DEC 20 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY HULL:

You will recall that on November 27 we appealed to Ambassador Winant for his assistance in getting British approval for the financial arrangements to implement the plans developed by the World Jewish Congress for the evacuation of a large number of Jews from France and Rumania.

Ambassador Winant has just replied, in substance, that while the British Ministry of Economic Warfare would have been prepared to agree in principle with the financial arrangements proposed by the Treasury, the British Foreign Office sees "grave objections" because of the difficulties which they perceive in the evacuation of "any considerable number" of Jews from enemy-occupied territory in view of the problems of "shipping" and of "finding accommodation in the countries of the Near East" (Cable 8717, December 15).

In my mind the British response is most significant because:

(1) The British concede by implication that Treasury's financial program is workable and will not benefit the enemy (points raised in your letter of December 6 and in cables from our legation in Berne - see particularly cable 6269, October 6);

(2) The British acknowledge that the real issue from their point of view is that raised by their Foreign Office as to what to do with the Jews evacuated. The British argue that since it would be difficult to deal with any considerable number of Jews, nothing should be done to work out the World Jewish Congress plan even as to a limited number of Jews, and accordingly they are "reluctant to agree to any approval being expressed even of the preliminary financial arrangements".