectives in and around Rome cannot be ignored. There is no intention to attack or damage non-military objectives or the historic and art treasures of Rome.³

¹ Cf. no. 250 and 249.

² ~~FRUS~~ FRUS 1943, vol. II *Europe* did not publish Roosevelt's letter to Cicognani, but reproduced the President's memo to Hull with his notes for a response to the Delegate (p. 923).

³ Monsignor Cicognani thanks Roosevelt in another letter addressed to him on July 2, after having received Maglione's telegram of July 27 (no. 269)

Vol. 7, No. 281, pp. 472-473.

The Legation of Great Britain to the Secretariate of State

(A.E.S. 4099/43, orig.)

Vatican City, July 7, 1943

Prime Minister Eden rejects the idea to declare ~~Rome~~ Rome an open city. The English will bomb the city if necessary.

Memorandum-

Certain remarks made recently by an official of the British Air Ministry at a press conference on June 23rd were misinterpreted by some of the foreign press as an invitation to the Italian Government to initiate negotiations about making Rome an open city.¹

As a result of this misunderstanding three Parliamentary Questions on June 27th asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state whether His Majesty's Government had made, or would make representations to the Italian ~~Government~~ Government in this sentence.

Mr. Eden replied:²

“His Majesty’s Government have made no approach of any kind to the Italian Government in regard to the bombing of Rome and we do not intend to make one. I repeat that we should not hesitate to bomb Rome to the best of our ability and as heavily as possible if the course of the war should render such action convenient and ~~helpful~~ helpful.”

In a Supplementary Question Mr. Eden was asked on what authority the above-mentioned statements in the foreign press had been made. He replied that there had been a misunderstanding of some remarks made unofficially and not for quotation at a press conference, but that the position of His Majesty’s Government was as he had just stated.

In reply to a further Supplementary Question, asking whether the principle of having Rome declared an open city should not be considered as being in the interest of humanity, Mr. Eden replied that he thought that it would be in the interest of humanity if Mussolini were to realise that the best thing to do for his country was to accept the unconditional surrender terms of the Allies.

Monsignor Tardini’s Note: Memo:

7-7-43. ~~Ricevuta dal Ministro Osborne e mandato all’E.mo.~~

Received from Minister Osborne and sent to His Excellency.

¹ The R.A.F. proposal was known to the Vatican from June 26 and June 28 through the Swiss press. The June 24 ~~Journal de Geneve~~ *Journal de Genève* contains this statement: “ Only if Rome were declared an open city would the Allied Air Force be able to refuse to bomb it and be able to declare itself ready to publish a decree in this regard. But, if this would not happen, the military, industrial and defense objectives of Rome could be legitimately attacked by the R.A.F.” (*Bollettino Stampa*, no. 145, anno 30, June 26, 1943).

² In the afternoon of June 30. Radio London spread Eden ’s response the evening of the same day, and in Italian during the night.

Vol. 7, No. 303, pp. 502-504.

Pope Pius XII to President Roosevelt

(A.E.S. 4102/43, draft, A.S.S. 69419, -copy) Edit. *Wartime corresp., Corresp .*, pp. 95-96 ~~F.R.U.S. 1943~~ FRUS 1943; *Europe* , vol. 2, p. 131.
Vatican, July 20, 1943

Message following the bombing of Rome . As a neutral State, the Holy See wishes that the homes of the poor be spared. The Pope witnessed the destruction in Rome , and deplores the bombing of cities. He hopes Rome will be spared new attacks.

Our Secretary of State acknowledged at once by telegram the receipt of Your Excellency’s message of the tenth instant, and he expressed Our grateful appreciation of the assurances given that “neutral status of the Vatican City as well as of the Papal domains throughout Italy will be respected” during the military operations ahead.

The neutrality of the Holy See strikes its roots deep in the very nature of Our apostolic ministry, which places Us above any armed conflict between nations. Yet it is this same God-given mission to safeguard and defend the eternal, spiritual interests of all men redeemed by Christ that makes Us the more sensible of human pain and sorrow. The war continues to multiply these sufferings a hundred-fold for so many millions of peace - loving, innocent men and women that Our paternal heart can find no rest except in constant, increasing efforts to dry the tears of aging mothers, of widows and orphaned children, and to hold back by every means at Our disposal the mounting flood that threatens to bury completely beneath its raging waters once fair lands of Europe and Asia.

Moved by this strong, insistent love for humankind We cannot but take this occasion of the message which Your Excellency has kindly² addressed to Us to repeat an appeal made by Us more than once in these past few years. It is a prayer that everywhere, as far as humanly possible, the civil populations be spared the horrors of war; that the homes of God’s poor be not laid in ashes; that the little ones and youth, a nation’s hope, be preserved from all ~~harm—how~~ harm—how Our heart bleeds when We hear of helpless children made victims of cruel war—; that churches dedicated to the worship of God and monuments that enshrine the memory and masterpieces of human genius be protected from destruction. We repeat³ this appeal unwilling to yield to any thought of its hopelessness, although almost daily we must continue to deplore the evils against which We pray. And now even in Rome , parent of western civilization and for well nigh two thousand years centre of the Catholic world, to which millions, one may risk the assertion, hundreds of millions of men throughout the world have recently been turning their anxious gaze. We have had to witness the harrowing scene of death leaping from the skies and stalking pitilessly through unsuspecting homes striking down women and children; and in person We have visited and with sorrow contemplated the gaping ruins of that ancient and priceless Papal basilica of St. Laurence, one of the most treasured and loved sanctuaries of Romans, especially close to the heart of all Supreme Pontiffs, and visited with devotion by pilgrims from all countries of the world.

God knows how much We have suffered from the first days of the war for the lot of all those cities that have been exposed to aerial bombardments, especially for those that have been bombed not for a day, but for weeks and months without respite⁴. But since

divine Providence has placed Us head over the Catholic Church and bishop of this city so rich in sacred shrines and hallowed, immortal memories, We feel it Our duty to voice a particular prayer and hope that all may recognize that a city, whose every district, in some districts every street has its irreplaceable monuments of faith or art and Christian culture, cannot be attacked without inflicting an incomparable loss on the patrimony of Religion and Civilization.

Meanwhile the war proceeds at a quickened pace; and as the peoples of the world are being told to prepare themselves for increasingly destructive battles that will drain the lifeblood of many thousands of the armed forces and, to Our grief be it said, of civilians, Our own soul makes ready for a more grievous ordeal of sorrow and anxiety. But it is with no diminished hope and confidence that in this very hour We call on God, Our sole stay and comfort, to hasten the dawn of that day when His peace will erect the glorious temple ~~builded~~ built of living stones, the nations of the earth, wherein all members of the vast human family will find tranquillity, security in justice, and freedom and inspiration to worship their Creator and to love their fellow-men. It is the day, as Your Excellency says, longed for by all men of good will. But not all realize that that temple will stand and endure only if set on the foundation of Christian, more than mere human charity, not alloyed with vindictive passion or any elements of hate. Such charity the divine Redeemer of mankind proclaimed as His commandment, illustrated by His example and sealed with His blood. Through it men can once again be united as loved and loving children of their divine Father in Heaven.

We avail Ourselves of this occasion to renew Our good wishes, while we pray God to protect Your Person and the people of the United States .

¹-Cf. no. 297. According to Monsignor Tardini's chronological notes, Pius XII decided to prepare a response immediately on July 15. The draft of the 11th prepared by Tardini, was continued by the American Jesuit Vincent McCormick, who presented his version the morning of the 19th, a little before the bombing, and corrected it on the 20th. The following day the Pope reviewed it, sent it on the 25th to Monsignor Montini, and signed it on the 26th with the date of July 20th. On the 27th, the letter was entrusted to Tittmann, who sent it, via Berne (A.E.S. 4102/43).

² This word was added by Pius XII in place of "with such thoughtful kindness has addressed".

³ This part of the letter, as far as the following paragraph that ends with "Religion and Civilization," was added on the 20th after the bombing, and was corrected the following days.

⁴ Phrase added between the 23rd and 24th of July.

Vol. 7, No. 413, pp. 648-492.

Enclosure

ARCHBISHOPS MOONEY, SPELLMAN and STRITCH to PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

(A.E.S. 1315/43, copy attached to ~~rapport~~ report)

Washington, September 15, 1943

Disappointment created among American Catholics by the aerial bombardments of Rome , and the present difficult situation. Responsibility of the government; measures to be taken.

Mr. President:

We deem it our sacred duty as American Catholic Bishops to manifest the deep concern we feel for the moral prestige of our Country and for the security and freedom of the Holy See in view of recent war developments on the Italian mainland.

You know the grave fears we expressed on the moral risks our Country assumed in bombing Rome . Reliable information we have since received on the results of that action show how ineffective were the diligently planned precautions to restrict precision bombing to military objectives. Thousands of civilians were killed and a whole district of the city, including an ancient religious shrine and Rome 's famed Campo Santo, was seriously damaged. America's best justification in the face of a grave moral responsibility that even the Nazis never took in regard to Athens or Cairo, was the failure of the Fascist Government to make Rome an open city. It was heartening to us when on the 23rd of July you told us that our Government used every argument and pleaded with the Axis powers to make Rome an open city, and that we did our best and still hoped that the Germans and the Fascists would make it an open city. The Fascist Government fell on July 25th and on July 31st the succeeding anti-fascist government of Italy enlisted the good offices of the Holy See in communicating its desire to declare Rome an open city and in asking for a statement of the essential conditions required for the acceptance of this declaration by the Allies. The failure of the Allies during more than a month to give an effective answer to this

communication of the Holy See not only weakened the position of the Holy See as a strong force for peace but increased our responsibility for the events that followed.

In the meantime Rome was bombed again on August 13th with further serious loss of life in the civilian population and further damage to religious establishments. In addition, the fact that the Italian Armistice was signed and announced before an effective answer was given to the request regarding the declaration of Rome as an open city aggravates the imperilled position of the Sacred City now occupied by the Nazi troops, and makes us even more clearly share the moral responsibility for eventual disastrous consequences of the military occupation.

We still keep in mind, Mr. President, the assurance you gave to the Holy Father to safeguard the Papal domains, which include not only Vatican City but numerous extraterritorial establishments throughout Rome serving the Administrative Agencies of the Holy See in its worldwide spiritual mission. We express the concern of more than twenty million American Catholics and their anxious hope that their Government will not have to share further responsibility for even more disastrous developments that threaten the Holy See under the conditions now obtaining in Rome. With the City of the Popes in control of forces that hate Christianity and its outstanding spokesman in the world today and would welcome any pretext for wreaking destruction there, the plight of the Holy See and all that it stands for in Rome is, indeed, critical. Frankly, we feel that the United Nations, and particularly those who control the action of our own Government which is so powerful in their councils, have here a responsibility for which not only the judgment of history but the conscience of citizens today will hold them accountable.

We realize how difficult the situation is but we refuse to doubt that there is in the councils of the United Nations the wisdom, the restraint, and the military genius to dislodge the enemy from Italy without making Rome the theater of direct military operations. Millions throughout the world will acclaim every effort that is made to circumvent the ill will of those who now occupy Rome. Military measures which offend the religious sense of so many citizens in so many nations may have consequences fatally prejudicial to the interests we all have at heart in the making of the peace and to the national and international collaboration necessary to that blessed end.

In addressing you, Mr. President, in this important matter which troubles our people and tends to cloud the high purposes to which we have consecrated our war effort for the freedom of men and nations, we wish again to assure you that our Hierarchy, in deep patriotic devotion, places in you its confidence that it will be spared the news that our armies have joined battle on the sacred soil of Rome.

Vol. 7, No. 457, pp. 691-692.

Minister Osborne of Great Britain to Cardinal Maglione

s.n.r. (A.E.S. 6792/43, orig.)

Vatican City, November 7, 1943

The British government always promised that the Vatican would be carefully spared.

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Eminence's Note No. 6520/43 of November 6th¹ on the subject of the dropping of four bombs on the territory of the Vatican City and to inform you that I have telegraphed to London your request that the competent British authorities should carry out an investigation in order to establish to whom responsibility for this most regrettable occurrence is to be attributed.

2. In this connection I would invite Your Eminence's attention to the personal message from Mr. Eden to His Holiness the Pope which I communicated to Your Eminence in my Urgent and Confidential letter of June 23rd last.² In this it was stated that, in the event of its becoming necessary for military reasons to bomb the City of Rome, Allied pilots would be specifically ordered to ensure that no bombs fell in the Vatican City. In the light of this assurance it is evident that no Allied plane would bomb the Vatican City itself.

3. Mr. Eden's message continued, however, that His Majesty's Government had no reason for confidence that Axis planes would not bomb the Vatican City for the purpose of charging the Allies with the outrage.

4. Your Eminence will also recall that I have on various occasions informed you that His Majesty's Government had reason to believe that British aircraft and British bombs, captured by the Axis Powers, were being expressly reserved for such a purpose.

¹ Cf. nr. 454.

² Cf. nr. 453, note 3.

Vol. 7, No. 459, pp. 693.

Tittmann, ~~Chargé d'Affaires of the United States~~, United States Chargé d'Affaires, to Cardinal Maglione

No number. (A.E.S. 6793/43, orig.) Vatican City, November 8, 1943

The American government will search for those responsible for the bombing of the Vatican .

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Note No. 6520/43 dated November 6, 1943 from the Secretariat of State of His Holiness,¹ on the subject of the bombing of the Vatican City, and to inform Your Eminence that a full translation thereof was sent by telegram to my Government on the same day. I have no doubt but that the request of the Holy See that the competent American authorities should carry out an investigation in order to fix the responsibility for this most regrettable deed will be immediately complied with by my Government.

In the meantime, may I remind Your Eminence of the repeated assurances given by President Roosevelt to the effect that throughout the period of war operations the neutral status of the Vatican City, as well as the Papal Domains throughout Italy would be respected. Permit me also to point out that, if I am correctly informed, President Roosevelt in a communication to His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate in Washington which was destined for the Holy Father, mentioned the possibility that Axis airplanes might bomb Vatican City with a view to blaming the Allies for the outrage.

¹ Cf. no. 455.

Volume 8

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre

(January 1941-December 1942)

Vol. 8, No. 62, pp. 158-161.

The Secretariat of State to British Minister Osborne

(A.S.S. 32 208, draft)

Vatican, March 31, 1941

Request to facilitate the work of the Information Service for Prisoners of War .

1. The Secretariat of State of His Holiness have had the honour of receiving the Note of March 10th (N. 1/13/41)¹ which His Excellency the Minister of His Britannic Majesty's Government so kindly sent them, in reply to the Note of December 13th 1940² in which His Britannic Majesty's Government was requested to facilitate the charitable work being undertaken by Papal Representatives with a view to alleviating the sufferings caused by the present war.

2. The Secretariat of State thank, first of all, the British Government for having acceded in some measure to the aforementioned request: and particularly for having agreed:

a) that individual requests for information may be addressed to the Home Office and to the corresponding Authorities in the Dominions and in India, regarding civilian internees, and to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau in London, regarding Prisoners of War.

b) that as regards arrangements for visits for pastoral purposes to camps where military prisoners of war are interned, so far as the United Kingdom and India are concerned, arrangements be reached between the local Vatican Representatives, the War Office in London and Army Headquarters in India, respectively. In this regard the

the Secretariat of State desire that the necessary instructions be given for the early conclusion of these arrangements, especially where there seems to be a greater need for them: for India, with the Apostolic Delegate, His Excellency the Most Rev. Leo Peter Kierkels, and for Kenya, with the Rev. Father John McCarthy, who is acting as *locum tenens* of the Apostolic Delegate at Mombasa.

c) that the general permit, already granted to the Apostolic Delegate in the United Kingdom, covering visits, for pastoral purposes, to civilian internment camps can be extended to the representatives of the Holy See in India and in the Colonies.

3. The Secretariat of State must, however, point out that in the existing war conditions the most urgent need is that of making possible the transmission of the personal information which serves to quiet the anxiety of distant friends and relatives. Nevertheless, the concessions described above would seem insufficient not only because of the steady increase in requests for information but also because the public, conscious of the charitable mission co-natural to the Holy See, obviously applies to it, particularly from Italy, with ever-increasing frequency.

The system of having recourse, in each individual case, to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau or to the Home Office in London, aside from not taking into account the special position of the Holy See, does not seem practical and cannot suffice: such a system, were it to be applied to the tremendous number of requests for information, would not only involve much additional labour for the abovementioned offices, but would, as well, prolong considerably the transmission of information and, unfortunately, also the anguish of those who await it.

4. However, such is the sense of duty which motivates the Holy See, in conformity with the evangelical precept of Charity inspiring its every action, and such is also its confidence in the sympathetic understanding, on the part of the English Government, of the highly humanitarian aspect of this activity, that the Secretariat of State confidently take the liberty to advance the following considerations:

5. In the first place, since His Majesty's Government laments that the Government of the Third Reich has declined to accede to similar requests of the Holy See, the Secretariat of State feel compelled to assure the English Government that every possibility has been exhausted in the effort to extend the work of Charity of the Holy See to prisoners, who are in the hands of the Germans, and to civilians in the occupied territories. The Holy See, however, cannot believe that the English Government would like, on its part, to allow the same thing to happen: such a policy would be too far removed from the declarations of those English statesmen who have so often and, indeed, with noble and binding assertions, become the outspoken heralds of humane and Christian values.

As regards the Italian Government, the Secretariat of State are in a position to affirm that they found the Italian Authorities better disposed: the latter have permitted the Apostolic Nuncio in Italy to visit the English prisoners and internees and have given assurances that they will furnish the lists of the same to the Holy See, and, from time to time, relevant information.

6. In the second place, the Secretariat of State take the liberty to point out that their request for lists of Italian prisoners of war should not involve much additional labour for the Authorities and Offices concerned.

In the event, when the Authorities and Offices, in places where prisoners and internees are located, were to receive an order to meet in every way possible the requests of the local Representatives of the Holy See, they would find in these Representatives auxiliaries ready to collaborate discreetly and effectively, so that any additional labour should not become a burden or a source of complication.

7. In the third place, it seems that the furnishing of the desired data cannot be said to be contrary to the norms of the existing International Convention.³ Indeed, Art. 2, #3 of the Convention (~~[reprisal (les mesures in their regard are forbidden)] les mesures de represailles a leur egard sont interdites~~) *interdites* [reprisal measures in their regard are forbidden]) would seem to advise against depriving prisoners, in the hands of one power, of the benefit of the assistance in question solely because those in the hands of the enemy power are deprived of it. Furthermore, the spirit of the entire Convention (Cf. Art. 8, - Tit. III, Sect. IV, Tit. VI) does not in the least exclude the generous and humanitarian service which the Holy See is obliged to render in these contingencies. Nor can it be believed that the improvement brought about by this Convention should make the position of prisoners less favourable in this war than it was in the last war, during which the Holy See not only secured a wide sphere of beneficent action, but also enjoyed, in many instances, quite appreciable facilities from the belligerent powers.

8. The Secretariat of State, therefore, take the liberty to renew, and define more clearly, their request that, so far as military conditions permit, the lists of the prisoners of war taken by Great Britain be communicated to the Apostolic Delegates in Egypt, India and ~~south Africa~~,⁴ South Africa,⁴ and to the Rev. Father John McCarthy, *locum tenens* of the Apostolic Delegate at Mombasa, and that their charitable efforts in the interest of prisoners of war and of civilian internees be authorized and favoured by His Britannic Majesty's Civil and Military Authorities.

9. The same Secretariat of State trust that this request will be graciously acceded to, not only because of its being far from implying any disadvantage to the English people, but also because it will be, to the same people, a source of deep satisfaction when, later on, the entire world will come to know what courteous deference the Government of His Britannic Majesty will have shown towards the work of Charity undertaken by the Holy See.⁵

¹ See no. 44.

² See *Actes* 6, no. 402, p. 508 ff.

³ Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929 relating to the treatment of prisoners of war.

⁴ Testa, Kierkels and Gijlswijk. In February the Delegate in London had already been asked to intervene: "Every day it is more urgent that the Apostolic Delegate in Egypt have a list of Italian prisoners for the Holy See to be able to respond to the innumerable requests. I ask Your Excellency to beg your Government to comply solicitously to promote this humanitarian work as best possible" (telegram, no. 87, February 23, 1941).

⁵ See the response, no. 83.

