

C.C.M.F.
Casablanca

MEMORANDUM re trip to Washington on Friday, October 30, 1942, in connection with Leslie Heath's letter of 10/3/42 to James Vail

1. Phoned Henry Villard of the State Department, who referred me to Charles W. Lewis (St. Dept., ext. 2288), also of the Near Eastern Division, who handles Morocco. I showed Mr. L. copy of above letter; his reaction was immediately to the effect that the State Dept. was pleased to give the matter its blessing (sic)--especially from the standpoint of the political angle--just as they were glad to do for LOH's whole trip when he explained to them in person before going to Casablanca. As to the next stop, Mr. L. recommended that I see either Mr. Melvin M. Fagen (District 2200, ext. 1095), or an assistant, Mr. Becker (Commerce Building, Room 5608, ext. 2287), of the Blockade Division of the Board of Economic Warfare.
2. Saw Mr. Richard Allen of the American Red Cross (17th St. between D and E, N. W., Republic 8300), who called in his assistant in connection with foreign work, a "Phil" Ryan. Both read LOH letter and a copy was given to Mr. Ryan.

Their reaction was that some of the items in the list of products desired were "tight," but they said they would be glad to work on the matter to see what could be done.

It was mentioned that one of the reasons for the trip to Washington in connection with this letter was the possibility of our obtaining some of these supplies as a sort of token shipment to be taken with the AFSC delegates who are going on the S.S. Nyassa. Messrs. Ryan and Allen seemed to think that this much speed was a little too much to expect. However, it was pointed out to them that Mr. Paul F. Guerin of the French Embassy had offered every possible assistance to AFSC in connection with shipping gas and other materials to Casablanca via French ships from New Orleans, so that the thought of using this means of transport was brought to the attention of Messrs. Ryan and Allen.

In view of a subsequent conversation with M. Guerin, reported below, I am mentioning in my confirming letter to Mr. Ryan that a French ship should be leaving New Orleans for Casablanca under the "Economic Accord" arrangement with Vichy within 11 or 12 days, and there will not be another one for about six weeks.

3. Had a brief conversation with Mr. Melvin M. Fagen of the Blockade Division of the BEW (he was on his way to a meeting). Explained to him the request in Leslie Heath's letter, mentioning (a) State Dept's blessing, (b) fact that whereas the Red Cross might provide some of the materials, the AFSC is considering starting the ball rolling by advancing some of their relief funds to purchase partial amounts of the products requested to make token shipment to go with the delegates on the Nyassa, (c) the possibility of remaining shipments being sent on Vichy French ships by way of New Orleans.

Mr. F. said that BEW approved of making small shipments of medical supplies such as this in principle, but he pointed out that BEW had already given approval for the purchase and shipment by the French of certain amounts of pharmaceutical products. I rejoined that we were anxious to stay within the framework of policies set