

TURKISH ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FOR THE JEWISH IMMIGRANTS AND JEWISH IMMIGRANT CAMPS IN CYPRUS DURING SECOND WORLD WAR

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ABSTRACT

During the last period of Second World War, the Jews who all managed to survived and escaped from Nazi tyranny and holocaust have started trying to find out the ways to go to Palestine, then being a British mandate. Taking a voyage to Palestine was not so easy because of the terrific conditions, and mostly of British restrictions. The Jews making mostly use of the very insufficient and primitive transportation means could have arrived in Turkey. Having got Turkish support and the assistance, these people were once more stopped by British warships in the open seas and taken to the concentration camps in Cyprus since active steps and measurements were taken against the Jewish immigration, from trying to prevent the acquisition of ships for refugees to deploying naval craft that otherwise could have been used in the war effort to patrol the coast of Palestine. The poor conditions and, terrifying management of British authority there made the life unbearable for these people, causing lots of death.

Key Words; Cyprus, Jews, Second World War, Exodus, Concentration Camp

1- INTRODUCTION

Second World War has broken out as soon as Germany attacked Poland on 1st September 1939. Turkey considering to get a neutral position soon after the war started came face to face with the pressure to join in the war or to support the warring parties (Armaoğlu; 1995, 37). Turkish policy during this process is to keep itself aside, to keep the country out of the devastating results of the war, and not to participate in the war even if it is forced not to do so by the warring countries (Armaoğlu; 1995, 407). No sooner had the war broken out than some 5.100.000 Jewish people, 3.000.000 of whom lose their lives in Poland, more than 700.000 Jewish people in Russia, 260.000 people in Czechoslovakia,

180.000 people in Hungary, 130.000 Jewish people in Lithuania lose their lives. Additionally, 67.000 Jewish people living in Greece that rates the % 87 of Jewish population in Greece were exiled from their homelands.

The number of the Jewish people in only Athens who were taken to the detention camps and killed in many ways is 46.000 that take % 20 of the Jewish population in the city. Moreover, the Jewish people are restricted to get Romanian, Greek and Czech names in Romania, Greece and Czechoslovakia (**Frantz**; 2003, 19). and they are also forbidden to buy and sell properties, and marriages with the ones out of Jewish society. Almost all the blue collar Jewish people working in business, the media, different posts of the official foundations and in military are discharged and taken to the death camps by force. Within the process from 1945 summer time to 1946 July, 30.000 Jewish people expatriate and flee from Romania and Hungary (**Bauer**; 1970, 153). A good many workshops get plundered and all are taken over (**Frantz**; 2003, 29). Shortly, not only the Jewish property and Jewish goods but also Jewish people themselves start getting butchered with no reason (**Yetkin**; 13).

What Romanian and Greek Jewish had experienced in such a way is almost alike with what happened to Polish Jewish people. That they get on the mass transportation vehicles, make use of and attend the cinemas, night clubs, public areas, tramways, busses, museums, parks, theatres are all forbidden. The magazines, the newspapers and all sorts of publications are controlled by invaders. Polish Jewish people are all arrested, stuffed on the trains and are taken to the detention camps (**Bethell**; 1979, 77).

On the other hand, Palestine that all these people want to immigrate is under British administration, but British policy is not so clear whether to accept these people to Palestine or not (**Yetkin**; 25). In 1934-1935 period more than 104.539 Jewish people immigrate to Palestine to survive from Nazi invasion that is expressed as "a temporary insane in a civilized country" (**Delon**; 2002, 446). A good many Jewish people are taken to the camps to work (**Mazower**; 1993, 239). In the meantime 12.898 Jewish people from various places of Greece are enlisted so as to fight against German invasion forces (**Constantopolou**; 1998, 34).

2- TURKISH ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES TO IMMIGRANT JEWISH PEOPLE

That British government has a very strict policy not to accept Jewish immigrants to Palestine, expressing the situation as an illegal action gives no alternative way to those people. Shortly, that is better to say that the British government was strictly determined to block "illegal" immigration to Palestine. On the other hand, generally speaking, Turkish policy is not to interfere with Jewish immigrants as long as they use Turkey as a passage towards Palestine, and to support them. So as to do it, Turkey also supports the Jewish Agency directed by Hayim Barlas at Pera Palas Hotel in Istanbul, whose main task is to transport

the Jewish immigrants to Palestine through Istanbul. As well as Hayim Barlas, another Jewish person who came forth to help the Jews is a Jewish merchant named Simon Brod (Bali; 2004, 90).