Vol. 8, No. 71, pp. 168-169.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No. 7/8/41 (A.E.S. 3328/41, orig.)

Vatican City , April 23, 1941

The help asked for Belgium will only aid the Germans and prolong the war.

On April 4th you asked me¹ to forward to my Government a further appeal, based on humanitarian grounds, to allow foodstuffs to pass to Belgium ; you added that your understanding was that the German authorities had agreed to the control of distribution by a neutral commission.²

In their reply to my telegram my Government instruct me to explain to Your Eminence that their attitude is based on the considerations set forth in my Personal letter to you No. 7/4/41 of March 6th.³ This attitude they feel bound to maintain, because the import of overseas supplies into Belgium, or into any other country in German occupation, so far from bringing relief, would, by assisting the German war effort and so prolonging the war, only extend the period of suffering and oppression for the peoples of the occupied territories. Humanitarian considerations might rather suggest an appeal to Germany to feed the people she has conquered and despoiled. It is the aim of His Majesty's Government to help these subjugated peoples by ending Nazi domination and they cannot believe that these peoples would desire to see the day of their liberation postponed by any measure that would be of assistance to Germany.⁴

¹ On the occasion of our conversation.

² We have not found any document concerning such an agreement.

³ See no. 43; letter dated March 8.

⁴ Probably at the same time, the British minister had transmitted the French translation of a letter by Cordell Hull , United States Secretary of State addressed to a correspondent to whom he defined the attitude of his government regarding the problem of assistance to the European countries occupied by the Germans. "... The responsibility and duty of assuring help is incumbent on the occupying authorities. Given that the German Government has the direct obligation to replace the supplies it took from occupied territories and to feed the people in these countries, it is extremely difficult to understand how no effort has been made to oblige them to fulfill this duty when it seizes the country in question by force...."

Vol. 8, No. 83, p. 188.

The British Legation and the Secretariat of State

No number (A.S.S. 37346, orig.)

Vatican City , May 12, 1941

The English Government will facilitate visits by papal representatives to prison camps.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See presents his compliments to the Secretariat of State and has the honour to state that he duly communicated to London a copy of the Secretariat's Note No. 32208 of March 31st,¹ on the subject of facilities for the charitable work of Papal Representatives in the alleviation of sufferings caused by the war.

Mr. Osborne has now received a reply to the following effect. Mr. Eden states that while he is unable to agree, in the light of his information, that there is need of a third channel for the communication of information about prisoners of war and interned civilians to their relatives, he is anxious that all possible facilities should be assured to Papal Representatives for visits to camps for pastoral purposes. In order to ensure the grant of such facilities he has requested that instructions be sent to the local British authorities to make arrangements for such visits in consultation with the local Catholic representatives, especially in India and Kenya . Further information in this connection will be available later.

As regards the request by the Vatican that they be furnished with lists of prisoners of war, Mr. Eden states that it would be a misapprehension to suppose that compliance with the request for extra copies of lists giving the names of over 200,000 Italian prisoners of war now in British hands would not entail a great deal of additional work. He has carefully investigated this matter and he is satisfied that in fact much extra labour would be required to meet the Vatican 's request. And he adds that it will be realised that British G.H.Q. in the Middle East must have many calls on the man-power available for work of this nature.

Note Memo by Monsignor Montini:

Ex Aud. SS.mi 15-5-1941

This note is not very satisfactory.

¹ See no. 62.

Vol. 8, No. 87, pp. 196-197.

The Secretariat of State to British Minister Osborne

(A.S.S. 37346, draft)

Vatican, May 19, 1941

Renewed efforts to obtain lists of prisoners of war.

The Secretariat of State have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Note, of May 12th,¹ of His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See, on the subject of facilities, requested by the Secretariat of State in their Note No. 32268 of March 31st 1941,² for the charitable work of Papal Representatives in the alleviation of suffering caused by the war.

It has been noted with satisfaction 1) that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is anxious that all possible facilities should be assured to Papal Representatives for visits to camps for pastoral purposes; and 2) that in order to ensure the grant of such facilities he has requested that instructions be sent to the local British Authorities to make arrangements for such visits in consultation with the local Catholic representatives, especially in India and Kenya.

On the other hand it appears that Mr. Eden is unable to agree that there is need of a third channel for the communication of information about prisoners of war and interned civilians to their relatives. He has arrived at this conclusion in the light of information at his disposal.

The Secretariat of State, therefore, take the liberty to inform him about the following ~~facts~~ facts:

1) The number of requests for information concerning victims of the war, far from diminishing, is constantly increasing perhaps because of the prolongation of the war, the complication of military operations and the restriction of the means of communication: all of which serve to show that the other channels are not sufficient.

2) The fact that so many requests are made to the Holy See is explained by the consciousness, throughout the Christian world, of the charitable mission which is ~~connatural~~ co-natural with the Catholic church. In fact, the exercise of Christian charity is not only one of the principal teachings of the Church, but is also an outstanding field for its activity and constitutes one of the most important pastoral duties of the Church.

3) The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will then not fail to understand that so great a duty must be carried out especially in time of war when the sufferings of peoples are not only of the physical order but also, and more especially, of the moral order and therefore in need of assuagement through the comfort which can come only from religious convictions.

With regard to the request of the Holy See that it be favoured by the British Authorities with the lists of prisoners of war, it is to be pointed out that, although what was asked was indeed the granting of a ~~favour~~—a favour—a request which paid homage to the high sentiments of humanitarianism which the British Government wishes to be the constant inspiration of its ~~action~~—it action—it was, however, not the intention of the Holy See to request anything which would impose very grave burdens on the authorities concerned. But since the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is convinced that such would be the case were the lists of prisoners in British hands to be compiled, or rather recopied, the Secretariat of State venture to propose that the Holy See take it upon itself to have the required lists compiled or recopied by its own Representatives or by these persons whom the British Authorities will wish to authorise in each concentration camp.

With the hope that His Britannic Majesty's Government will be pleased to reconsider favourably, in the light of what has been said above, the point of view expressed in the before-mentioned Note of His Britannic Majesty's Minister and will grant to the Holy See the desired facilities, the Secretariat of State express in anticipation their grateful appreciation.

¹ See no. 83.

² See no. 62.

Vol. 8, No. 159, p. 291.

The Secretariat of State to Ambassador Taylor¹

(A.S.S. 41477, draft)

Vatican , September 25, 1941

Request for intervention in order to obtain information about prisoners of war in Russia .

In view of the fact that the Holy See is endeavoring to offer every possible spiritual and moral assistance to those who are suffering from the unfortunate consequences of this war, it would deeply appreciate any representations which might be made by the United States Commission now in Moscow to the competent Authorities there with a view to bringing about an understanding of this charitable mission and a helpful cooperation on the part of all ~~concerned—especially~~ concerned—especially to assure that prisoners in Russian hands will be afforded adequate religious and moral assistance.²

The Information Bureau of the Vatican , which has enjoyed some success in securing comforting information of soldiers for their distressed families, would likewise be most appreciative of any steps taken by the commission in Moscow to assure an active participation of the competent authorities in this most important work. A relaxation of present restrictions would be of inestimable assistance to the Holy See and would most certainly serve to quiet the dreadful anxieties of thousands of families which await some news of fathers and sons. If Father Braun,³ an American priest in charge of the Church of St. Louis in Moscow , were to be called upon in this regard, he would, no doubt, be of great assistance.

These charitable endeavors of the Holy See are prompted by a sincere desire to be of utmost assistance to men of all nations in these difficult and trying days of war and are not intended to interfere with or hamper in any way the undertakings of other organizations. Consequently steps have been taken to provide for Russian prisoners the same services which are now requested for prisoners in Russia.⁴

¹ See no. 125. — Taylor is in Rome from September 9 to 22, 1941; see *Actes* 5, p. 190 ff.

² See Monsignor Tardini's Note on the religious in Russia , *ibid.* 241-244.

³ Leopold Braun, Augustinian of the Assumption.

⁴ See *infra* no. 242 .

Vol. 8, No. 160, p. 292.

Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster Hinsley to Pope Pius XII

Telegram no. 163 (A.S.S. Guerra, Belg-Civ.-Belgium 17, orig.)

London, September 26, 1941, 15 h. 22

rec'd, September 27. 18 h. 30

Request for intervention in favor of Belgians condemned to death by the Germans.

The whole Hierarchy of England and of Wales implore Your Holiness to intervene to save the lives of twenty five Belgian hostages fathers of families threatened with death at Tournay.¹

¹ Telegram sent to the Nuncio in Berlin on September 28 (no. 325) and the delegate in London was informed (telegram no. 135). Monsignor Orsenigo approached the under-secretary at the "Auswartiges Amt" on September 29; see the note of von Weizsäcker no. 651 of September 29, AA (Bonn) St. S. vol. 3, ser. 535, p. 240071.

Vol. 8, No. 164, pp. 294-295.

The Secretariat of State to Ambassador Taylor

Assistance to Poles deported to Russia .

From information received by the Holy See it appears that the conditions, of the spiritual and material order, under which the Poles deported to ~~Russia~~ and Russia—and especially to Asiatic Russia—are living are extremely sad; and their number would seem to be considerable—the Committee set up in London to help them estimates it, according to the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, at a million and a half.¹

The Holy See, has tried by every possible way to come to the assistance of those unfortunates, but up to the present has found it impossible to satisfy this charitable desire; hence it seems that until now the American, English and Japanese Red Cross have likewise been unable to do anything in favor of these deported Poles.

Now, however, it is reported that organized assistance will, from now on, be sent to the Poles deported to Russia.²

The Holy See entertains the hope that recent developments may make it possible for it to carry on its work of charity among these poor people by way of material and spiritual assistance. In this regard, the Holy See places its confidence in the lofty humanitarianism of the American Government, with the hopeful expectation that an intervention on the part of that Government will meet with welcome success.

The same help is earnestly requested in favor of the Lithuanians who have been deported to Siberia and are said by the Lithuanian Red Cross as stated by the Lithuanian Minister³ to the Holy See to number 200,000.⁴

Monsignor Montini's ~~Notes~~ Memo:

To check cf. Minister's ~~Notes~~⁵ Memo⁵

¹ In his letter of September 18 (see no. 154).

² Cf. *ibid.*

³ Stanislas Girdvainis.

⁴ The Chargé d'Affaires Tittmann acknowledged receipt of the Memo, of which a copy was transmitted to the Delegate in Washington (A.S.S. 41477): "Would Your Excellency, with the tact that distinguishes you, follow this initiative to have the desired results." Tittmann wrote on November 8 that the two Memos of the Vatican to Taylor (see no. 159 and this memo) were received by the addressee and transmitted to the President of the United States .

⁵ Unpublished.

Vol. 8, No. 211, pp. 361-362.

The Chargé d'Affaires Tittmann to the Secretariat of State

No number. (A.S.S., 43845, orig.)

Rome , November 26, 1941

The United States can-not help the Poles and Lithuanians in Russia .

The Assistant to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope presents his compliments to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness and has the honor to refer to the latter's Memorandum dated September 29, 1941,¹ addressed to Mr. Myron Taylor, regarding the condition of the Poles and Lithuanians who have been deported to Russia. A reply in the following sense has now been received from the Department of State.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness is informed that the Government of the United States shares the humanitarian interest in the welfare of refugees in the Soviet Union, including those from Poland and Lithuania , as expressed by the Holy See. No occasion, however, has thus far presented itself which would cause the Government of the United States to believe that the condition of these unfortunate persons would be alleviated by any intervention on its part with the Soviet Union . For the purpose of bringing about better conditions for these people who are in such deep distress the Government of the United States will not hesitate to take such steps as may seem appropriate in case such an occasion should arise.²

¹ See no. 164.

² See FRUS 1941, I, pp. 260-269.

Vol. 8, No. 272, p. 427.

The Secretariat of State to the Chargé d'Affaires Tittmann

(A.S.S. 45776, draft)

Vatican , January 30, 1942

Information on the prisoners of war in Russia .

The Secretariat of State has the honor to propose the following matter for the kind consideration of the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America near the Holy See.

It is well known that the Holy See has done everything in its power, since the outbreak of the present conflict, to alleviate the suffering and need which is resulting therefrom. Amongst the enterprises undertaken is that of relieving the anxieties of families awaiting some news of loved ones, who are fighting at the front. The Holy See is desirous, now, of obtaining and transmitting some news of prisoners captured on the Russian front, just as it has been doing on behalf of those taken on other fronts. To this end, the American Authorities are approached in the confident hope that they may be able to facilitate the obtaining of information in the hands of the Russians.¹

A request has likewise been made to the German and Italian Authorities and the Holy See has good reason to hope that it will be favorably received.²

¹ See no. 257.

² See *infra* no. 288.

Vol. 8, No. 275, pp. 430-431.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No. 28/2/42 (A.S.S. Guerra, Grec.-Civ.-Greece 1/4, orig.)

Vatican City, February 2, 1942

8,000 tons of grain will be transported to Greece , but this does not release the occupying Government of its responsibility.

With reference to the question of supplies of foodstuffs for Greece ,¹ I have the honour to inform Your Eminence that I have received the following telegram from London :

“In view of the appalling food situation which has developed in Greece His Majesty’s Government decided that some action on their part to meet the emergency was necessary. The following statement was made in the House of Commons to-day by the Minister of Economic Warfare,² by agreement with the United States Government.

“As the House is aware, His Majesty’s Government have always refused to allow foodstuffs to be shipped through the blockade and thus to relieve the enemy of his responsibilities for feeding the peoples he has enslaved. This general policy, which is also the policy of the United States Government, remains unchanged.

“Nevertheless the United Kingdom and United States Government have viewed with increasing dismay the appalling conditions obtaining in Greece . Despite their undoubted ability to do so, the German Government have done practically nothing to meet the situation created by the pillage and extortion of their armies in the spring of 1941. They have, indeed, shown themselves quite indifferent to the fate of the Greek population, no doubt because the resources of Greece are too small to be of any value to the German war machine.

“His Majesty’s Government and the United States Govern—ment are accordingly prepared to authorise a single shipment of 8,000 tons of wheat or flour to Greece , to be applied under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in relief of the present emergency. This is in addition to the existing relief scheme, namely shipments of foodstuffs from Turkey (which is inside the blockade area).

“The two Governments continue to maintain in the most categorical manner that it is incumbent upon the enemy to feed the countries occupied by him, and their policy in this respect remains unaffected by the exception which it has been found necessary to make in the special circumstances obtaining in Greece .

“While we shall do our utmost to expedite the shipment I should warn the House that, besides arranging for the supply of wheat or flour, it may take some little time to ~~arrange~~ arrange shipping and the necessary safe conduct from the enemy.”³

¹ See no. 258 and 269.

² Hugh Dalton, to the House of Commons, January 27, 1942.

³ The same day, Monsignor Roncalli in Istanbul (no. 92) received a telegram and on February 10 the British Minister was thanked for his communication (A.S.S. 46196). Obviously, the decision of the London Government represented an about-face....

Vol. 8, No. 288, pp. 441-442.

No. 2 (A.S.S. Guerra, Ital.-Mil.-Russia 12, orig.)
Vatican City, February 19, 1942

The United States did not obtain any information on the prisoners of war in Russia ; general information on the organization of the central bureau of information in ~~the~~United the United States .

The Chargé d’Affaires of the United States of America presents his compliments to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the latter’s Note dated January 30, 1942,¹ expressing the desire of the Holy See to obtain and transmit some news of prisoners captured on the Russian front, and setting forth the hope that the American authorities may be able to facilitate the obtaining of information regarding prisoners in Russian hands.

The Chargé d’Affaires did not fail to inform his Govern-ment of the contents of the Note and he now has the honor to quote hereunder the reply thereto received from Washington, which is dated February 10, 1942:

“The warmest sympathy is felt by the Government of the United States for the motives inspiring the Holy See in its attempt to bring about some degree of alleviation of the sufferings resulting from the war. It regrets that, unhappily, the earnest and repeated attempts which it has heretofore made to obtain from the Soviet Union information of the nature that the Holy See desires were unsuccessful, and there seems to be no prospect that a favorable outcome would be likely to result from any further similar attempts.

“The United States Government has also been advised of the attempts that the Holy See is making to obtain and disseminate information regarding war prisoners, civilian internees and other persons in general in belligerent areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross, as the Holy See is aware, has set up, as provided for by Article 79 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, the Official Central Information Agency for Prisoners of War. The Agency organized by the International Red Cross is expected also to function as the official central information bureau for civilian internees in so far as the provisions of the Convention of Geneva are applied to them. In the office of the Provost Marshal General of the United States War Department there has been established the official American information bureau contemplated by Article 77 of the Convention; also set up there is a similar information bureau to concern itself with the civilian internees. The aforementioned bureaus cooperate with the American Red Cross, with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, through the latter and the representatives of the protecting powers, with the official information bureaus established in enemy countries. Therefore, it is suggested that the Holy See may be desirous of taking up with the International Committee and of coordinating the activities of the Information Bureau of the Vatican with those of the official Central Information Agency which the Convention provides for.

“Instructions have been given to the American Chargé d’Affaires at Berne, should he be approached by representatives of the Holy See, to interest himself in the matter and to cooperate in any discussions between the Holy See and the International Red Cross on the ~~subject~~ subject.”

¹ See no. 272

Vol. 8, No. 311, p. 464.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No.4/34/42 (A.S.S. Guerra, Pol.-Mil.-Spain 200, orig.)
Vatican City, March 18, 1942

Urgent request to intervene for Poles interned in Spain .

1. In my Memo No. 339/13/31 of October 15th I invited Your Eminence's attention, on the instructions of my Government, to the situation of certain Poles interned in Spain and suggested that the question of their being permitted to proceed to neutral countries might well form the subject of a charitable appeal by the Holy See to the Spanish Government.

2. It has now been reported that the situation of some 800 Allied Prisoners of War in Spain is becoming very serious owing to increased German pressure for their return to German Occupied Territory . In addition to about 450 Poles, there are some 35 Yugoslavs, 20 Czechoslovaks and 7 Greeks. The Nuncio at Madrid has already interested himself on behalf of these Prisoners and has done all he can for them, but the need of further assistance is urgent.

3. I am therefore instructed to suggest to Your Eminence that His Holiness might be willing to appeal to the Spanish Government on humanitarian grounds for permission for the Prisoners to leave Spain , if not for belligerent, then for neutral destinations. It is considered that a strong appeal by His Holiness to General Franco offers the only possibility of saving them.²

Monsignor Montini's Note:

Mention what has been done.

¹ See no. 172, note 4.

² See no. 309.

Vol. 8, No. 327, p. 479.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No.4/42/42 (A.S.S. 47979, orig.)

Vatican City , March 25, 1942

For the exchange of wounded prisoners of war, the good offices of the Holy See are no longer needed.

1. With reference to Your Eminence's Note No. 46964 of March 3rd on the subject of the negotiations between the British and Italian Governments for the exchange of sick and wounded Prisoners of War, I have learnt from His Majesty's Minister at Berne² that the message transmitted to him through the Nuncio,³ for urgent communication to London, was duly despatched. I have since heard from Berne that His Majesty's Government have now replied to the Italian Government that they agree to the repatriation of 344 sick and severely wounded Italian Prisoners so far passed by the Mixed Medical Commission, together with 575 Italian medical and sanitary personnel who are surplus to requirements in the Middle East.⁴ His Majesty's Government intend, subject to reciprocity, to comply with Article 68 of the Convention and they will repatriate in due course all Italian Prisoners of War who are recommended by Mixed Medical Commissions and also any other surplus protecting personnel.

2. No repatriation of chaplains is contemplated in the present operation. In dealing with chaplains His Majesty's Government will, as they are military officers, have to have regard to the views of the Italian Government, if it is found that any are superfluous.

3. Since the negotiations now appear to be proceeding satisfactorily, it does not at the moment appear necessary further to invoke the good offices of the Holy See since these good offices, which are highly appreciated, have had the effect desired in expediting the reply of the Italian Government.⁵

¹ Unpublished; see no. 293, for it seems that the date of the original was changed at the last moment since the draft has March 2.

² David Victor Kelly.

³ Monsignor Bernardini.

⁴ See no. 313.

⁵ The London Delegate informed the Vatican on April 2:

2: "There is talk about the exchange of Italian-English prisoners. I ask your instructions if, when it becomes public, we should divulge the humanitarian collaboration of the Holy See. In my opinion it would benefit present circumstances." (telegram, no. 142, A.E.S. 3220/42); see *infra* no. 339, note 2.

