

HAIM BARLAS <sup>2</sup>

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לפרק: השתיקה העזרית

זכיר הסוכנות היהודית אל אנג'ילו רונקאלי, נוגציוס של  
הואחיקן בתורכיה

Istanbul, 11.3.1943

S. E.

Mgr. Angelo Ronkali  
Délégué Apostolic en Turquie  
Istanbul.  
Excellence,

Nous nous référons à l'interview que vous avez bien voulu nous accorder en notre qualité de Délégué et nous ne voulons pas manquer de vous remercier pour votre attitude bienveillante à l'égard des souffrances du peuple juif, souffrances que vous nous avez permis de vous exposer.

Ainsi que nous vous l'avons expliqué, il s'agit avant tout d'une question urgente:

Selon les informations qui nous sont parvenues, le reste de la population juive de Slovaquie, environ 20,000 Jews, couré le danger d'être déporté avant la fin de ce mois en Pologne. La situation en Pologne, où environ 2/3 de la population juive ont été anéanti d'une façon cruelle, s'exige pas de commentaire.

Nous nous sommes donc permis de prier, Votre Excellence, de présenter au Saint Siège notre prière de vouloir bien intervenir auprès du Gouvernement Slovaque pour éviter ses mesures cruelles qui signifieraient la mort du reste d'une communauté juive.

Nous réitérons en même temps notre seconde prière, que le Vatican veuille bien intervenir auprès du Gouvernement Slovaque en faveur d'environ 2,000 enfants de Slovaquie, pour lesquels nous avons la possibilité d'accorder des certificats d'immigration en Palestine dans le cadre de la quote misé à notre disposition du Gouvernement Britannique, pour leur permettre de séjourner en lovacnic jusqu'à ce qu'ils seront en état de continuer leur voyage.

Ainsi que nous avons eu l'occasion de vous exposer, le Gouvernement Turc a adopté à l'égard des enfants juifs une attitude bienveillante

en permettant en principe le transit via la Turquie. Vu la situation actuelle, cette action exigera quelques mois et nous serions heureux si le Gouvernement Hongrois, qui est plus indulgent vis-à-vis des questions juives, accorderait le droit de séjour à ces enfants, aux besoins desquels les Organisations de Secours Juives subviendront.

A cette occasion nous nous permettons de vous remettre ci-inclus copie d'un memorandum du 20.1.a.c. adressé à S.E. le Reverend Arthur Hughes, Délégué Apostolic en Egypte et Palestine, Istanbul, dans lequel nous avons traité les problèmes en général et par lequel nous avons prié humblement le Saint Siège de leur accorder une attitude bienveillante. Malheureusement la situation dans les pays occupés s'est aggravée depuis lors, de sorte que le contenu de ce memorandum est toujours actuel.

Nous vous saurions gré si vous auriez l'obligeance d'attirer l'attention du Saint Siège sur la situation insupportable des communautés juives en Europe en le priant d'intervenir de la façon qui lui semblera la meilleure.

Nous ne voulons pas manquer d'exprimer à Son Excellence nos remerciements pour son appui dans cette action de secours et la reconnaissance de notre peuple pour l'attitude humanitaire de l'Eglise Catholique à l'égard de nos souffrances durant ces temps de misère et de malheur.

E. Kaplan

Ch. Barlas

The Jewish Agency for Palestine

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 ארכיון הסוכנות היהודית, ירושלים

תזכיר אל קרדינל פ. ספלמן מניו-יורק, בביקורו באיסטנבול  
כתבר המשלחת האפוסטולית

Istanbul, 16.5.43

H. E.

Mgr. F. Spellman

c/o Apostolic Delegation

Istanbul.

Your Eminency,

I am taking the opportunity of Your Eminency's visit to Istanbul to submit to you in brief the following requests:

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1. As Representative of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Turkey, I am receiving continual S.O.S.-calls from the remains of the Jewish communities in the Balkans and occupied territories, which show that the policy of extermination of Jews in Europe is being continued relentlessly.

In several countries like Austria, the Czech Protectorate and Yugoslavia the Jews have been almost eliminated. In the main they have been sent to Concentration camps in Poland, specially appropriated for Jews. In three such places Belsec, Sobikor and Treblinka they are brought to so-called "extermination institutes", where they are cremated after arrival. The number of victims of Jews in Poland including these imported from other countries reaches, according to official Polish figures, almost three millions.

