

Office U.S. Representative  
Paris Conference on Reparation  
for Non-Repatriables  
American Embassy, London, W.1

1 June 1946

Mr. Hector McNeill, M.P.  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign Office  
London

Dear Mr. McNeill:

In view of your imminent departure for the United States, I think it would be helpful if you had before you the general considerations which guide my government in its approach to Article 8 of the final act of the Paris Reparation Conference so that the Five Power Conference beginning on June 11th can progress harmoniously and expeditiously to a solution of the problem.

The original proposal by the United States that the Paris Conference on Reparation make a sum of money available for the rehabilitation and resettlement of non-repatriable victims of Nazi action was motivated by the humanitarian principle that those victims who suffered most from Hitlerite terror should receive special assistance in resettling and rebuilding their lives.

Since only a relatively small sum would be available, Mr. Bevin recommended that the number of eligibles be limited so that a real contribution could be made to their resettlement rather than to dissipate the funds over a much larger group. This proposal accorded with the point of view of my government. Hence the definitions which were adopted in effect limited the eligible group overwhelmingly, although not exclusively, to German and Austrian Jews and to non-repatriable Jews of occupied countries who had been in Nazi concentration camps or in camps established by regimes under Nazi influence.

The extreme plight of the eligible group was emphasized in Article 8, and repeated reference was made therein to the urgent need for prompt action on the part of the five powers to implement a plan for their rehabilitation and resettlement. For these reasons my government was concerned that the Five Power Conference be called at the earliest possible date. It has given me specific instructions to seek an agreement which

17-11

will make available  
The fact that the  
ments totaling  
five million

In general, the  
approach to the selection  
of the eligible refugees  
the most deserving.

b. Twenty-day national  
Five-Power Conference to appoint

as provided for under Paragraph G of Article 8, and specific directives should be worked out to govern the expenditure of the non-convertible gold which has not yet been liquidated. The Inter-Governmental Committee should serve as the administrative agency.

In view of the foregoing principles, my Government favors the allocation of the first twenty-five millions for the following specific programs:

- a. The resettlement of eligible Jewish children in Palestine within the number of certificates currently available each month.
- b. Assistance for the resettlement in the various countries of their choice of such indigent individuals as the members of the Spanish colony of German and Austrian refugees.
- c. A specific allocation for non-Jewish eligible, competent persons with the scope of the program to facilitate their resettlement.
- d. A specialized medical rehabilitation program (such as artificial limbs, hearing aids), which would facilitate the occupational readjustment of invalids.

My Government believes that a program such as outlined above would, because of its humanitarian and practical aspects, meet with general approval and fulfill the obligations placed upon the Five-Power Conference by the Paris Reparation Agreement, and therefore hopes that His Majesty's Government will support the above proposal at the Five-Power Conference beginning June 11th in Paris.

I am looking forward to our meeting on Monday which will afford us a further opportunity for an exchange of views on this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

ELI GINZBERG,  
U.S. Representative.