

HEADQUARTERS ATLANTIC BASE SECTION
CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC WELFARE AND RELIEF
APO 759

SPANISH
FUNDS

December 26, 1943

TO: A.L. Frechette,
Chief, Welfare Section, APO 534

FROM: Thomas Pym Cope, Regional Chief, APO 759

SUBJECT: JAFRC Funds

ATTENTION: Kendall G. Kimberland.

Referring to your memo of December 18th on the above subject and to the attached letter of December 1st from Leslie Heath to Kendall Kimberland, Mr. Johnson asks me to bring up the following matters concerning JAFRC funds and commitments made for the relief of Spanish Republic Refugees in this area.

In the light of past correspondence on the matter and of the original request made by Mr. Fryer for the authorization of JAFRC funds to be sent into North Africa, it has been assumed by this office that these funds would be arriving with some regularity. For this reason we have felt it proper to proceed with long range plans and commitments with our Spanish Amicale to meet relief needs here. We have indicated to the Amicale that they probably would be able to count on a total of Frs.75,000 a month for six months or a grand total of Frs.450,000. It has been made clear to them that the Frs.450,000 could be spent within the six months period but that it would probably be more advisable to put by a certain reserve in case additional funds were not forthcoming.

However, the main point is that important plans and important commitments for the rehabilitation of the Spanish Refugees community have been made on the basis of expected financial help. These plans have been worked out with great difficulty and after long discussion it would be extremely damaging to our work and to the excellent progress that the Spanish Amicale has made in taking on its own shoulders the very difficult administration of relief to Spanish refugees if these financial resources should suddenly be cut off.

Therefore this office plans to assure the Spanish Amicale that they do have the Frs.450,000 available. The matter of where these funds are to come from is something that the American Friends Service Committee both in North Africa and in Philadelphia and the Joint Antifascist Refugee Committee in New York will have to decide.

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It will make very little difference to the Spaniards whether this money comes from the now famous Frs.1,000,000 or from the JAFRC or from the Quakers funds at present in North Africa.

Because of the importance of plans and commitments already made, Leslie Heath's December 1st letter to Kendall came as something of a shock because it seemed rather lightly to put in jeopardy the financial basis of our work with Spaniards. It is Mr. Johnson's strong conviction, as it was when he discussed with Mr. Fryer the authorizing of JAFRC funds to North Africa, that the work here is one of sufficient urgency and importance to justify the expenditure license. We feel that, unless there are further considerations, of which we are unconscious ~~from~~ here, the transfers of JAFRC funds should continue as planned.

We are sending a copy of this letter directly to Philadelphia although, of course, the principal communications and recommendations about JAFRC funds will be channelled thru Mr. Kimberland in Algiers.

We are also enclosing a memo dictated by Mr. Johnson on December 18th, which is now somewhat out-of-date but which may be useful to you in explaining our plans here.


T.P. Cope

Encl. Memo dated Dec. 18th to A.L. Frechette, same subject.