Additionally, Menaşe Hana and Leon Jabes from İzmir are the other persons trying to transport and to help them as much as they can (Bali; 2004, 190). The British government on the other hand takes lots of measures varying from the restrictions of the Jewish transportation ships to the restriction of the ships in the Mediterranean Sea. Another plan considered by British authorities is to sink shiploads of refugees (Douglas, 2003;48) at "the Haganah" ships and to make propaganda that all the ships were attacked by Nazi forces, showing that their policy is right (Frantz; 2003, 48). As a result the number of the immigrants who came off the Black Sea, and who wanted to pass through Turkey especially getting aboard in Romania and Bulgaria increased gradually (BA.030.10.206.407.31.).

Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, declaring a statement wanted to be ready for the Jewish immigrants who would want to go to Palestine by means of Turkey and using a variety of vehicles such as the ships, boats, and the ferries rented at all cost (BA.030.10.99.641.13.). The first news about those people came with a disaster that a ship which departed from Bulgaria with more than 380 Jewish people from different countries, and mostly from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia on 3rd February 1940 headed for Silivri. Because of its wooden body and insufficient engines, the ship broke off in the Black Sea while the British government wanted Turkey to stop it in case it made for Palestine, and turned to be a swimming grave with 200 dead. The rest were taken to Istanbul then.

The ships and their Jewish passengers who came to Turkey in this process were Transylvania with 54 Romanian immigrants on 8th March 1939, İmtı with 600 Romanian persons on 10th March 1939, Atrato with 325 Czech and German Jewish people on 22nd May 1939, Lasparla with 380 German and Czech people on 22nd June 1939, Rim with 450 German and Czech immigrants on 27th June 1939, Frossola with 658 German and Czech immigrants on 1st July 1939, Patya with 700 Romanian persons on 30th July 1939, Parkerhil with 850 Romanian on 9th August 1939, Putniçer with 271 Hungarian on 16th August 1939, Harziyon with 142 British on 7th September 1939, Rudniçer with 210 Bulgarian on 10th September 1939, Neomi Julia with 1.200 Romanian immigrants on 12th September 1939, Salvator with 246 Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants in 1941 (BA.030.10.99.641.13.).

In the meantime, three Jewish ships donated by Turkey with Turkish flag, named Bülbül, Mefküre and Morina carrying totally 4.190 immigrants from Constanta to İstanbul, were attacked by three unknown submarine on 4th August 1944 between Ahtapolu and Rezve off Bulgaria Mefküre sank after the attack and 295 Jewish people in addition to two crewmen disappeared at night (BA.030.10.119.814.3.).

The ship named Bülbül led by Captain Mustafa Engur survived and took shelter in İğneada with 405 immigrants. The survivors then were taken to the medical control and delivered to the Red Crescent authorities in Kırklareli, Tekirdağ and İstanbul before going to İstanbul by train (**İkdam**; 6 İkinciteşrin 1941).

3-THE JEWISH IMMIGRANTS AND TURKISH ASSISTANCE FOR THEM

Apart from British restrictions, that American government has adapted very strict regulations about Jewish immigrants and the refugees, that Portugal has banned the Jewish immigrants to use its territory as a passage to escape, issuing a restrictive law dated 22nd October 1940 was reasoned that the immigrants would have only one way to escape to Palestine, that is to say, Turkey. Unlike Portugal, Turkey has prepared almost all the facilities about the transit visa for those Jewish immigrants with a law dated 20th February 1941 (**Frantz**; 2003, 139, **BA.030.10.99.641.7.** and **BA.030.110.736.5**). Additionally, Jewish-born scientists and the artists who survived Nazi pressure were taken refugee firstly by Turkey (**Levi**; 1992, 148). During the same period, in European countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, France, Italia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Hungary, Germany, Jewish people regardless of having a Turkish ID or not saved their lives as a result of the initiations and the efforts by Turkish embassies and the ambassadors, giving them a document "The procedure is on the way to be a Turkish ID" (**Frantz**; 2003, 159). In addition to all these, Turkish embassies have kept some blank documents arranged by Turkish Foreign Ministry so as to be used in emergency for the Jewish people. Turkish personnel working in Turkish embassies also plastered some handbills at the wall of Jewish people to show that they were Turkish peoples that they could be saved from Nazi and Gestapo officers. Moreover Turkish personnel putting their lives into jeopardy interfered with Nazi officials to avoid Jewish people to be taken to the detention and death camps (**Yetkin**; 37).