Vol. 8, No. 351, p. 509.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No number (A.S.S. Guerra, Holland.- Civ.- Spain 1, orig.)
Vatican City, April 15, 1942

Request to intervene for Dutch interned in Spain .

1. With reference to my Note no. 4/34/42 of March 18th¹ and to Your Eminence's reply n. 47340 of March 26th² on the subject of the situation of the Polish and other Allied Prisoners of War in Spain, I have the honour to inform Your Eminence, by instruction of my Government, that the Netherlands Government in London would be grateful if the Holy See would be so good as to extend their representations to the Spanish Government to cover forty Dutch Prisoners who find themselves in similar conditions in Spain.³

2. I should be glad to learn what effect these representations have had and whether it has yet been found desirable that His Holiness should address a personal appeal to General Franco on the subject.⁴

¹ See no. 311.

² Unpublished; see no. 330, note 4.

³ Telegraphed to Nuncio in Madrid on April 17 (no. 355).

⁴ See *infra*, no. 401.

Vol. 8, No. 361, pp. 520-521.

British Minister Osborne to Cardinal Maglione

No. 4/60/42 (A.S.S. Guerra, Ital.-Gen.-Milit., 108, orig.)
Vatican City, April 27, 1942

Regarding assistance to prisoners of war given by the English Government.

1. With reference to Your Eminence's Note n o . 47457 of March 14th¹ regarding the work of the Vatican Information Bureau in ensuring communication between Prisoners of War and their families, I am glad to say that I have now been informed that, as has already been notified to the Apostolic Delegate in London, His Majesty's Government are able to agree to the system of family messages between Prisoners and their relatives. I assume therefore that the difficulties in regard to the transmission of the message-forms ("moduli") to which Your Eminence referred in your Note, will no longer be encountered.

2. The following are the facilities, in some cases already granted, which His Majesty's Government are prepared to allow to Apostolic Delegates or, in their absence, to their accredited representatives, in so far as concerns Prisoners of War throughout the British Empire for whom His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are responsible, viz.:

1 Apostolic Delegates, or their representatives, subject to the approval of the local military authorities, whose consent will not be withheld except on security grounds, shall on application be permitted freely to visit for pastoral purposes camps or other places where Prisoners of War, of whatever nationality, are interned;

2. In so far as Italian Prisoners of War are concerned, Apostolic Delegates, or their representatives, shall be permitted to arrange for the exchange of messages between Prisoners of War and their families, provided that no responsibility for the transmission of such messages falls upon any British authorities, and provided also that the delivery to and collection from Apostolic Delegates of messages sent by Prisoners of War to their families, and of messages to Prisoners of War from their families, shall be effected through Camp Commandants only and subject to such limitations by local authorities as the latter may consider necessary.

3. These facilities do not necessarily apply to ~~Canada~~ Canada or South Africa , whose Governments have not yet notified their assent to them, but I trust that it may only be a question of time before they too agree.

4. His Majesty's Government regret that, for reasons which I have already communicated to Your Eminence,² they remain unable to agree to general arrangements for the supply of lists of Italian Prisoners of War to Apostolic Delegates or other Vatican Representatives for communication to the Vatican Bureau. These lists are already being supplied to the Protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee.

5. Lastly His Majesty's Government state that they deeply appreciate the services rendered by the Vatican authorities to British Prisoners of War in Italy and their families. But, as there are also large numbers of British Prisoners in German hands, His

Majesty's Government would urge that further efforts should be made to obtain from the German Government, in favour of Vatican Representatives in Germany and German-occupied territories, facilities similar to those which have been granted by the Italian Government.

If such facilities were granted by the German Government His Majesty's Government would at once reciprocate in regard to German Prisoners in their hands.³

¹ Unpublished.

² See no. 44.

³ The contents of this Memo were ~~were~~ communicated to the Papal Representatives on English territory.

Vol. 8, No. 394, pp. 556-557.

United States Chargé d'affaires d'Affaires Tittmann to Monsignor Montini

No number (A.E.S. 4331/42, orig.)

Vatican City, June 10, 1942

Request to intervene for Roman Jews condemned to forced labor.

May I venture to bring to your attention, in the most personal and informal manner, a subject which has been causing me much concern and regarding which I have already spoken to you?

There is enclosed a photograph entitled, "Jews at Work Along the Banks of the ~~Tiber~~, Tiber," which appeared in the Rome newspaper, *Il Messaggero* of June 7, 1942.

I cannot begin to tell you how degrading I consider the situation which this photograph represents. It seems all the more appalling to me that it could exist within the shadow of St. Peter's, the fountain of Christian charity.

I feel certain that the Holy See must have already approached the appropriate authorities with a view to eliminating this shameful persecution, if not from Italy, at least from the precincts of the sacred Eternal City. In this connection I note that Article I, Paragraph 2 of the Concordat between the Holy See and Italy states:

"In considerazione del carattere sacro della Città Eterna, sede vescovile del Sommo Pontefice, centro del mondo cattolico e meta di pellegrinaggi, il Governo italiano avrà cura di impedire in Roma tutto ciò che possa essere in contrasto col detto ~~carattere~~ carattere." [Because of the sacred character of the Eternal City, seat of the Pontiff as bishop and center of the Catholic world and pilgrimages, the Italian government will forbid all that is in contrast with this mission.]"

I have no idea, of course, whether the foregoing paragraph is pertinent or not, but it sounds as though it might be.

Monsignor Montini's Note:

Ex Aud. SS.mi June 10, 1942

Show this to His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary: he should decide if mention should be made to the Ambassador.

Cardinal Maglione's Note:

June 11, 1942

I begged the Ambassador to intercede for these poor Jews. He promised me he would.¹

¹ See *infra* no. 399.

Vol. 8, No. 401, p. 562.

Cardinal Maglione to British Minister Osborne

(A.S.S. 51345, draft)

Vatican City, June 19, 1942

Information on the Holy See's efforts for ~~Polish internees~~ Polish internees and others in Spain.

In reference to my ~~Note, N.~~ Memo, No. 47340, of March 26, 1942,¹ I now have the honour of assuring the British Legation that the Holy See has continued to interest itself unceasingly in the fate of all the internees at Miranda del Ebro in Spain.

Hence, I have recently given further instructions to His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio at Madrid² to intensify his representations to the Spanish Government in favour of the Polish internees, with a view to obtaining authorization for the latter to proceed to other neutral countries, especially to Argentina and Chile .

In reply, His Excellency has informed me³ that he has been continuing his conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the Ambassadors of Argentina and Great Britain and with the Polish Minister, regarding the situation of the Polish, Czech, Dutch and Jugoslav citizens interned at Miranda.

The Apostolic Nuncio assured me, furthermore, that he has been striving very solicitously to obtain the desired permission in favour of the Polish internees and that he is hopeful that it may be possible to provide for the transfer to Argentina of two-thirds of the four hundred Poles who are classed as incapable of military service.

As soon as I receive further information in this regard I shall transmit it to Your Excellency without delay.⁴

¹ See no. 330, note 4.

² Monsignor Gaetano Cicognani. See no. 337, note 2 and no. 351, note 3.

³ With his telegram no. 374 of June 21 (A.E.S. 4510/42).

⁴ On June 29 Cardinal Maglione informed the Polish Ambassador that he had spoken with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the occasion of his visit to the Vatican on June 23, 1942.

Vol. 8, No. 451, pp. 623-624.

The British Legation to the Secretariat of State

No. 4/120/42 (A.S.S. Guerra, Pol.-Mil.-Spain 200, orig.)
Vatican City, August 19, 1942

Request to intervene for Polish internees in Spain .

His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See has the honour to refer to the Note addressed to him by the Cardinal Secretary of State No. 51345 of June 19th¹ on the subject of the Polish and other internees at Miranda del Ebro in Spain .

Mr. Osborne has been informed that it is now most important to expedite the negotiations with the Argentine Government and he has been instructed to express the hope that the Holy See may be willing to use their influence for this charitable purpose by further and urgent representations at Buenos Aires.²

¹ See no. 401.

² Telegraphed to Nuncio in Madrid on August 25 (no. 278, A.E.S. 6531/42), and communication given to the British Legation on August 26. The following day the Polish Ambassador insisted again on the critical atmosphere that reigned in the camp, making one fear that "a riot could have serious consequences..." (no. 122/SA/ 190). Again telegraphed to Nuncio in Madrid : "Awaiting news beg you to inform me about condition of Miranda Ebro internees and steps to be taken" (Telegram no. 279, A.E.S. 6532/42). See *infra* no. 464.

No. 455, pp. 627-628.

British Minister Osborne to Monsignor Montini

No.4/126/42 (A.S.S. Pol.-Mil.-Spain 200, orig.)
Vatican City, August 27, 1942

Renewed insistence for liberation of Polish internees in Spain .

1. As I mentioned to you yesterday on the telephone, Montgomery,¹ when he was in Madrid , had a conversation with our Ambassador there, Sir Samuel Hoare.

2. Sir Samuel thinks it essential that the release of the Poles at Miranda del Ebro² should be effected as quickly as possible. Great discontent prevails in the camp where conditions are most trying. There has already been one abortive attempt at escape and the Ambassador fears some sort of outbreak by the prisoners which might result in many of them being shot by the Spanish guards.

3. Negotiations are proceeding with the Argentine Government for the reception of these Poles in Argentina and, although definite consent has not yet been given, there is good reason to believe that it will be forthcoming. In my Memorandum No. 4/120/42

Urgent of August 19th,³ I expressed the hope, on instructions from London, that the Holy See might be willing to use their influence for this charitable purpose by making further urgent representations to the Argentine Government on the subject. Sir Samuel Hoare suggests that the good offices of the Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires⁴ might also be invoked for this purpose.

4. His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State told me that he had appealed to ~~SEÑOR~~ Señor Serrano Suner on behalf of these men on the occasion of the latter's visit to the Vatican and that ~~SEÑOR~~ Señor Suner had promised to do what he could in the matter.⁵ Nothing has, however, been done since then. Sir Samuel thinks that the only hope of ensuring early action lies in a personal appeal by the Pope to ~~SEÑOR~~ Señor Suner for the release of the internees. Would you be so kind as to inform His Holiness and to express the hope that he may see his way to making this appeal. As you are probably aware there is considerable discontent among the Poles in Great Britain in respect of what they regard as the undue reticence of the Vatican on the subject of German atrocities in Poland. The release of these Polish prisoners through Vatican intervention might do something to allay this feeling.

5. While this letter deals only with the Polish internees, you will remember that in my Note to the Cardinal Secretary of State No. 4/34/42 of March 18th⁶ I suggested that His Holiness might be willing to appeal to the Spanish Government for permission for a number of other Allied prisoners of war to leave Spain.

¹ Hugh Montgomery, chief secretary of the British Legation.

² See no. 451. note 2.

³ See no. 451.

⁴ Jaime Luis Copello.

⁵ See no. 404, note 3.

⁶ See no. 311.

Vol. 8, No. 498, pp. 671-672.

Memo of the British Legation

No. number (A.E.S. 7186/42, orig.)

Vatican City, October 3, 1942

News on the famine in Greece ; severe warning to the ~~Italians~~ who Italians who are responsible for the destiny of the population.

Reliable information has reached London and has been published by the B.B.C. to the effect that the Axis authorities in Greece are robbing the starving population of the entire harvest of corn, grapes, olives and currants; even vegetables, fish, milk and butter are being seized.

During the week of September 9th to 15th there was a strike in the Athens and Piraeus district as a protest against the seizure of the harvest. As a result there were a number of executions, 800 arrests and 380 deportations, largely among mine-workers.

It is estimated that last winter about 500,000 Greeks died of starvation. Regular shipments of wheat are now being brought from Canada in Swedish ships to relieve the desperate conditions prevailing. But with the seizure by the Axis of this year's harvest and of all kinds of food products, the situation is likely to be equally desperate during the coming winter and, as a result of the weakness of the population after a year of starvation, mortality even higher.

But it may be that the Axis Powers welcome the decimation of the Greek people on the grounds that it will provide living space for their own nationals.

Italy is the Occupying Power and Italy is responsible for the proper feeding of the Greek people. The death of half a million Greeks last winter, out of a pre-war population of about seven millions, is the best comment on the fulfilment of this duty and responsibility.

After the war the story of Greece will be an indelible blot on the good name of Italy, at any rate of Fascist Italy. First the perfidiously planned and executed aggression; its failure in the face of the heroic Greek defence; the rescue by the German armies after the loss of thousands of young Italian lives owing to the culpable negligence and incompetence of the Italian military authorities; the joint occupation of Greece in the name, and on the responsibility, of Italy; the denuding of the country by the Germans by a system of mixed extortion and pillage; the ensuing famine and death of half a million Greeks; the exploitation of the black market and the capitalisation of starvation by Axis officials and officers; and now the seizure of this year's harvest, with the resulting almost certain condemnation to death by starvation of many hundreds of thousands more Greeks.

The fate of Greece is also a striking illustration and warning of the Nazi New Order in Europe for which Italians are fighting and from which they themselves are suffering.

Monsignor Tardini's Note:

October 3, 1942.

Perhaps information could be asked through the Berne Nunziature.¹ Even His Excellency Monsignor Roncalli in Istanbul might know something.² (We cannot telegraph to Athens .)

¹ We have not found such a request addressed to Monsignor Bernardini.

² See *infra* no. 504.

Vol. 8, No. 499, pp. 672-673.

British Minister Osborne to Monsignor Montini

No number. (A.S.S. 1942 Varia 99, orig.)

Vatican City, October 5, 1942

Internment of British prisoner who fled from an Italian camp and took refuge in the Vatican .

I write to confirm what I said to you this afternoon.¹

A British prisoner of war, escaped from a camp in the neighbourhood of Viterbo, entered the Vatican City this morning and came to my apartment, where he now is. His belief was that on reaching the neutral territory of the Vatican City he would be able to claim the protection of the Holy See and to remain at liberty, within the limits of the Vatican City .

His name is Albert Edward Penny

Petty Officer, - P/JX 125054

Late H.M.S. Submarine Oswald.

He has been a prisoner of war in Italy since August 1940. He is a Catholic.

When I saw you this afternoon my purpose was to inform you of Petty Officer Penny's arrival (of which, of course, I had no prior knowledge), to place him under the protection of the Holy See and to recommend him to the charity of His Holiness. You suggested that it might be possible to arrange that he be exchanged for an Italian prisoner of war in British hands of equal rank and you said that you would instruct the Apostolic Delegate in London by telegram to propose this to His Majesty's Government.

I should be grateful if you would at the same time ask Archbishop Godfrey to inform His Majesty's Government that I hope that this solution may be found acceptable, but that, if it is not, I should be glad if they would inform me urgently of their view on the question and of the attitude that they would wish me to adopt.

¹ We publish the first of a long series of documents; negotiations finally ended after three months for the exchange of British prisoners with the Italian prisoners; see *Actes* 6, p. 9, note 1 and *Actes* 7, p. 174, note 3.

Vol. 8, No. 535, pp. 707-708.

M. Sargent to Godfrey, the Apostolic Delegate in London

No. 2/82 (London , Archdiocesan Delegation)

London, November 6, 1942

Request to stop reprisals against prisoners of war.

In your letter of the 16th October¹ you were so good as to make known to the Secretary of State that His Holiness the Pope had learned with great sorrow of the reprisals against prisoners of war whose welfare he has so much at heart, and that he had charged you to urge His Majesty's Government, in his name, to repudiate the use of such reprisals.

Mr. Eden desires me to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom , who highly appreciate the action taken by His Holiness in this matter, have already made their position clear. On the 13th October they invited the Protecting Power² to lay before the German Government their solemn protest against the breach of the Geneva Convention committed by that government in

chaining British prisoners of war and to urge them to desist from it, and have said that in that case the counter measures of a similar character which His Majesty's Government felt themselves forced to take in order to protect their prisoners of war in enemy hands would immediately be withdrawn. No reply to this communication has yet been received.³

¹ Unpublished, addressed to the British Minister of Foreign Affairs. See no. 513 and 515.

² That is, Switzerland, Cf. E. Bonjour, *Geschichte der schweizerischen Neutralität* VI, 136.

³ The Delegate transmitted the communication by telegram no. 222 of November 11 (A.E.S. 8968/42).

Vol. 8, No. 575, 756-757.

Chief Rabbi Hertz to Pope Pius XII

Telegram, No. 424 (A.E.S. 9248/42)

London, December 23, 1942, 18 h. 45

rec'd, December 24, 19 h. 15

Request to intervene for Jews in Eastern Europe threatened with annihilation.

In the name of worldwide religious Jewry respectfully beseech intervention our Holiness to save annihilation of Israel Eastern Europe. We invoke the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Man to save one suffering people.

At this momentous hour—Agudas Israel World Organisation of Orthodox Jews.¹

¹ We have found similar telegrams from Jews residing in Colombia, of December 2 (A.E.S. 8914/42), sent by the Archbishop of Bogota, Monsignor Ismael Perdomo (1872-1950);

from the Jewish Community of Costa Rica, of December 2 (A.E.S. 8913/42);

from the Jewish Community of Bolivia of December 3 (A.E.S. 8912/42);

from Jews residing in the Diocese of Manizales (Colombia) of December 4, sent by Bishop Luis Concha (1891; Cardinal 1961) (A.E.S. 8911/42).

from the Rotary Club of Managua (Nicaragua), of December 9 (A.E.S. 8783/42);

from the Women's International Organization of Zionists in Egypt, of December 12 (A.E.S. 8836/42), sent by the Chargé d'Affaires in Cairo, Father Hughes;

from the Jewish Community in Mexico, of December 15 (A.E.S. 8780/42), sent by the Archbishop of Mexico, Monsignor Luis Martínez (1881-1956);

from the Jewish Community in Potosi (Bolivia), of December 22 (A.E.S. 9034/42);

from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and of Canada, of December 23 (A.E.S. 9276/42).

Vol. 8, No. 578, p. 758.

British Minister Osborne to the Secretariat of State

No number (A.E.S. 9156/42, orig.)

Vatican City, December 29, 1942

Joint Declaration of the Allies regarding the German persecution of the Jews by the Germans.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See has the honour to communicate to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness a copy of the Joint Declaration regarding the German persecution of the Jews, which was issued on behalf of the United Nations in London, Washington and Moscow on December 17th.¹

It has been suggested that His Holiness the Pope might endorse the Declaration in a public statement. Failing this, His Majesty's Government would strongly urge His Holiness to use his influence, either by means of a public statement or by action through the German Bishops, to encourage German Christians, and particularly German Catholics, to do all in their power to restrain these excesses.

¹Text in FRUS 1942, I, 68-70 and Tittmann's telegram *ibid.* 70 ff.

Volume 9

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre

(January-December 1943)

Vol. 9, No. 7, p. 70.

Cardinal Maglione to [Monsignor William] Godfrey, ~~Apostolic~~ Apostolic
Delegate in London

(A.E.S. 75/43, draft)

Vatican , January 7, 1943

The Holy See and Poland. (translated, in part) Poland (partial translation).

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed report No. 895/42, dated October 10, 1942¹ in which Your Excellency sent the text of a declaration of the “Executive Committee of the League of Nations ”—relating to the Occupation of ~~Poland—that~~ Poland—that Lord Lytton² sent you for the Holy See....

¹ Unpublished. The Delegate wrote: “...Your Eminence already knows that every one feels the greatest compassion for the sufferings of the Polish people. At meetings and in the press, Poland is the main topic. Among Catholics, and generally, the question of Poland is the key to the position of the “United Nations” and the attitude of Great Britain toward Poland is proof of the good faith of the English....”

² Neville Stephen Lytton, third Lord Lytton (1879-1951), artist and painter. The undated Resolution states: “The Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union has received with indignation the recent reports on the campaign of annihilation carried on in cold blood, and as matter of policy, by the German Army Commanders and the Nazi officials in the countries occupied by them, and more particularly in Poland . It is of the utmost importance that those who can speak for all nations whose moral conscience is not dead should express their horror at this relapse into barbarism.”

Vol. 9, No. 8, p. 71.

The British Legation to the Secretariat of State

No. 11/2/43 (A.E.S. 283/43, orig.)

Vatican City , January 7, 1943

New request for the Holy See’s intervention in favor ~~of the~~ of the persecuted Jews.

