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New York.

May 5, 1948

Brigadier General Charles Saltzman
Assistant Secretary of State
Division of Occupied Areas
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Saltzman:

The Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. Zone of Germany, officially recognized by American military authorities there as the representative of the Jewish displaced persons in that zone, is one of the affiliates of the World Jewish Congress. This Committee represents the survivors of important Jewish communities of Europe, including a large number of former inmates of Nazi concentration and death camps. Many are probably the only survivors of atrocities committed during the war against the Jewish populations in most of the communities of Poland, Lithuania, etc.

The Central Committee is very much concerned with bringing to justice the perpetrators of these heinous crimes directed against millions of innocent people. They are therefore vitally interested in the identification of such criminals and in obtaining evidence against them. In this connection the Committee called the attention of competent authorities to the presence of notorious collaborators in the U.S. Zone of Germany, Roman Worobkiewicz and Dr. Mykola Terlecki, mayors of the towns of Czortkow (province of Tarnapol) and Boryslaw (province of Lwow) respectively, during the German occupation of Poland. Both were accused of intimate collaboration with the German Gestapo and, as such, responsible for the mass murder of Polish Jews. An official request for extradition of these criminals to Poland was refused on the ground that the evidence submitted against them was based mainly on the testimony of displaced persons of Jewish origin who cannot be considered as objective and impartial as regards alleged war criminals of Ukrainian nationality. This explanation was given by Mr. Ben Smith, head of the Extradition Section, Legal Division, OEGUS, Berlin to officers of the Polish Mission for Investigation of War Crimes in Berlin, (Majors Spasowski and Doliwa-Janowski and Captain Koslowski).

We submit that this attitude of the Extradition Branch of

- A T H E N S
Ipiri Str. No. 1
- B E L G R A D E
Ulica 7. Jula. No. 71
- B R U S S E L S
Rue de la Source 109
- B U C H A R E S T
Popa Rusu 30
- B U D A P E S T
Wekerle Sándor Ulica 7
- B U E N O S A I R E S
Corrientes 2024 - 9c
- G E N E V A
Quai Wilson 37
- H E L S I N K I
Malmgatan 26
- J E R U S A L E M
P.O.B. 1088
- L O N D O N
55 New Cavendish St.
- M E X I C O C I T Y
Rep. de Cuba 81
- M O N T E V I D E O
Calle Andes No. 1180
- M O N T R E A L
1121 St. Catherine St. W.
- O S L O
Gjetemyrsveien 27
- P A R I S
Ave. des Ch. Elysees 78
- P R A G U E
Máistova 15
- R I O D E J A N E I R O
Rua do Rosario 77
- R O M E
Lungotevere Sanzio 9
- S H A N G H A I
P.O.B. 2292
- S O F I A
Jewish Consistory
- S T O C K H O L M
Grev Magnigatan 11
- S Y D N E Y
G.P.O. 1869
- V I E N N A
Seitenstettengasse 4
- W A R S A W
Ulica Sinna 60

When replying

refer to

129

May 5, 1948


- 2 -

ONGUS is in direct contradiction to the policy of the Allies who have repeatedly and solemnly proclaimed the full equality of all persons before the law; for if this attitude is maintained, it must lead to the disqualification of witnesses merely because of their Jewish origin. Furthermore, as stated above, the Jewish displaced persons are actual living witnesses of mass murders and in a unique position to identify and to offer testimony against those accused of such crimes. The policy of the Extradition Section, if upheld, would render the testimony of such eye-witnesses inadmissible, not because of lack of competence, but solely because they or their next-of-kin were themselves the object of the culprits' crimes. To sanction such a policy is contrary to our concepts of elementary justice and a direct insult both to the dead and surviving representatives of Jewish communities in Europe.

We submit, further, that according to the rules laid down by the U.S. War Crimes Commission, the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations of October 31, 1947 and the generally accepted principles of extradition, a prima facie case must be established before a request for extradition is granted. If the testimony of Jewish survivors, frequently the only living witnesses of the crimes in question, cannot be considered in establishing such a prima facie case, this disqualification on grounds of race may very well destroy the possibility of ever bringing certain notorious war criminals to justice.

We should, therefore, greatly appreciate it if the State Department would investigate this matter to the end that disqualification of Jewish witnesses for the reasons set forth in the statement of Mr. Smith be tolerated no longer.

Respectfully yours,


Robert S. Marcus
Acting Director
Political Department

Same letter to:

Major General Daniel Noco
Chief, Civil Affairs Division
War Department
Washington, 25, D.C.

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