4- THE STRUMA DISASTER

During World War Two, one of the most tragic happenings was about the ship named Struma trying to transport 769 Jewish immigrants aboard, two of whom survived after the ship wreckage in the Black sea on 24th February 1942. The ship carrying Panama flag has come to İstanbul post on 15th February 1941 due to a technical malfunction. Then all the Jewish persons aboard were subjected to a medical test and control, and realized that their food was almost finished, and the immigrants were on the brink of fatal diseases (**BA.030.10.124.881.6.**). Turkish technicians repairing the engines then realized that the disorder of the engines was intentionally made so that the ship could anchor in İstanbul (**BA.030.10.124.881.6.**). The main reason in fact to anchor in İstanbul was that British government has issued a law declaring that all the ship personnel carrying Jewish people would be arrested and the ships would be confiscated as well as the arrest of the illegal immigrants (**BA.030.10.171.185.21**). British ambassador Knatchbull-Hugessen in Ankara was invited to the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, and asked whether they would permit the ship to go to Palestine or not. British government had no certain answer for the actual problem even if General Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry named Oliver Harvey reacted saying "Does England have to take such a cruel decision against these poor people? Why can nothing be done for these poor people? They will all be killed if they are turned back."(**Yakın Tarihimiz**; 204). On 23rd February 1942, the ship headed for the Black sea again, and the following day due to a still unknown explosion sunk at once off 5-6 miles away from Yön Burnu, causing the death of 767 immigrants except David Stoliar and Medea Salamovici (**BA.030.10.171.185.21.**).

5-JEWISH CAMPS IN CYPRUS AND THE FIRST COMERS

British government has firstly started stopping and intervening in those Jewish immigrants who tried to escape from Nazi cruelty and to go to Palestine in 1946, and has decided to keep those Jewish immigrants temporarily in Cyprus. The rumors about the arrivals of the would-be immigrants were quickly heard in Cyprus as well, and the newspapers put the headlines about the immigrants (**Söz**; 1 Mart 1946).

British government evaluating to stop a rush of immigrants towards Palestine also thought of giving an indirect message to the Arabic world. On the other hand, the situation the Jewish people had already experienced was very disappointing and demoralizing. British Foreign Ministry declared a statement to show how much they were helpful for the Jewish people, and tried to decrease the tension of the reactions (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.5.13 August 1946.**);

- No country in the world has been a better or more consistent friend of the Jewish people than Britain. Wherever Jews were persecuted, the voice of Britain was lifted in protest and wherever possible action was taken to mitigate their lot.
- When they were persecuted by Hitler, the British people not only protested most vigorously, but a large body of refugees from Nazi barbarism was received in our country. Even during the war when our people were hard pressed for shelter and supplies, more were allowed in. Altogether 2000.000 refugees-a large proportion of them Jews- landed in Britain.
- In December 1945, the quota of 75.000 Jewish immigrants permitted to enter Palestine under the provisions of the white paper was exhausted.
- Moved by sympathy for the suffering of the Jewish people in Europe, H. M. Government have hitherto allowed illegal immigrants to land in spite of grave embarrassment of the quota and by the necessity for detaining in camps those whose entry was not immediately possible under quota.

5.1. First Jewish Immigrant Groups Towards Palestine

Actually such an activity of immigration especially after the war had got realized by some personal groups as well in various times. For example in September 1940, a Jewish group of 3000 persons from Danzig, Prag, and Vienna got aboard the cargo ships named Atlantic, Milos and Pacific in Tulcea of Romania (Frantz;2003,54). The worst of the ships was Pacific (Douglas, 2003;54) with 1.875 Jewish immigrants (Hurewitz; 1968, 140). The ship got the fuel and food in Istanbul on 16th October 1940, but was stopped by British warships and compelled to sail in the direction of Cyprus force on 12th November 1940 (Frantz; 2003, 55). British authorities, on the other hand, declared that the suitable manner to follow for British interest in the Middle East was to transfer all these immigrants to Mauritius (Hurewitz; 1968, 140). While the immigrants aboard were transferred to another cargo ship named Patria to Mauritius, an explosion occurred and 267 Jewish people lost their lives. Later on, it was known that the sabotage was carried out by Haganah which tried to stop the ship to go to that above-mentioned island (www.jafiorg.mil/education/100/act/38zion.html). That British government declared that these Jewish people would stay in Palestine worried some British officials as if the declaration would encourage the other immigrants and those officials demanded that this exceptional mercy not be valid for the rest of the immigrants (Hurewitz; 1968,140 and The telegram of Colonial Office dated 11th June 1941, numbered NC/9 Nicosia 30.10.1816).