His Britannic Majesty’s Minister to the Holy See has the honour to invite the attention of the Secretariat of State to the Memorandum on the subject of the German persecution of the Jews, which he handed to His Holiness on December 29th.¹

It has been suggested that His Holiness might also be able to use his influence in countries such as Italy , France and Hungary , where the Jewish persecution has not so far shown itself in a marked degree, to prevent any deterioration of the local situation and to strengthen local resistance to possible German pressure for increased anti-Semitic measures.

Mr. Osborne would be grateful if the above suggestion might be submitted to His Holiness for careful consideration in connection with the suggestions previously laid before him.²

¹ See *Actes* 8, no. 578. After the audience, the Minister wrote to the Foreign Office on December 31 (58/3/42): “ ... 3. It is clear that the Pope regards his broadcast as having satisfied all demands for stigmatization of Nazi crimes in the Occupied Countries. The reaction of some at least of my colleagues was anything but enthusiastic. To me he claimed that he had condemned the Jewish persecution. I could not dissent from this, though the condemnation is inferential and not specific, and comes at the end of a long dissertation on social problems... As a matter of fact his criticism of the totalitarian systems were unmistakable, and, given his temperament, I think he deserves credit for much of what he said” (F.O. 371/37538)...(See FRUS 1943, II, p. 912). Osborne repeated his impressions on January 5, 1943: “...he “...He [Pius XII] promised that he would do whatever was possible on behalf of the Jews. I doubt if there will be any public statement, particularly since passage in his Christmas broadcast clearly applied to

Jewish persecution (my telegram No. 284). I impressed upon him that Hitler's policy of extermination was a crime without precedent in history" (F.O. 371/37538).

² We did not find the written response.

Vol. 9, No. 54, pp. 129-130.

The Secretariat of State to Tittmann , United States Chargé d'Affaires of the United States

(A.S.S. 61441, draft)

Vatican , February 15, 1943

Request to facilitate the work of the Vatican Information Service, particularly in Northern Africa .

The Secretariat of State to His Holiness has the honour to inform the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to the Holy See that, with a view to overcoming the difficulties which seem to be in the way of the Vatican information service, it has been deemed opportune to solicit also the good offices of His Excellency Archbishop Spellman and of His Excellency Mr. Myron C. Taylor.¹ To this end the attention of their Excellencies has been drawn to the moral obligation of the Holy Father of helping so many of His suffering and anxious children who have recourse to Him in order to obtain news of their dear ones.

Archbishop Spellman and Mr. Taylor have been requested to initiate, if possible and expedient, new negotiations with the President of the United States, and to explain that this service is not intended as an opposition to any other similar organization, but would rather prove advantageous to the United States by enhancing its reputation for charitable sentiments and also by facilitating the reciprocity of the service on behalf of American internees and prisoners of war.

As regards the information service for prisoners of war and civilians in French North Africa, the following proposal has been made in order to meet the difficulties of the American Government: that the Holy See would nominate as its correspondent in French North Africa a White Father of Maison Carreé, to be designated by the Superior General of the Society. The correspondent thus selected should organize the service in a manner similar to that already in operation elsewhere by the other representatives of the Holy See, and arrange for the compilation of the messages in conformity with the requirements of the local military authorities. Such messages would be duly submitted for censorship and would be forwarded to the Vatican by the fastest route. Messages from the Vatican would be transmitted in the same way and would be subject to the same conditions of censorship.²

In conveying this information to the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to the Holy See, the Secretariat of State avails of the occasion...

Monsignor Montini's Note:

This memo was prepared following a conversation of the Substitute with Mr. Tittmann,³ who was grateful for the information that our Office gave him...

¹ See no. 42.

² See *infra* no. 229.

³ During the meeting Tittmann presented a Memo which he had transmitted via Berne on February 10; see FRUS 1943 II, p. 954 ff.

Vol. 9, No. 68, pp. 144-159.

Memoranda of the Secretariat of State

No number (A.S.S. Information Office , Vatican , draft)¹

Vatican, March 1, 1943

Vatican assistance to war victims in Greece . Assistance to the Poles. Vatican activities on behalf of refugees, especially Jews. Memorandum on Vatican efforts to promote the exchange of sick and maimed prisoners. Solicitude for prisoners of war and internees. Activities on behalf of prisoners in Russia and Russian prisoners elsewhere. Difficulties met by the Information Service. Statistics of activities. Information on prisoners of war transported to the United States .

I

Assistance Rendered to War Victims in Greece.²

Immediately after the occupation of Greece by Axis forces, the Holy Father hastened to go to the aid of the Greek people, and the Apostolic Delegate in Greece, His Excellency Monsignor Roncalli, was invited to furnish information regarding the local situation, and to indicate the particular needs to be met and the best means of doing so.

The work was begun in August 1941, when the Papal Nunciature at Berne was commissioned to send powdered and condensed milk to the Greek children.³ Further supplies followed this first one, so that to the present a total of 15 tons of the same foodstuffs have been sent from Switzerland. Through the same Nunciature several tons of vegetables and medicines have been dispatched to Greece.

Through the Papal Nunciature in Budapest the Holy See sent to Greece several tons of flour, in 1942 as well as in 1943. Medicines and vitamins have also been sent from Hungary.

Medicines have also been sent from Italy, especially quinine and other remedies for malarial fevers.

Negotiations were opened in Turkey, Bulgaria and ~~Rumania~~ Rumania for the supply of vegetables for Greece, but without result. This year it is hoped to be able to obtain some wagon-loads of vegetables from the Rumanian Government.

Moreover the Holy Father kindly placed at the disposal of the Apostolic Delegate to Greece several sums of money for the same charitable purpose.

In September 1941, at the request of some important citizens of Greece, the Holy See asked the British Government, through diplomatic channels,⁴ to forego the confiscation of 350,000 tons of grain already purchased by the Greek Government. Unfortunately the negotiations were not successful in spite of the insistence with which they were urged, perhaps for this reason or because it was generally hoped that free passage would be open to ships which would eventually carry grain to Greece. The Diplomatic Representative of the President of the United States of America to the Holy See⁵ was also informed of these negotiations. The Holy Father, after a second and a third refusal from the British Government, was even disposed to approach His Britannic Majesty, provided that would not cause displeasure to the Government.⁶

The idea was also entertained of sending Greek children to Switzerland on the initiative of the Holy See. The Papal Nuncio at Berne dealt with the question, but the proposal was unsuccessful.

In November 1941, a supply of medicines was requested from the United States of America, but it was not possible to obtain them.⁷

Through the initiative of the Apostolic Delegate in Athens, kitchens for the people have been opened in various parts of Greece, where food is distributed to the poor free of charge or at a nominal price. These kitchens, called "Foyers de la divine Providence" were founded in December 1941, on the arrival of the grain obtained by the Holy Father in Hungary. In less than a year they have served more than half a million meals, costing nearly 8,000,000 drams. At present, nearly 12,000 meals are distributed daily.⁸

For the sick, dispensaries have also been erected, where the bulk of the medicines used are those sent through the work of the Holy See.

The Apostolic Delegation in Greece has opened an Information Office similar to that of the Secretariat of State to His Holiness, and nearly 50,000 requests and messages have been dealt with in less than a year.

II

Activities of the Holy See on behalf of the Poles.⁹

The work of charity which the Holy See has been carrying out on behalf of the Poles since the beginning of the war has been the object of the following generous contributions of the American hierarchy:

1940	His Excellency Monsignor Spellman	800,000 lire
1940	His Excellency Monsignor Spellman to His Eminence Cardinal Hlond	\$ 10,000.00
1940	Bishops' Committee for Polish Relief	\$ 146,324.31
1940	Bishops' Committee for Polish Relief	\$ 216,000.00
1941	Collection made by the Bishops' Committee	\$ 47,000.00
1941	Collection made by the Bishops' Committee	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>
	Total	800,000 lire + \$444,324.31
	Total	800,000 lire + \$ 444,324.31

The Holy Father graciously deigned to distribute this sum as follows:

\$50,000.00 were placed at the disposal of the Commission for Polish relief;

\$10,000.00 were placed at the disposal of the Bishops' Committee for Polish refugees in America;

\$10,000.00 were placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate for eventual subsidies for Poles deported to the U.S.S.R.

The distribution of the relief-money was generally entrusted to the Papal Representatives, who, with due consideration of varying conditions and necessities, had recourse also to local associations and charitable organizations chiefly Polish, so that the subsidies of the Holy See might be delivered in money or in kind to the persons in need.

Subsidies were given, in a greater or lesser degree, in the various nations which offered hospitality to the Polish refugees. The subsidies were devoted to the payment of lodging expenses, clothing, doctors' fees and medicine bills, boarding houses for students, Homes for ladies and girls, journeys to Poland, journeys from one country to another and to America. They were also used for the organization and maintenance of hostels, shelters, and orphanages, for the establishment of a hospital (England), for assisting needy priests and religious, for arranging for preaching and religious assistance especially at Easter, for the printing of healthy reading material and books of devotion and religious instruction, for the acquisition and delivery of textbooks in the ecclesiastical sciences to Seminaries and certain religious congregations in Poland, for the periodical furnishing of abundant supplies of food, for the purchase and supply of Altar wine and oil for liturgical use, for funerals and prayers for the dead, for visits carried out under the orders and in the name of His Holiness to Polish internees and refugees—visits in which the consoling words of the Common Father were accompanied by gifts of money, food and clothing etc. Besides the above-mentioned offerings of the American Hierarchy, other offerings received by the Holy See were also used with a view to making those subsidies more adequate: offerings of Peter's Pence were devoted to the relief of the Poles, as were, especially, several large sums of money which the Holy Father, in His paternal and especial benevolence for Poland, deigned to place at the disposal of the Relief commission on behalf of the afflicted Poles.

Of the offerings received from the American Hierarchy, some ten thousand dollars still remain. This sum is obviously insufficient to provide for the necessities which present themselves continually, for the maintenance of those works of charity which require periodical assistance and especially for meeting the very grave demands for relief which, as can be foreseen, will inevitably follow in the wake of this terrible war.

III

Activity of the Holy See on behalf of Refugees especially ~~Non-arians.~~¹⁰ Non-Arians.¹⁰

Certain charitable persons in the United States of America made an offering to the Holy Father of \$125,000.00, destined by the donors themselves for "the victims of the persecution without distinction of race or religion".

Of this sum:

\$50,000 were handed over by the Holy Father to the American Committee,

\$75,000 were forwarded to the Holy See.

These \$75,000 were thus subdivided:

\$ 30,000 were placed at the disposal of Raphaelsverein of Hamburg;

\$ 3,000 were placed at the disposal of Caritasverband of Lucerne;

\$ 7,000 were placed at the disposal of the Dutch Catholic Committee;

\$ 35,000 were placed at the disposal of the Secretariat of State to His Holiness.

This last sum was used in bestowing small subsidies but was chiefly employed in financing the journeys of emigrants who were 99% non-Arian.

This fund at present consists of \$ 20,316,41.¹¹

IV

Memorandum

In their visits to the various concentration Camps of Prisoners of War, the Papal Representatives have found, unfortunately, many prisoners maimed, wounded, or suffering from tuberculosis, whose sad state they immediately reported to the Holy See as worthy objects of the charity of the Holy Father.

The paternal heart of His Holiness was moved to compassion by the sad plight of His beloved children and by the sorrow thus caused to their desolate families, and He gave orders for arrangements, if possible, for the repatriation of these invalids through a reciprocal exchange between Italy and England.¹²

His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State obtained from the Italian Government assurance that they were willing to repatriate, according to the provisions of the conventions, these British prisoners forming part of the categories determined by the same Conventions, provided that the British Government were willing to make a similar concession in favour of invalided Italian prisoners.

The Holy See sent a note to the British Minister informing him of the assurance obtained from the Italian Government and requested him to intimate as soon as possible whether the English Government was, in turn, disposed to grant a speedy exchange of invalidated Italian prisoners in their hands.

It is to be hoped that the British Government will soon announce its willingness to cooperate with this work of charity of the Holy See.¹³

V

Solicitude of the Holy See for Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees.

His Excellency Monsignor Spellman is requested to:

a) interview the Papal Representatives, find out their needs and the difficulties which they have to overcome and render them every possible assistance.

b) send accounts (accompanied by reports of the local ecclesiastical authorities and by photographs, etc.) of the spiritual assistance being rendered and of the general condition of the prisoners of war and civilian internees.

VI

Activities of the Holy See on behalf of Prisoners in Russian hands and on behalf of Russian Prisoners.¹⁴

Finding it impossible to render any other assistance to prisoners of war in Russian hands, the Holy See concentrated its efforts in seeking to obtain lists of these prisoners and in trying to establish a news-service between them and their respective families. To this end special representations were made to the Governments of the United States of America, of Great Britain and of Sweden, and the apostolic Apostolic Delegates of London, Washington, Teheran and Istanbul were also requested to use their influence for the same purpose.

1) In September 1941 the Secretariat of State availed itself of the presence in Rome of His Excellency Mr. Myron C. Taylor, Representative of the President of the United States of America, to request that Government to obtain, through the services of an American commission then in Russia, an active cooperation of the Russian authorities with the relief work of the Holy See on behalf of the prisoners of war. At the same time the Apostolic Delegate in Washington was instructed to lend his support to this proposal of the Holy See.

Towards the end of December 1941, the apostolic Apostolic Delegate informed the Secretariat of State of a declaration of the American Government that all its efforts in this regard had been futile.

A little more than a month had elapsed when the Holy See deemed it opportune to solicit once again the good offices of the American Government, and in a Note to Mr. Tittmann, the Charge d'Affaires of the United States, it expressed the hope that the American authorities would be able to facilitate the exchange of news of prisoners in Russian hands.

On February 19, 1942, the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, while expressing the admiration of his Government for the Secretariat of State [declared] that he regretted that all efforts in this regard had been so far unsuccessful, and that no hope could be entertained of a more favourable response to similar representations in the future. This was confirmed two months later by a communication from the Apostolic Delegate to the effect that the Russian Government had absolutely refused to consider any such proposal. The Apostolic Delegate added that the American Government would renew its efforts and that the matter might possibly be simplified by the communication of a definite plan on the part of the Holy See. This plan was immediately forwarded to the Apostolic Delegate.

In the beginning of July the Apostolic Delegate reported that in a long conversation with Mr. Welles¹⁵ he had learned that towards the end of June the American Government had insisted once again with the Soviet authorities and had presented the plan outlined by the Holy See. Unfortunately the reply was absolutely in the negative: the Russians would not agree to any exchange of lists or to any communication of news.

2) On July 11, 1942, the Cardinal Secretary of State presented an Aide-Memoire to the British Minister¹⁶ Minister¹⁶ informing him of the activities of the Holy See in this connection and calling his attention to the determined opposition of the Soviet Government with regard to giving news of the prisoners they had captured.

The British Minister communicated with his Government, but so far he has not been able to give any reply on the subject of the above-mentioned Aide-Memoire.

3) On April 20, the Italian Embassy to the Holy See presented the Secretariat of State with a copy of a protest sent to the Soviet Government, through the medium of Sweden, on the treatment meted out to Italian prisoners of war. Following this, the Papal Nuncio to Italy was requested to approach the Swedish Minister and to inform him of the ardent desire of the Holy See to assist in transmitting news of the prisoners taken on the Eastern front. The Nuncio was also to assure the Swedish Minister of the support of the Holy See with a view to obtaining humane treatment for prisoners in Russian hands.

On May 29, 1942, the Papal Nuncio to Italy communicated that in connection with these matters a Note had been sent to the Government at Stockholm seeking to bring new pressure to bear on the Soviet authorities. This was done in a Note of the Swedish

Government to the Russian Minister in Stockholm on June 29, 1942, but on September 21, the Swedish Minister in Rome informed the Nuncio that no reply had so far been received from the Soviet Government.

With a view to facilitating some concession in this matter on the part of the Russian Government, the Papal Nuncio in Italy has been instructed recently to ask the Swedish Minister to suggest that for the moment the Holy See would be satisfied with the communication of the names of prisoners and the addresses of their families, without, however, abandoning the hope of further concessions in the future.

4) As soon as the Holy See heard of the intention of the Polish Government in London of sending His Excellency Monsignor Gawlina, the Polish Military Ordinary, to Russia, the Secretariat of State hastened to instruct the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegate in London to consult with Monsignor Gawlina as to the best means of sending news of prisoners of war in Russia, especially their names and family addresses. The ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegate in London reported that Monsignor Gawlina was already en route, and that everything would be forwarded to him by diplomatic channels. The Secretariat of State then requested the Apostolic Delegate of Teheran to remind Monsignor Gawlina of the Holy See's earnest desire to obtain news of prisoners in Russia, and the Delegate was asked to intervene himself for the same purpose.

Following on the announcement of Monsignor Gawlina's arrival at Teheran, further representations were made to the Apostolic Delegate. He then reported that he sought in every possible way to realise the activity desired, but from information received, it was evident to him that it was not possible to do anything in favour of prisoners and internees in Russian hands.

To date no information has been received here from His Excellency Monsignor Gawlina.

5) The Holy See had already advised the ~~Apostolic Delegate in~~ Delegate in Turkey that information regarding prisoners in Russian hands would be welcomed and the Apostolic Delegate replied that he would endeavour to treat the matter through the Russian representative in Ankara, taking the question up personally on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to that city, but he foresaw many serious difficulties. In fact this effort produced no results.

6) Although numerous representations had already been made by the Holy See to the Government of the United States, on the occasion of the recent visit to the Vatican of His Excellency Mr. Myron C. Taylor, the Holy Father addressed directly to the Head of the American Nation a Memorandum asking him to use his powerful influence to obtain from the Russian Government the desired news concerning prisoners of war in Russian hands.

So far no reply has been received to this move.

7) The Rumanian Government recently commissioned the Representative of the Rumanian Red Cross, His Excellency M. Petrescu Comnene, to contact the Holy See with a view to obtaining news of prisoners in Russian hands. During his conversations with the Secretariat of State, he revealed in strict confidence that the Russian Government bases its relations with its enemies on the Fourth Convention of the Hague (1907), which provides for the exchange of information, but not for visits to camps. On the other hand, supporting the desire of the International Red Cross (as expressed by his Excellency M. Petrescu Comnene) to quote the Holy See's activities in particular regarding the question of prisoners of war in Russian hands, the Secretariat of State was glad to inform him that there was no objection to the International Red Cross mentioning in its declarations that the Holy See had frequently intervened as stated.

2.

Apart from its efforts for prisoners taken on the Russian front, the Holy See has not failed to direct its attention to the Russian prisoners of war.

In a despatch of August 18, 1941, His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State approached the Nuncios in Budapest and Bucharest with a view to obtaining the lists of Russian prisoners.

On August 30, 1941, the Papal Nuncio in Bucharest, in a communication dated December 7, 1941, reported that the Government had granted him permission to visit the above-mentioned prisoners, although not all of them had yet been assembled in concentration camps.

The Holy See took this occasion to renew to the ~~Papal~~ Papal Nuncio its request to do everything possible to obtain the lists of prisoners, in view of the proposed visit.

To the request made by the Papal Nuncio on April 8, 1942, for permission to visit the Russian prisoners in German hands, a reply was sent giving the authorization to ask such a permission.

On May 10, 1942, the above-mentioned Papal Nuncio forwarded a detailed report of the visit paid to Russian prisoners in Rumanian hands.

The Holy See had also prepared a small religious picture for the Russian prisoners and sent it to the Papal Nuncio for distribution on July 8, 1942.

The Papal Nuncio to Hungary, after a first communication that he had not succeeded in obtaining any information about Russian prisoners in Hungary (September 28, 1941), informed the Secretariat of State on October 10, 1941 that there were only 4 Russian prisoners in Hungarian hands and that these were in a hospital.

VII

Difficulties met with by the Information Service for Prisoners of War, especially in Kenya .

From the outbreak of the present war, the Holy Father, mindful of His universal mission of charity, could not ignore the numberless appeals addressed to Him on all sides from relatives anxiously seeking news of their dear ones missing from the various battle fronts. To cope with these requests He established an Information Office for prisoners of war and civil internees, with this two-fold object:

1) to give immediate notification of the fate of their dear ones involved in operations of ~~war—imprisonment, transfer etc.~~ war—imprisonment, transfer ,etc.

