

**With regard to safe passage of SS TARI boat, with 1,500 Jewish refugees –  
from Romania through Turkey, on its way to Palestine**

From: Secretary of State, Washington  
To: American Embassy, Ankara  
Date: April 17, 1944  
Number: 342

“... Hirschmann [War Refugee Board] informs me that Simond [Red Cross] has expressed to him unequivocally, unreserved confidence that von Papen [German ambassador] would arrange to obtain this safe conduct without delay... Assuming that the German safe conduct has not been obtained Hirschmann urges that both Simond and the **Apostolic Delegate from Istanbul [Roncalli]** arrange to see von Papen in person in order to again urge granting of safe conduct without delay...”

\* \* \*

From: Steinhardt, American Embassy, Ankara  
To: Secretary of State, Washington  
Date: April 22, 1944  
Number: 726

“... Referring to the unreserved confidence which Simond expressed to Hirschmann that von Papen would secure the German safe-conduct for the SS Tari without delay and that if it has not yet been secured, the **Apostolic Delegate to Istanbul** and Simond try to see von Papen to press the request and I confer with Simond personally without delay... From the reports I have received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Simond, I am satisfied that von Papen has been pressing for the safe-conduct from his government.”

\* \* \*

From: Steinhardt, American Embassy, Ankara  
To: Secretary of State, Washington  
Date: May 2, 1944  
Number: 795

“...While it is yet too soon to give up hope that a safe conduct for the SS Tari will be granted by the Germans, the recent severe strain on relations between Germany and Turkey, resulting from the abrupt discontinuance of chrome shipments to Germany from Turkey, makes it improbable that the safe conduct will now be forthcoming from the Germans. In spite of the fact that requests for safe conduct have been made by the Swedish and Swiss governments, by the **Apostolic Delegate in Istanbul** and the Vatican and by the International Red Cross... It seems unlikely that a safe conduct for the Tari

will be granted by the Germans as I have reason to believe that the Germans wish to strike back at the Turks for their action in discontinuing all chrome shipments.

C O P Y

Istanbul, August 1, 1944

Excellency:

In pursuance of Your Excellency's kind offer, in which you volunteered that you would be pleased to respond in writing to certain questions which we would be permitted to submit to you with reference to the rescue and relief activities of the United States War Refugee Board, I have the honor to enclose for your consideration the attached list.

Permit me again, in the name of the Government of the United States of America, to express my gratitude for the audience which Your Excellency so kindly granted me, and to reaffirm to you how deeply moved I was by your great interest and efforts in the broad humanitarian aspects of the problem in which the War Refugee Board is actively operating.

With renewed assurances of my highest esteem,  
I am,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Ira A. Hirschmann  
Special Attache

His Excellency  
Monsignor Ange Roncalli  
Apostolic Delegate  
Büyükdada

Enclosures

IAH/b

war Ref Bd.  
copy only

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON  
TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, ANKARA  
DATED: APRIL 17, 1944  
NUMBER: 342

CONTROL COPY

FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT,  
ANKARA.

The following refers to your No. 657 of April 12 from  
Ankara to the War Refugee Board.

With respect to the replacement of a passenger vessel  
of QUOTE an equivalent vessel of similar age, size and general  
characteristics UNQUOTE for the SS TARI as designated in  
Article 4 of the proposed charter with the Turkish Government  
for the aforesaid ship, Hirschmann is in full agreement with  
the position you have taken in your telegram abovementioned.

Hirschmann and I conferred with Admiral Land of the War  
Shipping Administration today. The War Shipping Administration  
and the Foreign Economic Administration have authorized you to  
commit this Government to the replacement of the SS TARI in the  
event of loss with a passenger repeat passenger vessel as re-  
quested by the Turkish Government.

At this point every recommendation submitted by you and  
Hirschmann to complete the negotiations for you to sign the  
Charter agreement for the War Refugee Board with the Turkish  
Government for the SS TARI has been authorized. Please refer  
to War Refugee Board cable to Ankara No. 20 relating to all  
the conditions mentioned in your numbers 585 and 594. The

The single obstacle remaining is the granting of safe conduct by the German Government. We have taken every available measure to expedite this safe conduct in Washington as reported in our War Refugee Board cable, no. 20.

Hirschmann informs me that Simond has expressed to him unequivocally, unreserved confidence that von Papen would arrange to obtain this safe conduct without delay. He also informs me that Simond agreed personally to see von Papen within a few days after his first meeting with him in Ankara on this subject. Assuming that the German safe conduct has not been obtained Hirschmann urges that both Simond and the Apostolic Delegate from Istanbul arrange to see von Papen in person in order to again urge granting of safe conduct without delay. Hirschmann reports that Simond expressed the view that he can succeed in securing the safe conduct and he suggests that you personally confer with Simond along the above lines without delay.