It is our humble request that the Holy Sea should proclaim its horror and condemnation of these atrocities.

2. After great endeavours the Mandatory Power has agreed to put to the disposal of the Jewish Agency 29,000 immigration certificates mainly for saving the children of the victims. This is up to date the only practical measure of aid, but even those cannot yet be made use of owing to

a) *Exit restrictions:* The actual position with regard to the possibilities of emigration is that the Jews in Germany, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and France etc. are not allowed to leave the countries. On the other hand there were no objection till now to Jews leaving the Balkan countries.

If the Holy Sea would approach the Governments of Germany, France, Roumania, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria with a view to granting exit and transit permission for Jewish emigrants who have the possibility of immigrating to the Holy Land, I would appreciate it very much.

b) *Transport-difficulties:* The Turkish Government has agreed in principle to the transit via Turkey of the first schedule of 5000 Jewish refugees. Traffic conditions in Turkey limit the passage by rail to 2-300 per month. Shipping is therefore the only way.

I venture to ask Your Eminency to be so kind as to support our demand with British and U.S. Governments to help in this respect by putting a boat to the disposal of this Scheme which would run from

a Turkish port to Palestine. (The transport till Istanbul would possibly be arranged by rail).

3. The only Axis countries where Jewish refugees are being treated humanly to some extent are Italy and Hungary. In Italy some eight thousands Jews, who escaped from Yougoslavia are living in camps. In Hungary about 12,000 Jews from Poland, Yougoslavia and Slovakia found a refuge. But we are informed that there exists the danger of their being expelled to their countries of origin. In Croatia there are appr. 2000 Jews (the remain of 38,000 souls) kept in concentration camps. In those countries the influence of the Church is predominating. I shall appreciate it very much if Your Eminency will see Your way to ask the Holy See to intervene through their Representatives in the respective countries, so that these refugees as well as new arrivals may be allowed to remain there until they will be able to immigrate into Palestine.

I express my thanks to Your Eminency for Your kindness and express the hope that Your well-known sympathy with the persecuted will lead to minimizing their sufferings.

25.3.1944

Ch. Barlas  
Representative, The Jewish Agency for Palestine

### שיחה עם אנג'ילו רונקאלי, נונציוס הראתיקן באיסטנבול

Mgr. Roncalli invited me to discuss the situation of Jews in Rumania, referring to a cable received from the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem.

In the interview, the following questions have been discussed thoroughly:

#### 1 — "TRANSNISTRIA"

I explained the situation which arose after the occupation of certain areas in "Transnistria" and Bessarabia by the Russian forces. The Rumanian Government has previously consented to the re-evacuation of the Jews from "Transnistria", but in the chaos prevailing there

during the last days, it appears that only small groups of Jews succeeded in escaping to Bucovina where they face again a great danger.

I informed Mgr. Roncalli that the Turkish Government agreed to put a ship at our disposal for about 1500 refugees for whom the immigration into Palestine is being assured, but the Rumanian Government should be urged to facilitate the organising of the transport by all means. I would suggest that an appeal should be made to the Apostolic Delegate in Bucarest to use his influence in this direction.

## 2 — HUNGARY

The new situation has been discussed on basis of information available. It appears that the first step of the Nazis after the occupation of Budapest, was to undertake anti-Jewish measures at once. Detention of "suspected" persons and heavy penalties have been imposed on Jews. The fate of the 15,000 Jewish refugees who succeeded in escaping from the hell in Poland and Slovakei, is getting disastrous, as rumours are to the effect that they will be deported to Poland.

I asked Mgr. Roncalli to draw attention of the Holy Seat to the desperate situation and fatal danger which became now imminent for the remainder of European Jewry, who lived before comparatively well in Hungary.

Mgr. Roncalli expressed profound sympathy and interest in helping our people and promised to address at once the Vatican and the Apostolic Delegates in Budapest and Bucarest in the lines of my proposal.

I thanked Mgr. Roncalli for his help and sympathy in these vital problems for Jewry in Europe.