2) to facilitate as speedily as possible the exchange of personal communications in the form of short messages (of 25 words), sent by ordinary post or by Radio broadcasts received by the Papal Representatives, and sent, duly passed by local censorship, to the addressees.

Though at first the English Government did not seem unfavourable towards this charitable work of the Holy See, subsequently they failed to give it any official ~~recognition~~ recognition. That is, until April 27, 1942, when the British Minister to the Holy See wrote in his Note 4/60/42:¹⁷

“The following are the facilities, in some cases already granted, which His Majesty’s Government are prepared to allow to Apostolic Delegates, or, in their absence, to their accredited representatives, in so far as concerns prisoners of war throughout the British Empire for whom His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom are responsible, viz:

1) Apostolic Delegates, or their representatives, subject to the approval of the local military authorities, whose consent will not be withheld except on security grounds, shall on application be permitted freely to visit for pastoral purposes camps or other places where Prisoners of War of whatever nationality are interned;

2) ~~In so far as Italian Prisoners of War are concerned, Apostolic Delegates, or their representatives,~~ shall be permitted to arrange for the exchange of messages between Prisoners of War and their families, provided that no ~~responsability~~ responsibility for the transmission of such message falls upon any British authorities, and provided also that the delivery to and collection from Apostolic Delegates of messages sent by Prisoners of War from their families shall be effected through Camp Commandants only and be subject to such limitations by local authorities as the latter may consider ~~necessary~~ necessary.”

These concessions allowed the realization of object No. 2 mentioned above, that regarding correspondence between Prisoners of War and their dear ones.

3. As for object No. 1 proposed by the Holy See as above, the British Minister stated:

4. “His Majesty’s Government regret that, for reasons which I have already communicated to Your Eminence, they remain unable to agree to general arrangements for the supply of lists of Italian Prisoners of War to Apostolic Delegates or other Vatican Representatives for communication to the Vatican Bureau. These lists are already being supplied to the protecting power and the International Red Cross ~~Committee~~ Committee.”

1.

The divergent attitude of the British Government to the above-mentioned objects of the activity of the Holy See seems to have been prompted by the position arising from the Con-vention of Geneva 1929, in regard to the International Red Cross. In fact, by this Convention re the publication of lists of prisoners and the forwarding of the corresponding information, Articles 77-80 lay down definite obligations to the International Red Cross on the part of the signing Powers.

This does not prohibit, however, the same service to an institution such as the Holy See which considers as its natural mission the alleviation and abbreviation of all kinds of suffering. The request seems all the more legitimate con-sidering the ease with which the captor nation could supply an extra copy of the communications which it must make by force of the above-mentioned convention.

Other Governments have recognised the suitability of this request, and in fact conform to it by supplying the lists of prisoners under their control, together with information concerning them.

2.

Regarding Prisoner’s correspondence, the convention quoted does not impose on the signing Powers any obligations to the International Red Cross (see articles 35-41).

Article 36 was drawn up through special agreement between the English and Italian Governments; it allows Prisoners of both Nations to write weekly one letter and one postcard. The letters must not exceed 24 lines.

The above-mentioned concessions for messages (see Note of the English Minister quoted above 4/60/42 2) involve no limitations other than this: “subject to such limitations by local authorities as the latter may consider necessary”.

~~Unfortunate~~ ly, these concessions have been absolutely in-effective in Kenya ,¹⁸ until last November when some slight improvement was made. The application of the concessions was modified and fixed as from December 1, 1942 (see the ~~enclosed~~

enclosed instructions¹⁹ given by the authorities in Kenya).

In effect:

- 1) Radio messages (even when subject to censorship) are prohibited;
- 2) Written messages can be sent by post only when considered "essential" for humanitarian reasons, for [example:] when news has not been received for a considerable period;
- 3) If the prisoner uses the Vatican message service, each message (that is, of 225 words) is counted as a letter (of 24 lines);
- 4) In replying to messages received, the prisoners can use only certain short formulae printed on the message-form;
- 5) If the number of messages becomes too great, the whole question will be reconsidered.

The Information Office of the Holy See can furnish documentary proof of the deficiencies of the news service to and from the prisoners in Kenya, both from letters of persons who complain of the lack of news over many months (for some the period exceeds two years), and from a list of prisoners of a certain camp who have implored the intervention of the Holy See to obtain news of their families.

On the other hand, attention is drawn to the arrangements made by the Holy See in favour of Prisoners of War in Italian hands.

- 1) Full use is made of Radio and Telegraph to send messages to and from the prisoners.
- 2) No limitation is imposed on the despatch of messages written by the prisoners, nor of those addressed to them.

The Holy See cannot remain insensible to the numerous appeals addressed to it in such a spirit of faith. On the other hand, uneasy lest the Italian authorities curtail the concessions, in view of the lack of reciprocity, to the sole disadvantage of British prisoners, it hopes that the central authorities responsible may take the necessary steps to ensure a regular news service also for the Prisoners of War in Kenya .

The Holy See trusts that its service will not be considered superfluous, nor an encroachment nor a challenge to services already protected by International Convention, but as an indispensable complement redounding to the honour and advantage of the authorities who sanction and favour it.

VIII

Statistics of the Requests and of the Replies²⁰

	Requests	Replies	Percentage of Replies to Request
June 1940	36,191	15,788	42.45%
1941	462,071	203,856	47.84%
1942	538,042	249,675	46.46%
January- February 1943	<u>112,315</u>	<u>48,315</u>	<u>43%</u>
Totals	1,123,615	517,634	46%

IX

Sections for English-speaking Prisoners

June 1941-February 1943:

Names Broadcast n. 57,952
Messages Broadcast n. 24,558

January 1942-February 1943 (I):

Requests.....n. 16,389
Messages to Prisoners.....n. 25,398
Messages to Families (by courier)... n. 100,642

(I) As regards requests, messages to prisoners and messages to families forwarded by courier, the period June 1941--January 1942 has been omitted, the Section's activity in this direction having really started on January 1st 1942.

X

Information Service for the United States of America

It has been learned that many prisoners are being transferred from India and from England to the United States of America .

It would be very convenient if the Apostolic Delegate in Washington could obtain from the competent authorities concessions and authorisation similar to those guaranteed elsewhere to the Papal Representatives with regard to prisoners of war and civilian internees.

In particular it would be necessary to obtain:

a) lists of the names of prisoners of war and civilian internees and an indication of the state of their ~~health~~; health.

b) authorisation for the Papal Representatives to act as a medium for the transmission of news to and from the prisoners of war and civilian internees in the form of short messages of a family character, not exceeding 25 words and written on forms prepared for that purpose.

c) permission for periodic visits to the Concentration Camps for the purpose of spiritual and moral assistance.

These concessions are all the more urgent and more necessary in view of the fact that the Italian authorities have already made arrangements facilitating the information service and other works of assistance being rendered by the Holy See to North American prisoners of War. thus, for example, during the past few months the Vatican Information Office has been able to telegraph 230 names of American prisoners in camps in Italy . It would seem that this news was the first to reach the United States and its communication evoked expressions of profound satisfaction and gratitude from the families concerned.

In the same period, lists of these prisoners were handed to the ~~Charge d'affaires~~ Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to the Holy See, together with lists of 21 prisoners in hospitals and 223 in camps in the Philippine Islands. (See accompanying report on the section of the Information Office devoted to English-speaking prisoners).

In order that the information obtained may satisfy in some way the desires and anxieties of the distant families, it is necessary that it be transmitted to the Vatican in the fastest possible manner.

The Vatican Radio, which already broadcasts to 15 countries and has reciprocal contacts with some of them, permits of the transmission of news concerning prisoners of war and would prove a rapid means for the efficient operation of this service with the United States of ~~america~~- America .

It is important, therefore, that the steps already taken for the establishment of the telegraphic contact with Washington should be brought to a successful conclusion.

To this end the Apostolic Delegate has been requested to study the possibility of an agreement with an American Station, and preferably with Mackay Radio, which is already in relation with Vatican Radio (Enclosure n. 7).²¹

At the moment the question may be viewed in more favourable light owing to the Radio contact recently inaugurated with the Apostolic Delegation in ~~Tokio~~, Tokyo , which has obtained lists of prisoners of war and permission to transmit the names by Radio or by courier.

¹These notes and summaries were prepared and given to Archbishop Spellman of New York , who was in the ~~Vatican~~; on Vatican . On April 2, copies were sent to New York (A.S.S. Guerra Varia 120): "In accordance with your suggestion I am forwarding to you the enclosed copies of the Memoranda, dealing principally with the activity of the Holy See in behalf of refugees and prisoners of war. The originals were given to Your Excellency before your departure from Vatican City ." Cf. *Actes* 7, p. 232, note 1.

² See A. Martini, *La fame in Grecia nel 1941 nella testimonianza dei documenti vaticani inediti*.

³ See *Actes* 8, no. 126, note 14, p. 244.

⁴ See *Actes* 8, no. 145, annex, p. 270 ff.

⁵ Myron Taylor; see *Actes* 8, no. 157, note 1, p. 288.

⁶ See *Actes* 8, no. 180, p. 323.

⁷ See *Actes* 8, no. 193, p. 337 ff.

⁸ A memorandum of February 6, 1943 of the State Department gives detailed information on the ~~assistenee~~ assistance given by the Swiss and Swedish Red Cross on behalf of the Greeks; see FRUS 1943 IV, 171-173.

⁹ See *Actes* 6 and 8, particularly the Introductions.

¹⁰ See *Actes* 6 and 9 *passim*.

¹¹ See *Actes* 6, no. 125 and 126, pp. 211-214.

¹² See *Actes* 8, no. 293, pp. 447-449.

¹³ See no. 41 and 58.

¹⁴ See *Actes* 8, no. 480, pp. 647-655, to find the the citations.

¹⁵ Under-Secretary of State.

¹⁶ Mr. d'Arcy Osborne.

¹⁷ See *Actes* 8, no. 361, p. 520 ff.

¹⁸ See *infra* no. 177 and 285.

¹⁹ Unpublished.

²⁰ See *La Chiesa e la guerra* where one finds details of the activities of the Information Office. See the proceedings of March 2, 1943.... This service for the Prisoners of War was established by His Holiness , Pope Pius XII in August 1940 in the Secretariat of State....

²¹ The statistics for 1940 give 5,252 names and 2,509 minutes of transmissions, for 1941, 103,162 names and 56,478 minutes, for 1942, 226,755 names and 132,154 minutes of transmission.

Vol. 9, No. 292, pp. 428-430.

Apostolic Delegate Cicognani in Washington to
Under Secretary of State Welles

No number (Arch. Deleg., draft)

Washington , August 13, 1943

Request to facilitate the work of the Vatican Information Service

In a letter of July 1, 1943,¹ His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate, presented for the consideration of the State Department a proposal emanating from the Vatican Secretariat of State with reference to a possible acceleration of the preparation and transmission of lists of prisoners of war, in order that the families of the prisoners might be notified the sooner. In a reply dated July 17, 1943, Mr. G. Howland Shaw² informed the Apostolic Delegate that the United States government had already taken steps to arrange for the compilation of these lists in the field of military operations wherever feasible.

The Apostolic Delegate was subsequently informed by Mr. Myron C. Taylor that the plan was under consideration, and was later advised that it would surely be adopted, and that official notification to this effect would be forthcoming. In view of the fact that under the system of preparing the lists after arrival of the prisoners in the United States camp rosters were made available to the Apostolic Delegation, it was felt that the preparation of the lists in the theaters of operations would not interfere with this service, but that the lists would be put at the disposal of the Vatican representative in the particular territory for eventual transmission to the Cardinal Secretary of State. This appeared to be contained in the information furnished [to] the Apostolic Delegate by Mr. Taylor, and on the strength of this assurance, the Apostolic Delegate so advised the Cardinal Secretary of State on July 28th,³ while pointing out that official notification to this effect was as yet wanting.

Subsequently to this magnanimous gesture on the part of the American government, and to the official authorization for the extension of the Vatican Information Service to North Africa for the use of civilians (as contained in a letter from Mr. Welles on June 12, 1943⁴, the Vatican Secretariat of State, with the proper approval of the United States authorities, despatched to Algeria the Very Reverend Monsignor Walter Carroll in order to supervise the inauguration and organization of the Information Service.⁵

In carrying out the duties entailed by this work, Monsignor Carroll has had occasion likewise to come in contact with the compilation of the lists of prisoners. According to information reaching the Apostolic Delegate from the Cardinal Secretary of State, Monsignor Carroll has advised His Eminence that several lists of prisoners are already prepared and ready for transmission. It would appear, however, that the American Authorities in North Africa have not yet received instructions allowing them to permit Monsignor Carroll to forward these lists to Vatican City . Monsignor Carroll has informed Cardinal Maglione that the local authorities are favorable to the transmission of these lists, but that they are unwilling to take upon themselves the responsibility of approving such action without explicit directions from Washington.⁶

In the light of the foregoing, the Apostolic Delegate respectfully requests that whatever action is possible be taken to facilitate this humanitarian and charitable activity of the Holy See. It is a fact of experience that the families of soldiers are oftentimes made to suffer more by uncertainty as to the fate of their loved ones than by the actual news that they have been wounded or even killed. The Holy See had this in mind when it undertook to transmit to the United States through its own radio facilities, several hundreds of lists of American soldiers who were prisoners of war in Italy . Charity, mercy, and any possible kind of relief belong to the mission of the Vatican throughout the world. In addition, the geographical location of the Vatican , particularly with regard to Italian prisoners of war, and the means of communication at its immediate disposal as well as its direct contacts with local bishops, would appear to place it in a very advantageous position for the performance of this eminently human and charitable work. The good results in the field of charity, and the excellent influence which such action would inevitably have in elevating still higher the already great prestige of the United States would seem to abundantly counterbalance anything which might indicate duplication of work in other quarters. Experience has shown in countless cases that there is really no duplication involved.

Hence the Apostolic Delegate requests that the United States government authorize making available to Vatican representatives the lists of prisoners of war which are compiled in the various theaters of operation.⁷

¹ Unpublished, see no. 245, note 4.

² Assistant Secretary of State.

³ See no. 277.

⁴ Unpublished; see no. 2229, note 1.

⁵ See no. 256.

⁶ See no. 283, note 5.

⁷ See *infra* no. 306 and 354.

Vol. 9, No. 425, pp. 556-558

Monsignor Carroll to Monsignor Montini

No number (A.S.S. Guerra Varia 190, orig.)
Maison-Carree (Algiers), November 13, 1943

Report on activities, ~~on the function~~ of the Information Service established in Algiers , and on the situation in general.

As you will have learned from a telegram¹ which I sent through Washington last week, I arrived here November 5th from America . Since my return we have been able to accomplish much, despite local difficulties, restrictions, etc. The Information Bureau here is now functioning quite smoothly and the courier service between Algiers and Sicily is in operation. I am anxious to get over to Palermo to speak with the Archbishop,² in order to co-ordinate the services, but I am at present engaged in discussions which, I hope, will soon lead to the establishment of direct radio communication with Vatican City. The American Authorities have given their approval for this radio service and we are now working out the details. There remains always, however, the possibility of a strong British or French veto to this proposed service.

As soon as this radio communication with Vatican City has been definitely established, I shall visit Sicily , and possibly Naples , to organize and extend the Vatican services to those areas. The Allied authorities have already assured me that I shall have no difficulty in getting there.

The principal obstacle which we encounter here is bureaucracy. Each point that we raise must be proposed to the three Powers and there must be approval not only by each of the Powers, but also by all of the numerous governmental agencies directly or indirectly concerned. Naturally, this means considerable delay.

I am planning to visit the various prisoner-of-war camps in the North African area at the Christmas Season. It will be practically impossible to purchase gifts for the men, but we are printing small prayer books, in Italian and German, on the frontispiece of which we should like to print a brief message from the Holy Father, together with His Apostolic Blessing.

As Your Excellency knows, the Vatican Information Bureau here is being staffed by the White Fathers, under the direction of Mons . Birraux.³ They have undertaken the work with great zeal and enthusiasm and are proving very efficient. Mons . Birraux has been most helpful and has placed all his facilities at the disposition of the Holy See. We have likewise enlisted the assistance of several Communities of Sisters. Thus far there has been only one bureau—at Maison Carree—but now that the Service has been officially authorized we expect to open within the next week a small office in the center of the city, where the public may be received.

Within the next few days I shall prepare a short article on the North African Information Bureau which might be useful to the editors of "~~Ecclesia~~"⁴ "Ecclesia."⁴ I shall endeavor likewise to obtain some interesting photographs.

During my stay here, Your Excellency, I have made many very valuable contacts. However, in conformity with the instructions which I received before leaving Vatican City , I have remained aloof from the political situation here. I have, nevertheless, been observant of the scene about me and I should like, if I may, to offer a few observations. First of all, Algiers , politically, is in a state of constant confusion and instability. There is neither agreement nor unity here. Self-interest seems to reign supreme. There is no united popular support of any of the various groups here; in fact, the people seem to look to France and hope that an eventual Allied invasion there may produce a Government more in line with the desires of the people. At the same time there is widespread criticism of the Catholic Hierarchy, especially in Catholic circles, for its alleged failure to provide counsel and direction in this period of general confusion. There is no desire, as far as I can see, on the part of these sincere critics, to have the Bishops take sides politically. But it is felt that they might well insist, time and time again, on general Christian principles, on the importance of laying a Christian foundation for any future Government of France and on the danger of all materialistic tendencies. Likewise, it is noteworthy, I feel, that some of the bishops are privately, and even publicly, defending their support of Vichy and Marshal ~~Pétain~~ Pétain with the rather dangerous assertion that Catholics are obliged to support that Government near which the Holy Father retains His Nuncio.⁵

¹ Unpublished; see no. 354, note 5.

² Cardinal Lavitrano.

³ Superior General of the White Fathers, see no. 42, note 4.

⁴ A brief report on the activities in Northern Africa was published: 2 (1943) December, p. 57. See no. 28, note 2.

⁵ On November 19, Monsignor Carroll sent another report, addressed to Cardinal Maglione: "...I hope to leave tomorrow for Gibraltar . I shall bring the lists of about 50,000 names of prisoners of war: if possible I'll give them to the Americans in Gibraltar, otherwise I'll continue the trip to

Madrid , and give them to His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio. It is my intention to visit the prison camps in Northern Africa at Christmas, and to distribute the prayer manuals....” (See A.S.S. Guerra, Varia 199 and no. 575, 190.)

Vol. 9, No. 466, pp. 600-603

Monsignor Carroll to Monsignor Montini

No number (A.S.S. Guerra Varia 190, orig.)
Madrid, December 14, 1943

Report on activities, on communications with Sicily and Southern Italy , on the ~~information service~~ Information Service for prisoners of war, and on visits to prison camps.

I take the liberty to write you this hurried note in English in order to inform Your Excellency of the more recent developments in the Algerian situation.¹

I left Algiers the afternoon of December twelfth and arrived here at noon today. I expect to leave Madrid Wednesday, December 16th, and shall probably be in Algiers Thursday afternoon.² I had two reasons for making this trip: 1) to bring lists of approximately 125,000 prisoners of war; and 2) to try to obtain some information regarding the projected radio service between Algiers and the Vatican . Although I cabled for technical information from Algiers November 11th, I had still received no reply December twelfth. I now learn that the cables to and from the Vatican were delayed several days in the code room of the American Embassy here. I was very pleased on my arrival here to find the desired information, for I feel certain now that a very satisfactory service can be arranged. The American and British Authorities have given their full approval and have been awaiting only this technical information before initiating the service.

As soon as telegraphic communications between Algiers and the Vatican have been established, I shall go to Sicily and Southern Italy in order to establish closer contact with the Archbishops and Bishops there and to coordinate the communications of the entire area with the Holy See.³ The American Authorities have granted permission for the establishment of direct radio-telegraphic communication between Algiers and the Eccle-siastical Authorities of Sicily, Southern Italy and Sardinia as soon as the Algiers-Vatican circuit is functioning. The courier service between Sicily and Algiers is already functioning. When I go to Sicily and Southern Italy in the near future, I shall try to have the Archbishops and Bishops prepare reports on general conditions, their needs, etc., and shall forward them through Madrid by the fastest and safest courier.

The American Authorities have been most anxious to be of assistance and in recent days were becoming very impatient regarding the opening of the telegraphic communications with Vatican City , especially in view of a cabled complaint received from the State Department demanding an explanation for the failure to get this service started. These authorities have, likewise, been most helpful in facilitating any travelling that I have to do; they provide me with a high priority and rapid transportation, gratis at any time that I need to travel.