5.2. The General Position of The Ships

The cargo ships that were used to transfer the immigrants to Palestine within roughly 14 days had negative and tremendous characteristic properties such as insufficient infrastructure, the number of the passengers above the capacity, primitive conditions in regard of nutrition and hygiene, the disgusting manners of the ship crews, awful food, lack of water, unhealthy conditions of the lavatories, sinks and the toilets and epidemic diseases. Each immigrant had to cover a spot enough only for one himself. The flat wooden bunks had no possibility even to sit at. Throughout 14 day-travel, only to lay on the beds and to see nothing but the wooden bunks over made the people very nervous and exhausted. Since most of the ships were very old, unreliable, and stuffed with extra passengers, a good many ships sank and lots of Jewish people lost their lives. Additionally there was no enough food and enough water to drink, so the nerve, the epidemic diseases and psychological problems were unavoidable in the midst of the sea. As a British officer said "If the illegal Jewish immigrants realize that they are going to wind up there, they may not be so anxious to crowd aboard their stinking hellships and try to get to Palestine"(Gruber;1948,64).

6- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IMMIGRANT CAMPS IN CYPRUS

The first camp established for the Jewish immigrants by the British military command was in Caraolos where during First World War Turkish prisoners of war captured in Gallipoli kept in from 1916 to 1923 (**ATASE**, K.2680,D.210, F.1-37,1-63, 1-64,1-65, F.1-59,1-60,1-61,1-62.), and opened on 14th August 1946. The main reason why the British government chose Cyprus for the camp was due to strategical position of the Mediterranean Sea, its closeness to Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, as well as Turkish neutral position out of the war. Firstly the tents were established in Caraolos, and two walls of barbed wires were set (**Larchmont Gazete**; 24 November 2003).

The most terrifying point for British administration was that the ones who could in future back the Jewish terrorists could seize the camps. (**Söz**; 9 August 1946). The surrounding of the camps were all barbed-wires with the projectors and the armed military personnel with Tommy Guns ready to fire on duty if necessary all day long. Even if British administration expressed that the Jewish immigrants were not kept in custody and in prison, Jewish immigrants who were supposed to be illegal were kept under close control. Each camp was administered by a military commander being a Major under the command of a Colonel ruling all the camps on the island with 2.500 military personnel. The responsibility of the camps belonged directly to the British administration in Palestine, and the cost of the camps burdened by them.

6.1. The Establishment of Summer and Winter Camps and The Reactions

In Caraolos, five camps named Camp 55, 60, 61, 62 and 63 were established for the Jewish immigrants and these camps were said to be the summer camps. The life in these camps in comparison to the camps known as winter camps was supposed to be relatively easier. As soon as the population started increasing, the new camps in Dikelia district of Larnaca, and in Xylotymbou. Seven camps in Dikelia were all composed of American-type huts unlike the tents in Caraolos camps. The infrastructure was almost none; there was no water in Cyprus. All day long, some twenty thousand adults and two thousand orphaned children stood at the barbed wire and looked at the Mediterranean which creamed their shore, with no water in the camp, causing lots of serious fatal diseases.

Furthermore since there was no private life in the camp the island itself was expressed as a hell in which privacy was unknown (**Gruber**; 1948, 62) with no dignity. Therefore the romantic Cyprus of the travel books, Love Island as expressed by the Greeks, where Aphrodite was believed to be born of foam off its shores turned to be an open air prison with no water and no electricity for the Jewish immigrants who survived and tried to go to Palestine (**Gruber**; 1948, 65). In such restricted circumstances and under camp conditions naturally the life

became irksome and monotonous even if the camp personnel and the British authorities would try to take so-called reasonable measurements for the health of the immigrants and well-being. Water was in those days as in today were very scarce in Cyprus and the camp command had to limit the water to about 4.5 liters a day for each person. Turkish Cypriots also helped the Jewish immigrants to get clean water to drink and to make some meals there. Greek Cypriot media, on the other hand, realizing the insufficiency of the island stated that the camps would embrace no more than 10.000 immigrants, but surprisingly the number would be more than 100.000, and named the opening of the camps in Cyprus as nothing but comedy (www.hri.org/news/cyprus/eng/1998 and www.washington-report.org/backissues).

