

J.G.V.

FRENCH RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AFRICA

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Memorandum of conversation with Leslie Heath, September 22.

SECOURS NATIONAL

This organization, accredited by the French Government as an official relief agency, has very little in the way of service in Morocco. In Algiers Secours National is headed by an able man, G. Guichard, who has been attempting to coordinate the work of the public and private agencies. Supplies for the work in Algiers were provided by the French Government, presumably from lend-lease supply. American relief workers who went into Tunisia had the impression that Secours National there was, both in its organization and personnel, closely patterned along German lines.

THE FRENCH RED CROSS

The French Red Cross in North Africa was for the most part concerning itself with the care of French wounded. In Algiers it is headed by Mme. Schneider, a woman of unusual capacities and abilities, but apparently one who is also extremely difficult. In addition to work for the wounded, the French Red Cross was giving some assistance to the blind and was concerned for the establishment of a home for French war orphans. In Morocco the French Red Cross is dominated by M. Berti.

THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SERVICE

The International Migration Service in France has a national affiliation and is known as the Service Social d'Aide aux Emigrante. As in France, this organization has excellent personnel and organization. There have been good working relationships with this committee.

AIDE AUX MERES

This apparently is a local committee in Casablanca representing the incorporation of two organizations, one concerned with pregnant and nursing mothers and the other with family relief. It is a private committee and was giving good service.

FRATERNITE DE GUERRE

This committee, formerly headed by Mme. Nogues, was the principal organization concerned with sending packages to French prisoners of war and services for the families of war prisoners.

* INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Among the organizations with which the Service Committee has had closest working relationships in North Africa are:

- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- The International Red Cross
- The Polish Relief Committee

* Secours National has compiled a list of private relief agencies in Algiers. A similar list exists for Casablanca and apparently has been prepared by the Region Civile. We are writing to Kendall Kimberland to ask whether he could send us these two lists for our files.

cc: James Vail