The Vatican Information Bureau at Algiers is now functioning very smoothly. Unfortunately, the American and British Authorities have thus far had only one copy of their lists of prisoners-of-war available, necessitating our making copies of those lists. It is equally unfortunate that the American lists of German prisoners do not all give the family address of the prisoners. Both of these defects are now being corrected and it is hoped very shortly to receive copies of complete lists from the American Authorities. I might mention here, also, that the “delay” stipulated in the Washington authorization has now been set at two weeks. We are obtaining lists (for copying) from the French on a very delayed basis, chiefly because the French are only now compiling their lists. In all this work the White Fathers are showing remarkable adeptness and enthusiasm. His Excellency, Mons . Birraux,⁴ who is keenly interested in the project, has placed ten priests at the disposition of the Bureau; these are ably assisted by several religious communities and Catholic Action groups in Algiers . A new office is to be opened in downtown Algiers December 15th to care for requests for information on the part of civilians; this has now been authorized and will be advertized by radio and newspaper. Undoubtedly there will be thousands of such requests to handle and it is to be hoped that the radio service may soon be operating to care for this service, too.

I should be very grateful to Your Excellency if you would find occasion to express to His Holiness my great personal gratitude, as well as that of all the collaborators in the Vatican Bureau at Algiers, for the magnificent message of consolation and encouragement, which He has so kindly sent, together with His Apostolic Blessing to the prisoners--of-war in North Africa.⁵ I know that this renewed evidence of paternal and affectionate interest on the part of the Common Father will be received with great joy by the prisoners-of-war, whose devoted attachment to the ~~vicar~~ Vicar of Christ is a source of edification and comfort to all who come in contact with them.

The visits to the camps have already begun. I have been able to visit many of the smaller groups in Algeria and hope to have an opportunity later to go to the more distant camps. Meanwhile, two of the White Fathers are preparing to leave for a tour of Tunisia and Morocco . It is our hope that most, if not all, of the camps will be visited during the Christmas season. Naturally, we should have liked to prepare parcels for each prisoner, but there is an incredible lack of goods and supplies on the Algerian market. Recently we succeeded in obtaining 63,000 packages of cigarettes, but there is no hope of finding clothing or edibles. It has been decided, therefore, to leave a sum of money with the chaplain at each camp, in order that he might provide a “treat” for his men or obtain, locally, something needed by the group or by individuals. It is still not certain, in view of the great scarcity of paper, whether we shall be able to print the little prayer books for the prisoners, but we are praying and hoping that this may yet be possible.

Regarding the morale of the prisoners, I can only repeat what I told Your Excellency in an earlier letter;⁶ namely, that the prisoners in the hands of the Americans and British are, generally, very well treated and are quite happy; those in the hands of the French, however, are poorly clad, underfed and, in general, rather badly treated; reports from all sectors verify this statement. This is due, in large part, no doubt, to the fact that the French Authorities are not in a position to provide food and clothing equivalent to that offered by the Americans and British; but it seems equally true that the spirit animating the directors of the French camps is one of animosity and revenge.

I avail myself of this occasion, Your Excellency, to offer my cordial good wishes to you for the coming Christmas season and to assure you of my constant prayerful remembrance of you, that the Infant of Bethlehem may bestow upon you at that time His special blessing and a very generous share of heavenly guidance and assistance.⁷

¹ See no. 425.

² The Nuncio in Madrid telegraphed on December 20: “Monday 13 current Monsignore Carroll arrived and has now left for Algiers ... stating that he would leave for Sicily and Southern Italy from Algiers and arrange for radio contact with Naples , Bari and Salerno and establish courier service.” (telegram no. 603, A.S.S. Guerra Varia 190).

³ Receipt acknowledged December 30 (telegram no. 475).

⁴ See no. 42, note 4.

⁵ See no. 464 and 425, note 5.

⁶ See no. 308.

⁷ In another report of January 4, 1944, Carroll gives final information. “...It will doubtless be of interest...to learn that no mention was made in the Algerian ~~newspaper~~ newspaper of the Holy Father’s Christmas message....”

Volume 10

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre

(January 1944-December 1945)

Vol. 10, No. 67, p. 140.

M. Perlzweig¹ to the Apostolic Delegate Cicognani in Washington

Acknowledgment to the Pope for his interventions on behalf of the persecuted Jews in Europe .

I beg you to accept my warmest thanks for your very kind letter of February 11th which I have just seen on my return to New York.²

It is scarcely necessary for me to assure Your Excellency that the repeated interventions of the Holy Father on behalf of Jewish communities in Europe has evoked the profoundest sentiments of appreciation and gratitude from Jews throughout the world. These acts of courage and consecrated statesmanship on the part of His Holiness will always remain a precious memory in the life of the Jewish people.

I should like to take this opportunity also of expressing my personal sense of appreciation for the kindness with which I was recently received by Monsignor Carboni,³ who heard what I had to say with so much patient courtesy and human insight.

¹ Maurice L. Perlzweig, World Jewish Congress representative.

² Unpublished.

³ Monsignor Romolo Carboni, ~~auditor of the~~ auditor, Apostolic Delegation in Washington .

Vol. 10, No. 132, p. 205.

The British Legation to the Secretariat of State

No number (A.E.S. 1839/44, orig.)

Vatican City , April 1, 1944

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

It is hoped that the Holy See, in accordance with the principle of universal charity, will exercise such influence as they can to protect Jewish refugees in Hungary from being handed over to the German authorities.¹ It is understood that the influence of His Holiness has in the past been very effective in this matter, but it is appreciated that in changing circumstances action may be more difficult. In any case any action in this sense that it may be found feasible to take will be highly appreciated.²

¹ Chief Rabbi Hertz in London had written to the Delegate, Monsignor Godfrey, on March 22 (Arch. Deleg. London): "The very serious turn of events in Hungary renders the plight of the Jews in that country perilous in the extreme, and only the urgent intervention of His Holiness the Pope can save hundreds of thousands of human lives from the horrors that befell them in Rumania and Poland . As Chief Rabbi, I earnestly appeal for such intervention. The lay leaders of my community, as well as the Executive of the National Committee for Rescue from the Nazi Terror, wholeheartedly associate themselves in this appeal through you to His Holiness." Godfrey transmitted the request to the Vatican on March 30 (telegram no. 410, A.E.S. 1945/44): "The Holy See has been concerned about the fate of the Jewish residents in Hungary and has already appealed in this regard to the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest even though one does not have too much hope." The Delegate informed the Chief Rabbi of Maglione's response (letter of April 4; Archiv. Delegat. of London). Hertz immediately thanked him (letter of April 10, *ibid.*).

² The Secretariat of State responded to the legation on April 5 (A.E.S. 1839/44): "...The Holy See has renewed its earnest request with regard to the fate of the Jewish residents in Hungary through the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest ." The "Agudas Israel World Organisation" branch in London was informed by Monsignor Godfrey of the efforts by the Holy See on behalf of the Jews in Hungary . They thanked the Delegate on April 13.

Vol. 10, No 230, pp. 316-318.

The Apostolic Delegate Cicognani ~~in Washington~~ to Cardinal Maglione

Telegram, no. 176 (A.E.S. 3195/44)

Washington, June 13, 1944, 18 h. 05

rec'd, June 14

Solidarity of North American Bishops with Bishops of France ; they insist that the authorities protect religious monuments and works of art.

The following message is sent at the request of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare ~~Confer-ence~~ Conference. To His Eminence Cardinal Maglione. Your Eminence, it is reported that bishops of France have appealed to the bishops of the United States to intervene with responsible authorities in order that the civilian population and monuments of religion and art of France and Europe be spared the horrors of bombing. The bishops of the United States respectfully request Your Eminence to assure their brethren in France of their common and profound concern for the suffering of their defenseless flocks.

They concur in the attitude of their brother bishops of all countries in condemning indiscriminate bombing or similar methods of warfare which injure the innocent and helpless without the justification of military necessity. They ask however that all these be reminded that the bishops of this country since the outbreak of this frightful conflict have repeatedly urged that every precaution be taken to avoid unjustifiable destruction of life and property and have expressed deepest sympathy for the innocent victims of such warfare whether on the British and the Continent of Europe or Africa or Asia or among the afflicted islanders of the South Pacific. They have received assurance from their civil and military leaders that every precaution is being taken to confine the war within legitimate military objectives. The killing of innocent civilians and the destruction of property which is not being devoted to the war effort is indeed deplorable and they hope that any such things which have occurred have been the results of accidents and miscalculations. It is gratifying that our authorities have shown their desire to save from damage and destruction monuments of culture and history in the war area by setting up the American commission for the protection and salvage of artistic and historic monuments in

Europe¹ which cooperates closely with the military authorities. The bishops of the United States beg Your Eminence to assure their distressed brethren in France that their tragic plight and that of their flocks does not cease to be the object of the United States . In union with the Vicar of Christ they beseech Almighty God to lighten the burden of all suffering humanity and speedily to restore to all mankind the inestimable blessing of a peace of justice and charity. Signed Archbishops Mooney, Stritch, Spellman, McNicholas, Murray, Mitty, Rummel, Bishops Noll, Alter, Ryan.²

¹ “American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe ” (later “in War Areas”), the creation of which was announced on August 20, 1943.

² Edward Mooney (1882-1958), Archbishop of Detroit from 1937; Samuel Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago from 1939; Francis Spellman (1889-1967), Archbishop of New York from 1939; John McNicholas (1871-1950), Archbishop of Cincinnati from 1925; John Murray (1877-1956) Archbishop of St. Paul, Minnesota, from 1931; John Mitty (1887-1961), Archbishop of San Francisco from 1935; Joseph Rummel (1876--1947), Archbishop of New Orleans from 1935; John Noll (1875- 1956), Bishop of Fort Wayne from 1925; Karl Alter (1885--1977), Bishop of Toledo from 1931. James Ryan (1886-1947), Bishop of Omaha from 1935. The Secretariat of State sent a telegram to the Nuncio in Vichy (no. 571/A.E.S. 3193/44 on June 20) affirming that the American Episcopacy deplored the indiscriminate bombing in France .

Vol. 10, No. 241, pp. 326-327.

Charge' Chargé d'Affaires Tittmann to Cardinal Maglione

(A.E.S. 3980/44, orig.)

Vatican , June 24, 1944

The “War Refugee Board”, pointing out reports of an Board” reports on the imminent massacre of Jews in Hungary , and requests the intervention of the Holy Father.

I have been instructed by my Government in a telegram dated June 13, 1944 to deliver the following message to Your Eminence from the War Refugee Board, Washington:

“We know His Holiness has been sorely grieved by the wave of hate which has engulfed Europe and the consequent mass enslavement, persecution, deportation and slaughter of helpless men, women and children. His Holiness, we also know, has labored unceasingly to reinculcate a decent regard for the dignity of man activated by great compassion for the sufferings of a large portion of mankind. The tireless efforts of His Holiness to alleviate the lot of the persecuted, the hunted and the outcast are also known to us. We are certain His Holiness is aware of the deep feeling of abhorrence aroused in the American people by the mass deportations, persecutions, enslavement and slaughter in the Balkans, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Norway, Poland and elsewhere. We are confident that His Holiness is also aware of the deep concern of the Government of the United States relative to these reversions to usages of ancient barbarism and of the constant effort to prevent their recurrence which it has made.

We believe it is appropriate, because of the common concern of the Holy See and the Government and people of the United states with such matters, to call to the Holy See’s attention the apparently authentic reports that the present authorities in Hungary have undertaken to persecute the 800,000 Jews in Hungary and are planning their mass slaughter both in Hungary and after deportation to Poland merely because they are Jews. The authorities and people of Hungary have been warned by the Government of the United States of the material consequences that the perpetration of such inhuman acts of barbarism will entail. It is both timely and fitting we believe that the moral values involved and the spiritual consequences that must flow from indulgence in the persecutions and mass murder of helpless men, women and children be brought to the attention of the Hungarian authorities and people. We earnestly hope, therefore, that His Holiness may find it appropriate to express Himself on this subject to the authorities and people of Hungary, great numbers of whom profess spiritual adherence to the Holy See personally by radio through the Nuncio and clergy in Hungary as well as through a representative of the Holy See who might for that purpose be specially dispatched to Hungary.”¹

Monsignor Tardini’s Note:

25-6-44.

Seen by the Holy Father.

¹ See FRUS 1944, I, pp. 1068-69. Arthur D. Morse, in *While Six Million Died*, gives another version of this communication, under another date. This, according to him, was not forwarded.

Vol. 10, No. 253, p. 341

Archbishop Griffin of Westminster to Cardinal Maglione

Tel. nr. Telegram no. 548 (A.E.S. 4376/44) ——— London , July 3, 1944, 11 h. 48
rec'd, July 10, 13 h.

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

Have been requested by World Jewish Congress¹ to support their appeal to Holy Father to intervene on behalf of Hungarian Jews.²

¹ See no. 249.

² Answered on July 14 by telegram no. 179 (A.E.S. 4376/44), assuring that the "Holy See even through Papal Nunciature Budapest has left nothing undone and is still doing everything possible to alleviate sorrowful plight all those who are suffering on account nationality or race."

Vol. 10, No. 272, pp. 358-359.

The National Jewish Welfare Board to Pope Pius XII

No number (A.E.S. 6512/44, orig.) New York , July 21, 1944

Acknowledgment of Pope's efforts on behalf of Italian Jews

As freedom is being won back for the oppressed peoples of Europe, word comes to us from our army chaplains in Italy telling of the aid and protection given to so many Italian Jews by the Vatican and by priests and institutions of the Church during the Nazi occupation of the land. We are deeply moved by these stirring stories of Christian love, the more so as we know full well to what dangers many of those exposed themselves who gave shelter and aid to the Jews hunted by the Gestapo.

From the bottom of our heart we send to you, Holy Father of the church, the assurance of our unforgetting gratitude for this noble expression of religious brotherhood and love. We glory in this bloodless victory over the forces of evil that are bent on uprooting religion's eternal teachings of the sacredness of life and the oneness of humanity under God. It is our fervent prayer that your example, your influence and your intervention may yet save some of the remnant of the Jews in other lands who are marked down by the Germans for murder and extinction, and we pray that just as liberty has been restored to the Eternal City, so may freedom very soon be restored to all mankind. Then, with all men rescued from human tyranny, they may once more serve their fellow men and the God of all mankind in love, in freedom and in enduring peace.

Vol. 10, No. 273, p. 359

The World Jewish Congress to Cardinal Maglione

Telegram, no number (A.E.S. 4955/44) London , July 21, 1944
rec'd July 24

Thanking the Holy See for its intervention in Hungary , a final appeal to Regent Horthy is requested.

World Jewish Congress gratefully conscious His Holiness aid behalf sorely afflicted and menaced Jews Hungary which has been followed by offer of Regent of Hungary secure release certain categories of Jews particularly children. His

~~Holiness~~ His Holiness' efforts bring us new hope at eleventh hour of saving from death surviving remnants of decimated European Jewry and gives solace our persecuted brethren at moment of their present extinction. In expressing gratitude for Holy Father's noble humanitarian work we would respectfully and earnestly request his continued aid in urging Regent of Hungary speedily and practically carry out his offer by arranging quickest release greatest number of Jewish children and adults for whom sanctuary will be prepared and found.¹

¹ See No. 281.

Vol. 10, No. 291, pp. 374-375.

The Secretariate of State to British Minister Osborne

(A.E.S. 4970/44, draft)

Vatican , August 7, 1944

Intervention on behalf of civilian internees in Egypt .

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Excellency the British Minister to the Holy See and begs to call to his attention the situation of the civilian internees in Egypt . There are still about three thousand men interned in Egypt the vast majority of whom are of Italian nationality.¹

Internment has lasted many years and has resulted in very grave financial, social and moral difficulties amongst the families resident in Egypt . Active hostilities between Great Britain and Italy have long ago ceased. At the present stage of the war it is therefore suggested that the changed conditions are such as to make possible a general act of clemency which might not some months ago have recommended it—self to the authorities responsible for military security.²

His Excellency will understand that the Holy See is actuated in making such a request by motives of a humanitarian and religious order. Wherever it is possible, no matter what the race or the religion of those suffering from the consequences of the war, it has been and is the Christian policy of the Holy See to intervene in the sense of mercy and clemency.

It is confidently felt that His Majesty's Government will welcome this opportunity of restoring to complete liberty these three thousand men still interned in Egypt . They are practically all of them men capable of working and living as useful members of the community. In fact the Holy See is aware of what His Majesty's Government has already done for the useful employment of several thousands of ~~ex-~~

~~prisoners and ex-internees.~~ For ex-prisoners and ex-internees. For moral, social and financial reasons it is particularly the civilian internee who needs honourable employment in order to reestablish his family after the long sufferings of the War.

It is felt by the Holy See that the intervention of ~~His~~

His Majesty's Government would be sufficient to enable them to obtain release from internment and employment in accordance with their aptitudes.

Whilst realizing the wartime preoccupations of His Majesty's Government, the Secretariat of State nourishes the firm certainty that its urgent request for an act of clemency towards these internees will meet a favourable response from His Majesty's Government.³

¹ The Italian Ambassador thanked the Secretariat of State, Memo No. 269 of August 6, for the care given the Italian internees in Egypt (A.E.S. 4960/44).

² In a memo of August 7, the Secretariat of State request e d the liberation of Italian priests and religious interned in Egypt (A.E.S. 49979/44).

³ The response, dated August 13 (77/10/44; A.E.S. 5809/10/44) assures that "internment policy in Egypt has been dictated by the behaviour of the internees and by consideration of security. It has never been more harsh than these factors demanded; it has been constantly under review, and it has been relaxed greatly in conformity with changes in the situation."

Vol. 10, No. 298, p. 380.

The Archbishop of New York Spellman to Pope Pius XII

No number (A.S.S. 1944 Varia 1246 autogr.)

Rome, August 12, 1944

Recommendation of the Under-Secretary to the Minister of War Patterson and suggestions for an audience.

Judge Patterson¹ who will have the honor of an audience with Your Holiness tomorrow morning has been in charge of all the war production program of the American Government. He is under-secretary of State for war and his assistant, General Somervell,² will also accompany him to the audience. Judge Patterson is a very quiet type of man, of few words, but he is very close to President Roosevelt. Therefore I would, in all humility, suggest that Your Holiness speak most frankly with the Judge, explaining the needs of the Italians and the hopes of saving them for the family of nations, of the dangers and tragedies if the Italians do not get work with which to gain honestly their daily bread. Italy has been conquered but it can be saved and sincerely won to the Allied cause with justice, with understanding and with reasonable help or it can be lost to anarchy and chaos if she does not have help to help herself. I would suggest talking to Judge Patterson exactly as if talking with the President, and I would ask the Judge to bring Your Holiness's message to the President.

Monsignor Montini's memo:

Received in audience 13-8-44.

¹ Robert P. Patterson, Under-Secretary of War.

² Brehon B. Somervell.

Vol. 10, No. 305, pp. 389-394.

Roncalli, the Apostolic Delegate in Istanbul, to Hirschmann, Attaché of the United States Embassy

No. 4627 (Arch. Delegation, draft)

Istanbul, August 18, 1944

Information on the charitable work of the Delegation on behalf of Jews.

I hope you will not regard my delay in answering your letter and questionnaire¹ of August 1,⁺ as an indication of my lack of interest in your humanitarian work. The many requests for the charitable intervention of the Apostolic Delegation in connection with the recent political events in Turkey² have prevented an earlier reply.

I trust you will find the enclosed answers³ satisfactory and I repeat that I am always ready to help you in your charitable work as far as in my power and as far as circumstances permit.

Enclosure

REPLY TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
PRESENTED TO THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
BY MR. IRA A. HIRSCHMANN ON AUGUST 1, 1944

1. Because of the purely religious character of its mission and of the lack of official contact with the Diplomatic Corps, the Apostolic Delegation in Istanbul has no information regarding the present situation of the Jewish people in Hungary apart from that received from the Jewish Agency for Palestine and from the daily newspapers. The enclosed copy⁴ of the recent legislation of the Hungarian Government on this matter was the only communication received from the Hungarian Legation in Ankara on this subject.