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*War Refugee Bd*  
*JMW Pable*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Ankara  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: April 22, 1944  
NUMBER: 726  
x

*1 copy only*

*July*  
*JBZ*

CONTROL COPY

Following is Ankara no. 42 for the WRB.

Referring to the unreserved confidence which Simond expressed to Hirschman that von Papen would secure the German safe-conduct for the SS TARI without delay and that if has not yet been secured, the Apostolic Delegate to Istanbul and Simond try to see von Papen to press the request and that I confer with Simond personally without delay, please inform Hirschman that since his departure, I have been in constant contact with Simond who has now conferred with von Papen on three occasions and that in addition, the Turk Minister for Foreign Affairs, at my request, has personally twice requested the German safe-conduct of von Papen. From the reports I have received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Simond, I am satisfied that von Papen has been pressing for the safe-conduct from his Government.

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MAY 19 1944  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON  
D.C.

STEINHARDT

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

AMEMBASSY, Ankara

Secretary of State, Washington

May 2, 1944

795  
x

CONTROL COPY

*War Refugee  
Fund Letter  
(copy only)*

The following is Ankara's 51 from the Ambassador for the War Refugee Board.

*File  
JST*

Reference is made herewith to the Department's telegram of April 27, 1944, No. 377.

No great difficulty in transporting the refugees who might arrive on the SS TARI from Iskenderun to Haifa by means of schooners or caiques, which probably could be sent from Egypt or Palestine for that purpose, especially at this time of year, is anticipated by me after discussing the matter with Barlas.

While it is yet too soon to give up hope that a safe conduct for the SS TARI will be granted by the Germans, the recent severe strain on relations between Germany and Turkey, resulting from the abrupt discontinuance of chrome shipments to Germany from Turkey, makes it improbable that the safe conduct will now be forthcoming from the Germans. In spite of the fact that requests for safe conduct have been made by the Swedish and Swiss Governments, by the Apostolic Delegate in Istanbul and the Vatican and by the International Red Cross from both

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 18 1972

from both Ankara and Geneva, the Turk Foreign Minister's request for safe conduct is doubtless the application to which the Germans are giving the most serious consideration since the TARI is a Turk vessel. It seems unlikely that a safe conduct for the TARI will be granted by the Germans as I have reason to believe that the Germans wish to strike back at the Turks for their action in discontinuing all chrome shipments.

STEINHARDT

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ARCHIVE-ION D.C.  
MAY REFUGEE BOARD  
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*Handwritten signature*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

585 - April 4, 1944

Ankara No. 21

Charter negotiations for TARI have reached stage where charter party ready for signature subject to following:

1) Washington authorization to agree to replacement of TARI in event of loss on contemplated voyage by passenger vessel similar age, tonnage.

2) Transfer of funds as requested in No. 574 April 4, 8 p.m.

3) Instructions whether charter party to be signed name U.S.

Government or War Refugee Board and by whom to be signed since Black and Hirschman leaving tomorrow. As War Refugee Board and Department know, neither Turks nor Red Cross willing for TARI to sail from Istanbul without both German and Russian safe conducts. Turks won't possibly change position on this as a result of torpedoing and sinking of Turk steamer KROM by unidentified submarine in territorial waters while carrying grain between two Turk ports.

There follows status Russian safe conduct:

Russian Ambassador has telegraphed request to Russian Government.

*Handwritten: Harrison*  
Harrison has urged Russian Government to grant same but no reply has been received.

Follows status German safe conduct:

Intercross representative has applied in Geneva through Intercross which replied it expected "difficulty and delay". Safe conduct required of German Ambassador in Ankara by Turkish Foreign Minister. The representative of Intercross is making request of Von Papen personally

for safe conduct and Papal delegate in Istanbul making similar request. Don't know any other steps that can be taken there to persuade German Government to grant safe conduct.

Desirability of signing charter party is questioned in view of thereby incurring penalty of 5,000 Turkish pounds per day for delay until we have reason to believe German safe conduct will be forthcoming. We request instructions of War Refugee Board on this point. Possible that actual signing of charter party can be delayed for week or ten days without endangering consumation of deal. However, we think it should be pointed out to War Refugee Board that if delay in signing charter party is more than ten days, there's possibility of losing vessel since she will not be permitted to be idle longer by Turkish Government.