2. a) At the request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of Chief Rabbi Herzog, the apostolic delegation Palestine and of Chief Rabbi Herzog, the Apostolic Delegation urged the Papal Secretariat of State to do all in its power to save the Jews in Hungary. The Secretariat of State replied that this was already being done and that the Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest was actively engaged in the same work.⁵

b) The apostolic Apostolic Delegation has forwarded by diplomatic courier several thousands of "Immigration Certificates" destined for Jews in Hungary. These were delivered to the persons concerned by the good offices of the apostolic Apostolic Nunciature in Budapest and the same apostolic Apostolic Nuncio later informed that those certificates had enabled their owners to escape transportation and to obtain the necessary permissions for Emigration.⁶

3. The telegrams of July 6th⁷ were merely further representations to the Papal Secretariat of State to intervene on behalf of the Jews in Hungary and Rumania . The actual text of these telegrams may not be revealed without the special permission of the Vatican authorities.

4-5. It is not the intention of the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegation to make any further representations on behalf of the Jewish people in Hungary: the only means of doing so is through the Papal Secretariat of State and it seems certain the Vatican has done and is doing its best, both directly and through the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Nuncio in Budapest, to ameliorate the conditions of the oppressed peoples. The ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegation in Istanbul is always willing to recommend particular documents which may be useful. It is also willing to recommend particular cases to the special care of the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Nuncio, as has been done for example, in the case of Rabbi Salomon Halberstan.⁸

6. There is no evidence that the Vatican has been instrumental in procuring special treatment for persons who are Jewish by definition but Christians by faith. The dispositions, however, promulgated by the Hungarian Government on July 8th (see copy enclosed) do distinguish between Jews in religion and converted Jews.⁹

7. In years past, the Holy See, in agreement with ~~the~~ the respective Governments, was able to obtain Immigration visas for some of the South American countries for limited numbers of Italian and German ~~Jews.~~⁴ ~~The apostolic~~ Jews.¹⁰ The Apostolic Delegation is unable to state whether any such projects are now in prospect.

8. In the present circumstances it would seem that the only assistance which the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegation can render in facilitating the emigration of Jews is in forwarding by courier the Immigration Certificates.

9. The ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegation has already made the desired inquiry and shall communicate immediately the reply of the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Nuncio in the matter.¹¹

10. Owing to the political nature of the accusations brought against the persons mentioned in the lists, the ~~apostolic~~ Apostolic Delegation feels that it is not in a position to take any action in the matter. Such representations would be better made directly to the Governments concerned through the medium of the American Embassy at the Vatican and the Papal Secretariat of State.¹²

¹ Archives of the Apostolic Delegation in Istanbul , no. 4627.

² On August 2nd, Turkey broke diplomatic relations with Germany .

³ See Enclosure I.

⁴ Unpublished.

⁵ See no. 249, note 1.

⁶ In his book, *Caution to the Winds* (New York, 1962, pp. 179-185), M. Hirschmann, refers to the same communication of August 18, making the Apostolic Delegate Monsignor Roncalli speak about the "baptismal certificates." Rather, as one can see, these were "immigration certificates," of the Jewish Agency for Palestine , represented by Chaim Barlas in Istanbul . Especially in Budapest , these became a kind of Jewish *Habeas Corpus*. On August 16, Roncalli sent these certificates to Nuncio Rotta (Delegation Archives, no. 4626), stating: "Since the package of "Immigration Certificates" sent in May contributed towards saving the Jews for whom they were designated, I also accepted from the "Jewish Agency for Palestine" these three packages of certificates, which I am forwarding to you, asking you to give them to the addressee, that is, Mr. Milkos (*sic*) Krausz [Moshe Kraus, secretary in Budapest for the Jewish Agency]. This mistake was used by Arthur D. Morse in *While Six Million Died*, cit., pp. 365-366.

⁷ Unidentified.

⁸ Unpublished.

⁹ See no. 265, note 6. Here is an excerpt: "...the following was agreed upon for Jews:

1. Sending baptized Jews to work abroad has ceased.

2. a) Special administration of baptized Jews was given to a "Council of Baptized Jews," constituted on July 6, 1944; b) Up until August 1st, baptized Jews will remain in the country, but it is ordered that they be separated from non-Jews. non-Jews; c) They will have every possibility to practice their religion.

3. a) The facilities ordered for domiciled Jews in Budapest will be extended to baptized Jews abroad; b) a revision about baptized Jews serving in the work force in Germany is envisioned.

4. As soon as possible, who is to be considered a converted Jew will be settled, non only for ages 16 to 60, but for Jews of all ages.

5. Jews who are not converted serving in work companies in Hungary will be replaced by baptized Jews.

6. Converted Jews will be authorized to quit working on Sundays and feast days at an hour that will permit them to satisfy their religious obligations.

7. Exempted from wearing the Jewish star are: a) members of priests' families of Christian sects/parents, brothers and sisters, spouses and infants of Protestant pastors; b) those wearing ecclesiastical-papal decorations; c) members of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher."

¹⁰ See *Actes* 6, no. 419, p. 524; *Actes* 9, no. 492, p. 637.

¹¹ The investigation requested, in no. 9: "Would Your Excellency feel free to inquire of the Apostolic Delegate in Budapest whether, by his presence as an observer of events, he might ascertain that the Hungarian government abides by the representations it has made in its recent announcement through the International Red Cross of its intention to initiate certain ameliorating conditions in its treatment of Jewish people in Hungary?"

¹² Hirschmann had sent a list of persons in Rumania and Hungary who were concerned for political reasons.

Vol. 10, No. 323, pp. 417-418.

The Secretariat of State to M. Amery

(A.E.S. 5836/44, draft)

Vatican , September 15, 1944

*Request for information on prisoners of war and internees.*¹

1. There is no news about the transfer of many Italian prisoners of war to Australia . The exact number and addresses of these is unknown. It would be very useful to secure a list of these Prisoners of War.

2. With reference to such a transfer, it is requested that the prisoners of war who are still in India , be sent to camps where the conditions of climate, milieu and hygiene are more suited to needs of these prisoners.

3. Many missionaries of Italian and German nationality were interned at the beginning of the war. It is requested that at least the Italian missionaries be left free in their residences. As to the Germans, it would be necessary to secure for them a way of living in keeping with their priestly and religious status.

¹These were the points mentioned by the Pope to Minister Leopold C. Amery, of India , during an audience on this day. The text was sent by the Secretariat of State. A second memo (unpublished), prepared by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith on ecclesiastical students of India and Ceylon in Rome , desiring to return to their country. In the response of November 28 addressed to "India Office, Whitehall , London ," M. Amery explained the dispositions taken by the authorities in India (A.E.S. 5836/44, unpublished).

Vol. 10, No. 337, pp. 429-430.

Pope Pius XII to United States Ambassador Taylor

(A.E.S. 7853/44, draft)

Vatican , October 4, 1944

The Pope supports and encourages the North American Agency for the help given to the Italians.

It was with real pleasure that We read Your Excellency's letter of September 18th,¹ in which on behalf of President Roosevelt and American Relief for Italy Inc., Your Excellency very kindly expressed appreciation of Our encouragement of the "National Agency for the Distribution of Relief Supplies for Italy".²

Constantly animated as We are by the resolve to avail Ourselves of every occasion to alleviate the sad consequences of a conflict which, alas, We were unable to prevent, We are most happy to give Our fullest support to an organization that has been set up with the object of bringing help to one of the peoples most severely tried by the war; all the more so because the elements constituting this National Agency give every reason for confidence in its lofty ideals and thorough efficiency. Indeed information already reaching Us affords gratifying proof of the earnestness of its generous, zealous leaders. This confidence has now been increased by the assurance Your Excellency gives that American Relief for Italy Inc., has accomplished much and we express the hope that, under the able and enlightened leadership of Your Excellency, other governmental and benevolent organizations will lend their hearty cooperation to further the most praiseworthy aims of this National Agency.

While then We implore the most plentiful blessings of God on the united efforts of all concerned with these noble enterprises, We voice the prayer that the work already begun may develop and grow apace and that it may serve to offer suffering peoples an unmistakable testimony of the active presence in the world of that Christian charity without which justice would be inadequate to ensure for mankind the inestimable gift of peace.

We are happy on this occasion to renew the expression of Our sincere good wishes to Your Excellency.

¹ See no. 326, note 3.

² See no. 326, note 4.

Vol. 10, No. 355, p.444.

The secretary of the Jewish World Congress Easternman to
Pope Pius XII

Telegram. no. 996 (A.E.S. 6915/44)
London, October 14, 1944, 16 h.35
rec'd October 16, 11 h.30

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

Desperate appeals reaching us save surviving Jews in Hungary.¹ Germans now preparing carry out plans deporting three hundred thousand men, women, children. Your Holiness intervention by public call in name of humanity may avert this appalling tragedy. We are sure our ill fated innocent people will not appeal in vain for utmost and urgent last hour efforts save them from doom.²

¹ See no. 321, notes.

² See no. 362.

Vol. 10, No. 357. p. 446.

Memo by Monsignor Tardini

(A.E.S. 6915/44, autogr.)

Vatican , October 18, 1944

On the The Holy See's efforts on behalf of the Jews.

Today Mr. Taylor¹ was accompanied to the audience by a U.S. Representative² who asked His Holiness many questions (Can you imagine how much a woman who belongs to Parliament speaks!). Mr. Taylor gave the Holy Father copy of a telegram from London about the Jews.³

The responses of the Holy See must be complete and heartfelt. To say simply "we will do all that is possible" seems like bureaucratic coldness. Even though little may be obtained, the Holy See must demonstrate its interest.⁴

¹ Roosevelt 's personal representative.

² Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, Republican Congressional representative from Massachusetts .

³ From the World Jewish Congress, no. 355

⁴ On October 31 Taylor transmitted the weekly report to the director of the Committee for Refugees in Washington . It read: "I also want to pay tribute to many non-Jewish groups and individuals who have shown a true Christian spirit in their quick and friendly reaction in support of the helpless of Europe . This help has come from both Protestant and Catholic organizations. The American Friends Service Committee and the Unitarian Service Committee have made important contributions, as have other Protestant groups. The record of the Catholic church in this regard has been inspiring. All over Europe , Catholic priests have furnished hiding places and protection to the persecuted. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, has interceded on many occasions in behalf of refugees in danger. In this country, too, we have received help from Catholic leaders. At a most critical point in the Hungarian situation, Archbishop Spellman wrote a truly impressive supplication to the Catholics of that country to protect and help the Jews. This moving statement was broadcast in Hungarian, and reprints of it were dropped over Hungary " (A.E.S. 7125/44). See the same testimony, a year later, in the "Final Summary Report" of the War Refugee Board of September 15, 1945. See no. 117.

Vol. 10, No. 396, p. 484.

United States Ambassador Taylor to the Secretariat of State

Memo no. 267 (A.E.S. 7627/44)

Rome , November 15, 1944

Intervention for foreign Jews in Slovakia .

The Personal Representative of the President of the United States of America to His Holiness the Pope presents his compliments to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness and has the honor to transmit herewith the substance of an urgent telegram received from the Department of State at Washington, concerning the welfare of Jews in Slovakia who claim nationality of the United States and of other Republics of America:

“November 11, 1944. The State Department has received information that German authorities in Slovakia have begun evacuation from a camp at Marianka of Jews who claim nationality of the United States¹ and of other Republics of America. It is reported that Auschwitz is the destination of the persons being removed. Will you please request the Swiss to inform the German Government that the Government of the United States urgently expects to obtain assurances that no action has been taken by the German authorities in Slovakia which deprived claimants of citizenship in the United States of any rights to which they are entitled. If the rights have been deprived any of the claimants of citizenship in the United States or if they have been removed from Slovakia to other areas under German control, the names of the persons concerned and information concerning their whereabouts and welfare should be provided by the German Government. Please telegraph ~~developments~~”. developments.”

In transmitting the foregoing information to the Secretariat of State of His Holiness it is suggested that the Holy See may wish to request its Apostolic Nunciature at Bratislava to give this information to the local authorities and express expectation that the persons released to them by the German authorities will be given humane treatment.²

¹ See no. 345.

² See no. 402. Answered on November 26 (no. 406).

Vol. 10, No. 398, pp. 485-486.

The Secretariat of State to Ambassador Taylor

(A.S.S. 87033/S, draft)

Vatican , November 17, 1944

_Request on behalf of Italian prisoners interned by the Allies in Italy.¹

It has been reported that there are at present time about 10,000 Italian Prisoners of War who are rendering service to various units of the Allied Armed Forces.

The special interest of the Holy See has been requested on behalf of these prisoners in view of the fact that they are in the position of being prisoners within the confines of their own national territory which has, moreover, now been declared free and subject to Italian national authority.

It would be an act of real generosity if a free status were to be given to these prisoners who could then still continue to render service even after they had been granted this freedom.

Monsignor Montini's memo :

14-12-44.

Entrusted to Monsignor McGeough² for Ambassador M. Taylor.

¹ Request made after an appeal by General Pietro Gazzera, High Commissioner for prisoners of war, sent on November 7. On January 15, 1945, Monsignor Montini was able to communicate, after information from Taylor , that Washington was still waiting for a counter-proposition from the Italians.

² Monsignor Joseph McGeough, of the Archdiocese of New York (1903-1970), in the service of the Secretariat of State; later, Representative of the Holy See in Ethiopia and in South Africa. Since 1960, Titular Bishop of Emesa.

Vol. 10, No. 418, pp. 512-513.

Monsignor Tardini to Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate in Washington

Telegram no. 2045 (A.E.S. 8100/44) Vatican , December 14, 1944

The Holy See's efforts on behalf of Slovak Jews.

Apostolic Nunciature Berlin solicitously interested on behalf of Jews relating to Your Excellency's telegram 2466,¹ dated sixth of month² stating German Government responded that since these Jews are citizens of South American Republics they have their own powerful protection.

Regarding Slovak Jews, the Holy See has repeatedly and in many ways tried to help them both directly and ~~through~~ through the Apostolic Nunciature Bratislava, inviting the Slovak Episcopate to develop more intense activity.³ Then, recently, once again this Slovak Legation expressed its vivid regrets about the measures adopted and, in particular, for the transfer of Jews from the territory of the Republic, contrary to assurances given.⁴

The above-mentioned Legation, with memo of the fifth of the month,⁵ answered that the Slovak Government protested, however in vain, with the German authorities against such transfer and that the German authorities should have informed the Slovak Government that Jews having American passports could be exchanged with United States citizens and that until they arrive in Germany, those Jews would remain on German territory and would be (according to the memo) treated in a suitable manner.⁶

¹ November 17, 1944 (A.E.S. 7694/44) concerning assistance to Jews deported to Germany .

² This is telegram no. 367, December 5 (A.E.S. 8100/44). See no. 375, note 3.

³ See no. 382, no. 402, no. 406.

⁴ See no. 403.

⁵ See no. 403, note 4.

⁶ Cicognani communicated this information to Stettinius on December 16 (581/42), who responded on December 26, 1944: "The continuing efforts of the Holy See and the Apostolic Nuncio in Berlin and Bratislava on behalf of persecuted Jews are most gratifying to the agencies of this government concerned with this difficult problem and I desire to express the appreciation of the Department of State to the Holy See and to you for these persistent humanitarian activities" (Arch. Delegat. Washington). In return, the Chief Rabbi Hertz wrote to Godfrey, on 5-1-45: "All the deeper is our appreciation of the sympathy that His Holiness the Pope, and all those associated in the leadership of the Vatican , have shown in the fate of our doomed brethren. The whole House of Israel will be ever mindful of the many and persistent efforts that have been made by Roman Catholic authorities to rescue Jews threatened with barbarous murder. I should be deeply grateful if you would kindly convey to His Holiness our warmest expressions of lasting gratitude" (Archives Apost. Deleg. London).

Vol. 10, No. 443, p. 535.

Ambassador Taylor to Monsignor Tardini

No number (A.E.S. 484/45, orig.)

Rome , February 1, 1945

Request for Pope's intervention on behalf of Jews.

We have received the enclosed telegram from London¹ having relation to the reported annihilation of Jewish people remaining in German occupied territories.

The Marchioness of Reading,² President of the British Section World Jewish Congress, requests that His Holiness through channels which He may find available use His influence to prevent further cruel and inhuman treatment of the Jewish people. We also urge this intervention and bespeak a more Christian and humane attitude toward this unfortunate race. ³

Monsignor Tardini's Note:

2-2-45.

To review ...

To suggest ...

Monsignor Dell'Acqua's Note:

February 2, 1945.

It is well-known that little can be obtained from the German government for the Jews.

¹This telegram, dated January 26, 1945 (A.E.S. 484/45), also announced that a similar request had been made of the International Red Cross for application of the 1929 Geneva Convention and of the 1934 Tokyo project.

²Wife of the Marquis Gerald Rufus Isaac, president of the English Section of the Jewish World Congress (cf. *Lexikon des Judentums*, col. 652).

³Response to Taylor of February 7, 1945 (A.E.S. 484/45) that the Holy See had asked the Nunciature in Berlin to intervene in this regard with the German government.

Vol. 10, No. 460, p. 551

The Secretariat of State and the British Legation

(A.S.S. 90430/SA, draft)

Vatican , March 2, 1945

Return of Italian civilians from Albania .

The Secretariat of state of His Holiness presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Legation and takes the liberty to recommend the following matter to the latter's kind attention and consideration.

The Secretariat of State has been reliably informed that efforts are being exerted, with some considerable hope of success, to effect the repatriation of all Italian women, children and sick persons from Albania.¹

With a view to furthering this very worthy cause, the Secretariat of State warmly recommends it to the good offices of His Majesty's Legation in the confident hope that the charitable project may soon be realized.²

¹An office memo of January 19 (A.S.S. 90430) concerning about 50 persons of the National Bank of Albania in ~~tirana~~ Tirana, states: "Spoke to an important person of the Italian Foreign Ministry, who had already been informed about matters. What now remains is: a) inform the interested party; b) study if steps should be taken for all Italians in ~~Albanians~~ Albania (cf. Report of Monsignor ~~Nigris~~ and Nigris); and, for this particular case appeal to the Allies."

And Montini added: "Inform the Bank of our interest. Arrange for entry of all women and children."

² A similar memo was addressed to Taylor .

Vol. 10, No. 461, p. 551.

Notes of the Secretariat of State

(A.S.S. 90445, SA, orig.)

— Vatican , March 3, 1945

The Holy See's attitude regarding the post-war situation.

I received Mr. Conway's¹ telephone call at the Allied Communications Center, via 23 Aprile, Saturday, March 3, at 5,15 p.m. Mr. Conway had prepared eight questions, (approved by the American censors) on which he was anxious that the Holy Father offer some comment. He asked if he might not be put into direct contact with His Holiness. When he realized that this would not be possible, he asked if I might offer some comment. I replied that, if he wished, he could read the questions to me and that if there were any comment to be made I would let him know later by cable. Then he posed the following questions:

1. Whether His Holiness has any ideas regarding greater cooperation between the United States and the Vatican for post-war organization and post-war peace.

2. How are conditions in Italy and what might the United States do to ameliorate conditions there?

3. Has the Holy Father any comment to make on the Yalta results so far announced by Roosevelt and Churchill?²

I expressed appreciation of this thoughtfulness in making this transatlantic call (the second call made since the resumption of service) and added that if there were any comment to be made on his questions I would inform him of it by cable.

Perhaps it would be well to send the attached cablegram.³

¹ Mr. Robert Conway, of the *New York Daily News*. These memos were received through Carroll.

² The Yalta Conference with Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin on February 11, 1945.

³ A telegram to Conway signed by Carroll (A.S.S. 90445) stated: "No comment here at present regarding matters proposed in interesting telephone conversation. Kindest personal regards." But the text approved by Tardini and sent on March 7 (no number) is as follows: "Offer following comment on question proposed in interesting telephone conversation: -1) Vatican willing and anxious all times afford fullest cooperation any undertaking aimed at establishing just and enduring peace and at advancing the welfare of human society. Question 2) Vatican , deeply concerned over tragic fate of poor

unfortunate victims of war everywhere, would view with particular satisfaction and appreciation any efforts expended towards improving their lot and towards providing them with possibility of decent livelihood. Question 3) No comment.”

Vol. 10, No. 466, pp. 557-559.

The Apostolic Delegate Cicognani in Washington to Monsignor Tardini

Rap. no. 718/45 (A.E.S. 2712/45, orig.) Washington , March 9, 1945

Report on the conditions of Poland occupied by the Russians.

Yesterday Mr. Waclaw Bitner, Esq. (Attorney, Director of the Polish Catholic Press Agency, 2 East 65th Street, New York, 21, N.Y.), came to the Delegation to present the attached document.¹

Miss Bytniewska Ir., who prepared it, was part of a secret Polish organization (“Polish Underground”), succeeded in fleeing from Poland and is now in New York . Before leaving the country, she was able to see His Excellency, Archbishop Sapieha, of Cracow . Unable to write in that difficult moment, he confided his appeal to the bishops of the United States verbally to her. She has recorded his words and his thought with great accuracy. Because Russian troops now occupy Cracow , she requests that you do not mention the Archbishop’s name.

I have already used and will continue to use this document in my conversations with bishops.

Monsignor Tardini’s Note:

31-3-45, V[isto] S[anto] P[adre]. (Seen by the Holy Father.)

Enclosure

ARCHBISHOP SAPIEHA’S APPEAL TO AMERICAN BISHOPS AND TO THE BISHOPS AND CLERGY OF THE CATHOLIC WORLD

Unable to send this appeal by mail or wire, and being cut off from the Apostolic See and the world, I am entrusting it to a lieutenant of the Polish Underground Army to be communicated to the Bishops and Catholic Clergy of America, to Catholic Poles abroad and to Catholics the world over.

In the name of God the Lord and His church, in the name of justice and humanity I implore you to appeal to all Catholics of your country and to your competent government authorities—to defend the Christians and the whole population of Poland against acts of violence, deportations and executions as practiced actually in Poland by the Soviet occupants.

I emphasize it quite particularly that this Bolshevik tide is endangering the entire Christian world, and that contrary to promises and to information from Soviet sources, the Church and Christianity in Poland are being utterly and cynically exterminated by the Bolsheviks.

In order of giving you a picture of what is actually going on in Poland , I give you herewith a few facts and figures concerning the events which occurred in December and in the first half of January:

1. 417 priests from the Lublin district have been deported into the interior of Russia . The Lublin Theological Seminary has been liquidated.
2. Twelve priests, professors of the Lublin University , have been executed by the Bolsheviks.
3. The monastery of the Capuchin Fathers in Lublin has been liquidated.
4. It is being reported in the Tarnow district that the Bolsheviks are closing Churches and parochial schools. The teaching of religion in public schools has been forbidden.
5. Children of school age are being deported into the interior of Russia . From the vicinity of the city of Tarnow alone, eight hundred children have thus been deported.⁴

Having no possibility of communicating with the Vatican in the name of all tortured Poles, I appeal to the American Bishops to exert all their efforts in behalf of Poland , the victim of unspeakable wrongs and persecution and to communicate the contents of this appeal of mine to the Holy Father. I appeal simultaneously to the Catholic Poles and to Americans of Polish origin to do their utmost in supporting our President and our Government in London , and to devote their best efforts to maintain Catholic institutions abroad and in Poland . I have no certitude whatever as to the possibility of maintaining in the future mutual communications with the rest of the world, and of informing you of further developments in Poland .

¹ See Enclosure.

² Adam S. Sapieha (1867-1951), Archbishop of Cracow from 1925.

³ The city of Cracow was occupied by the Russian army on January 19. See no. 436, n. 3.

⁴ A note by the Polish Ambassador reveals statistics of Polish children deported to the URSS, statistics established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that gave these figures: Evacuated to Iran, 15,000; deceased in URSS, 40,000; remaining in URSS (according to the registers), 77,834; remaining in URSS (but not registered), 7,000. Total 139,834. (Note of 7-9-44, A.S.S. 83636).

Vol. 10, No. 478, p. 569.

Monsignor Montini to Reverend Landi.¹

(A

(A.S.S. 92641/SA, draft)

Vatican, .S.S. 92641/SA, draft)

Vatican , April 16, 1945

Assistance offered to the Pope by American Catholics to support his charitable works.

Amongst the countless appeals made to the Holy Father for His charitable assistance in cases of dire need, there are to be noted, especially, numerous requests for clothing and shoes addressed directly to the common Father by persons who have been deprived of even these basic needs by the tragic events of recent years.

His Holiness is making every effort to come to the assistance of these poor unfortunates, but, naturally, there are limitations imposed on Him by the fact that the material resources available can satisfy only a portion of the demand. In view of these limitations, I am taking the liberty to forward to you the enclosed specimens of the requests that are addressed to the Holy Father, daily, in great numbers. It is interesting to note in this regard that scores of these heart-rending pleas for help have already been received from one diocese alone.

The magnificent assistance of the American Catholics to the people of Italy has been a source of inspiration and consolation to all who have at heart the welfare of the human race. It is with a grateful remembrance of that assistance that I am forwarding the enclosed letters to you in the hope that it may be found possible, through your good offices, and generous efforts, to obtain, perhaps from the same sources, a measure of collaboration in this charity which is so near and dear to the paternal heart of the Common Father.

Monsignor Montini's note:

Seen by the Holy Father, April 17, 1945.

¹The Reverend Andrew Landi (from Brooklyn), representing the "War Relief Services" of the United States Episcopacy.

Vol. 10. No. 481 , p. 572.

The Secretariat of State to the British Legation

(A.S.S. 90478/SA, draft)

Vatican , April 19, 1945

Request on behalf of the Italian internees in Germany.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has been requested¹ to call to the attention of the competent Allied authorities the unfortunate situation of Italian military personnel interned in Germany by the authorities of that country.

It has been learned that the Allied authorities have accorded to Italian soldiers captured while fighting under the Allied Command and successively liberated by the advancing armies the status of recovered United Nations prisoners of war. For the other categories of Italians, whether military or civilian, liberated from German prisons or internment camps, instructions have been issued that they shall be considered as displaced persons and treated as such. It is urged that a general category of prisoners of war, as in the first classification, would be an efficacious mean towards the alleviation of their present anomalous position with the accompanying uncertainty and preoccupation for the future fate of these soldiers on the part of their families.²

¹ By the Commissioner for Prisoners of War, General Pietro Cazzera.

² Osborne responded on April 21 (no. 85/2/45. A.S.S. 90478/SA) that “since the question appears to be one concerning primarily the Italian Government, a copy of the Note is being communicated to His Britannic Majesty’s Ambassador for such action as he may deem desirable.” The same Note Memo was addressed to Taylor, who responded on April 30 (no. 410, A.S.S. 90478/SA).

Vol. 10, No. 482, p. 573.

Pope Pius XII to Archbishop Cushing of Boston¹

(A.S.S. 91186, draft)

Vatican , April 23, 1945

The Pope acknowledges the offering from the Diocese of Boston for war victims.

It has been for Us a source of intimate pleasure and consolation to receive from you, Venerable Brother, your kind greetings for the Feast of Our Lord’s Nativity and the assurance of the prayerful intercession of the Clergy and Faithful of Boston being offered for Our intentions and inspired by your pastoral example and guidance.

The burden of heavy sorrow which it has been our lot to bear during the years of Our Pontificate in sharing the trials of Our countless children suffering everywhere, would indeed be insupportable were it not for the sustaining heavenly graces bestowed upon Us by Divine Providence through the devout prayer of Our Catholic people throughout the world. May it be a comfort to Our beloved sons and daughters of your Archdiocese to know how greatly We appreciate their prayers, as well as an encouragement for them to continue their spiritual support in the increasing difficulties of this critical hour.

It is likewise with particular gratitude that We note the extraordinary testimony of your generosity and desire to share Our efforts to lighten, at least in some small part, the present widespread suffering as evidenced by the munificent donation which you have forwarded to Us.² The fact that this amount, destined by you for the Vicar of Christ, has come from the spontaneous tribute offered by the loyal Clergy and Faithful of Boston to their new Archbishop,³ has brought us an added joy and consolation, and deserves a special expression of Our appreciation to those who contributed. It is Our wish, Venerable Brother, that you convey Our sentiments of gratitude, in pledge of which We cordially impart to them and to their Beloved Pastor, Our affectionate and paternal Apostolic Benediction.

¹ Monsignor Richard Cushing (1895-1970), Archbishop of Boston from 1944.

² On January 3, 1945, Monsignor Cushing sent the Holy Father the sum of \$100,000. This arrived on March 12. A note of Montini states: “Ex Aud. SS.mi 18-3-45. Hold for the Pope’s Soup Kitchens” (prot. 91.186).

³ Monsignor Cushing succeeded ~~Card.~~ Cardinal William O’Connell on September 25, 1944.

Vol. 10, No. 487, p. 576.

Monsignor Montini to Archbishop Mooney of Detroit¹

(A.S.S. 90194/SA, draft)

Vatican, May 3, 1945

Acknowledgment of the Pope for assistance given by the Catholics of the United States .

His Holiness Pope Pius XII, who has followed with the greatest interest the noble initiative which the Bishops of the United States, through their auxiliary Organization, the “War Relief Services” of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, have so successfully undertaken to assist the suffering throughout the world, has graciously given to me the very pleasant duty of conveying to you , to Archbishops ~~Stritch² and Spellman³~~ Stritch² and Spellman³ and the other members of the Administrative Board this expression of His ~~paternal~~ paternal appreciation.

The Holy Father has noted the vast extent of these activities embracing, as they do, so many of those countries which have been devastated by the war and left prone by the innumerable phases of human suffering produced in the course of the mighty

cataclysm presently afflicting mankind. That this opportunity for giving concrete expression to the promptings of Christian charity should have been availed of so promptly and effectively manifests yet once again the practical and truly universal character of the spirit of Catholic Action in the United States and the unstinting generosity of your faithful people.

With particular satisfaction the ~~supreme~~ Supreme Pontiff has learned of the charitable activity in favor of the multitudes of Polish people scattered over three continents in their enforced exile from their homeland as a result of the war. This is indeed a magnificent work and is, in very fact, a fulfilment of Our Divine Lord's admonition to His followers to spend themselves in the works of mercy. That it is done in His name is evident to all; and that it will redound to the honor and glory of your noble country in bountiful blessings upon the Nation and upon those who have made possible the achievement of such great good, has for its guarantee the divine promise of Our Savior.

Here in Italy especially His Holiness has been afforded the opportunity of evaluating your munificent gesture of Christian charity in coming to the aid of a people so gravely afflicted by a conflict which has affected the greater part of its territory and brought in its wake misery to the most remote hamlets. The clothing collected in such large quantities together with the foodstuffs and other supplies already sent or to be shipped, has been and will be a saving boon to innumerable innocent victims; and the knowledge that these generous donations have come from the Catholics of America has been a source of profound consolation and solace to the Common Father and to the clergy and Catholic populations of Italy for it has been an unmistakable manifestation of the fraternal charity and compassion of their brethren in the United States.

As an earnest expression of His particular affection and gratitude for all that has been accomplished and for the great good which your charitable program of relief so nobly envisions for future accomplishment, His Holiness imparts from His heart to Your Excellency and your fellow Bishops of the American Hierarchy, as well as to your zealous co-laborers on the staff of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and its "War Relief Services" His paternal Apostolic Benediction.

¹ Monsignor Edward Mooney.

² Archbishop of Chicago .

³ Archbishop of New York.

List of Documents

Volume 1

Le Saint Siège et la guerre en Europe [The Holy See and the War in Europe , March 1939-August 1940] 1970, 558pp.

Rome, May 6, 1939

Britain's first response to Pius XII's peace conference proposal.

Washington, May 15, 1939

The Pope wishes to inform President [Franklin D.] Roosevelt of the steps taken toward peace talks.

Rome, July 11, 1939

The Apostolic Delegate communicates with Secretary of State Sumner Welles on the international situation.

Vatican, August 16, 1939

Consists of alleged Press information, sent by Great Britain 's Minister. The Internuncio of Holland wired the same information

Rome, August 26, 1939

Great Britain's minister wishes to transmit personally to the Pope, Lord Halifax's thanks for the message of peace.

Rome, August 26, 1939

From London , the following proposal was suggested: Make Danzig and Corridor a free city, protected by the other Powers.

Washington, February 14, 1940

Roosevelt thanks the Pope for receiving Myron Taylor, serving as intermediary to work toward peace and harmony among peoples.

Volume 5

Le Saint Siège et la guerre mondiale [The Holy See and the World War, July 1941-October 1942] 1969, 795pp.

Vatican, September 19, 1942

The United States will fight until total victory; the Pope must not be carried away by Axis propaganda in favor of a peace compromise.

Vatican, September 22, 1942

The Pope is not disposed toward a peace compromise that would consist of oppression of the rights and consciences of certain nations.

Vatican, September 22, 1942

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Vatican, September 26, 1942

Report on religion in Russia .

Volume 6

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre [The Holy See and the Victims of the War, March 1939-December 1940] 1972, 559pp.

Jerusalem, May 1, 1939

Request for Papal Audience.

Vatican, May 13, 1939

The Chief Rabbi will be received by the Cardinal Secretary of State

Rome, September 13, 1939

News about the bombing of the Germans in Poland .

Vatican, December 31, 1939

Thanks for the gift offered to the Pope by the American Jewish organizations.

Vatican, March 21, 1940

Thanks for the gift offered to Cardinal Hlond by the Americans and a request to continue the help.

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Information on the work of papal assistance to Poland .

Jerusalem, May 12, 1940 *The Grand Rabbi asks the intervention of the*

Holy See for the Polish Jews in Lithuania .

Armagh, May 14, 1940

The Cardinal sends a telegram from Chief Rabbi Herzog.

Vatican, June 5, 1940

Request for information about the Poles arrested and deported by the Russians.

Rome, July 15, 1940

Recognition of the efforts of the Holy See in Poland .

Rome, October 6, 1940

The United States can do nothing for the Poles residing in territory occupied by the Russians.

Volume 7

Le Saint Siège et la guerre mondiale [The Holy See and the World War, November 1942-December 1943] 1973, 767pp.

Washington, June 16, 1943

Roosevelt appreciates Pius XII's efforts regarding Italy and promises that the air attacks will be limited to military objectives.

Washington, June 29, 1943

The President promised that Italy would be able to choose its own government. Meanwhile the United States must continue the war, but had no intention of damaging Rome 's artistic and cultural patrimony.

Vatican, July 7, 1943

Prime Minister Eden rejects the idea to declare Rome an open city. The English will bomb the city if necessary.

Vatican, July 20, 1943

Message following the bombing of Rome . As a neutral State, the Holy See wishes that the homes of the poor be spared. The Pope witnessed the destruction in Rome , and deploras the bombing of cities. He hopes Rome will be spared new attacks.

Washington, September 15, 1943

Disappointment created among American Catholics by the aerial bombardments of Rome , and the present difficult situation. Responsibility of the government; measures to be taken.

Vatican, November 7, 1943

The Bristish government always promised that the Vatican would be carefully spared.

Vatican, November 8, 1943

The American government will search for those responsible for the bombing of the Vatican .

Volume 8

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre [The Holy See and Victims of the War, January 1941-December 1942], 1974, 807pp.

Vatican, March 31, 1941

Request to facilitate the work of the Information Service for Prisoners of War.

Vatican, April 23, 1941

The help asked for Belgium will only aid the Germans and prolong the war.

Vatican, May 12, 1941

The English Government will facilitate visits by papal representatives to prison camps.

Vatican, May 19, 1941

Renewed efforts to obtain lists of prisoners of war.

Vatican, September 25, 1941

Request for intervention in order to obtain information about prisoners of war in Russia .

London, September 26, 1941

Request for intervention in favor of Belgians condemned to death by the Germans.

Vatican, September 29, 1941

Assistance to Poles deported to Russia .

Rome, November 26, 1941

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Vatican, January 30, 1942

Information on the prisoners of war in Russia

Vatican, February 2, 1942

8,000 tons of grain will be transported to Greece , but this does not release the occupying Government of its responsibility

Vatican, February 19, 1942

The United States did not obtain any information on the prisoners of war in Russia ; general information on the organization of the central bureau of information in the United States .

Vatican, March 18, 1942

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Vatican, March 25, 1942

For the exchange of wounded prisoners of war, the good offices of the Holy See are no longer needed.

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Request to intervene for Dutch interned in Spain .

Vatican, April 27, 1942

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Vatican, June 10, 1942

Request to intervene for Roman Jews condemned to forced labor.

Vatican, June 19, 1942

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Vatican, August 19, 1942

Request to intervene for Polish internees in Spain .

Vatican, August 27, 1942

Renewed insistence for liberation of Polish internees in Spain .

Vatican, October 3, 1942

News on the famine in Greece ; severe warning to the Italians who are responsible for the destiny of the population

Vatican, October 5, 1942

Internment of British prisoner who fled from an Italian camp and took refuge in the Vatican .

London, November 6, 1942

Request to stop reprisals against prisoners of war.

London, December 23, 1942

Request to intervene for Jews in Eastern Europe threatened with annihilation.

Vatican, December 29, 1942

Joint Declaration of the Allies regarding the persecution of the Jews by the Germans.

Volume 9

Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre [The Holy See and the Victims of War, January-December 1943]
1975, 689pp.

Vatican, January 7, 1943

The Holy See and Poland (partial translation).

Vatican, January 7, 1943

New request for the Holy See's intervention in favor of the persecuted Jews.

Vatican, February 15, 1943

Request to facilitate the work of the Vatican Information Service, particularly in Northern Africa .

Vatican, March 1, 1943

Vatican assistance to war victims in Greece . Assistance to the Poles. Vatican activities on behalf of refugees, especially Jews. Memorandum on Vatican efforts to promote the exchange of sick and maimed prisoners. Solicitude for prisoners of war and internees. Activities on behalf of prisoners in Russia and Russian prisoners elsewhere. Difficulties met by the Information Service. Statistics of activities. Information on prisoners of war transported to the United States .

Washington, August 13, 1943

Request to facilitate the work of the Vatican Information Service

Maison-Carreé (Algiers), November 13, 1943

Report on activities, of the Information Service established in Algiers , and on the situation in general.

Madrid, December 14, 1943

Report on activities, on communications with Sicily and Southern Italy, on the Information Service for prisoners of war, and on visits to prison camps.

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Le Saint Siège et les victimes de la guerre [The Holy See and Victims of the War, January 1944-July 1945] 1980, 684pp.

New York, February 18, 1944

Acknowledgment to the Pope for his interventions on behalf of the persecuted Jews in Europe .

Vatican, April 1, 1944

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

Washington, June 13, 1944

Solidarity of North American Bishops with Bishops of France ; they insist that the authorities protect religious monuments and works of art.

Vatican, June 24, 1944

The "War Refugee Board" reports on the imminent massacre_of Jews in Hungary , and requests the intervention of the Holy Father.

London, July 3, 1944

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

New York, July 21, 1944

Acknowledgment of Pope's efforts on behalf of Italian Jews

London, July 21, 1944

Thanking the Holy See for its intervention in Hungary , a final appeal to Regent Horthy is requested.

Vatican, August 7, 1944

Intervention on behalf of civilian internees in Egypt .

Rome, August 12, 1944

Recommendation of the Under-Secretary to the Minister of War_Patterson and suggestions for an audience.

Istanbul, August 18, 1944

Information on the charitable work of the Delegation on behalf of Jews.

Vatican, September 15, 1944

Request for information on prisoners of war and internees

Vatican, October 4, 1944

The Pope supports and encourages the North American Agency for the help given to the Italians.

London, October 14, 1944

Request for intervention on behalf of Hungarian Jews.

Vatican, October 18, 1944

Intervention for foreign Jews in Slovakia

Rome, November 15, 1944

The Holy See's efforts on behalf of the Jews

Vatican, November 17, 1944

Request on behalf of Italian prisoners interned by the Allies in Italy .

Vatican, December 14, 1944

The Holy See's efforts on behalf of Slovak Jews.

Rome, February 1, 1945

Request for Pope's intervention on behalf of Jews.

Vatican, March 2, 1945

Return of Italian civilians from Albania .

Vatican, March 3, 1945

The Holy See's attitude regarding the post-war situation.

Washington, March 9, 1945

Report on the conditions of Poland occupied by the Russians.

Vatican, April 16, 1945

Assistance offered to the Pope by American Catholics to support his charitable works.

Vatican, April 19, 1945

Request on behalf of the Italian internees in Germany.

Vatican, April 23, 1945

The Pope acknowledges the offering from the Diocese of Boston for war victims.

Vatican, May 3, 1945

Acknowledgment of the Pope for assistance given by the Catholics of the United States .