Especially the reactions of Greek Cypriot journals focused that the war-torn island would economically get an extra burden due to the immigrants who started coming to the island (**Eleftheria**, 15 August 1946.). Esperini, for example, published an article headed "The Jews" stating that although the official announcement which had been issued regarding the settlement of Jews in Cyprus gave the assurance that no Jews would be allowed to become a resident of Cyprus, it was not possible for this assurance to be fully accepted. Because Cyprus had been selected for an indefinite period of stay of the illegal immigrant Jews to Palestine, amongst other things the island had the means of feeding thousands of Jews.

The newspaper also stated that the island was hardly sufficient for the upkeep of its population and while the war ended long ago its people were still facing serious privations in primary essential commodities (**Esperini**, 14th August 1946). In fact the island itself seemed to be out of the war for along time, nevertheless British government in need of military personnel for various fronts and the battlefields started enlisting both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. The people suffering from poverty, black market, unemployment, cost of living and psychological situation would start getting torn in dilemma whether to enlist or not. British authorities ignoring Cyprus and Cypriots up to that period scorning and calling them black-tanned Cypriots would start enlisting them to be muleteers (**Asmussen**, 2004;141). Especially subsequent to 1929 world economic crisis, the people living on the island have financially gone bankrupt, and lost almost everything they have had, and dealt with agriculture and farming while some worked in the copper mining facilities named Cyprus Mining Cooperation in Mathiadis, Lefka and Poli. So as to mostly make use of the human sources on the island, England has foreseen everything, and closing down the mining companies forced the workless, pessimistic and moneyless Cypriots to be enlisted (**Keser**, 2007; 18-69). Taking all these realities for granted, Cyprus as the means of feeding thousands of Jewish immigrants on the island frightened the people living on the island.

The mayor of Nicosia, Clerides, on the other hand, opposingly stated that he personally would not raise objection either the duration of the immigrants' stay in Cyprus or about their number, saying "We should sympathize with these

unfortunate people whose only hope is now overshadowed by the thought of a further stretch of waiting behind the barbed wire.”(**Cyprus Mail**, 14th August 1946).

The newspaper named *Kypriakos Typos* additionally asked some questions wondering what would happen in future, such as “How long will these illegal immigrants stay in Cyprus? What will be the total number of Jews who will be settled when, for example, the Jews will come to a definite agreement with the Arabs and England with America? From what source or sources will the Jews, settled in Cyprus camps, get their supplies such as food stuffs, clothing, and other essentials? In case most of these supplies are to be provided by Cyprus what measures have been taken to meet the requirements of the people of Cyprus and keep the cost of living at least at the present level?” (**Kypriakos Typos**, 14th August 1946). *Eleftheria* also stated that although sympathizing with “these unfortunate creatures” expressed grave anxiety, in view of rumors, that the Jewish immigrants would stay permanently in Cyprus where a large number of Jews would worsen the supply position of the island (**Eleftheria**, 15th August 1946).

Apart from the Jewish immigrants, the island had also another and lasting issue caused by Greek Cypriots, that is to say Enosis. E journalist from *Eleftheria* visited the *Locum Tenens* and *Etnarch Leontios* due to the national and other interests of the island, and got the statements made by the *Etnarch* as “By right Cyprus belongs to Greece and expects, until the end of the Peace Conference, that the governments of Greece and Britain will, at special conferences in Paris, countersign the union of Cyprus with Greece, and if they do not do so, the people of Cyprus will protest to the Allied Organizations and the free people of our mother Greece will demand the union in such a way that no Greek government will be able to remain in office if union is not realized” (**Eleftheria**, 17th August 1946). A few days later, the *Etnarch* stated as well that “As is the Jewish people wish, Britain must take them as soon as possible to Palestine, their fatherland, and that in no circumstances must Jews be settled in Cyprus in Cyprus for over a month, a period which was sufficient practically for their transportation to Palestine.

The immigrants who were given a pair of shoes, some cloth, and sewing materials as soon as they came to the camps started cutting the clothes of the summer camps to make trousers and shirts for themselves since almost all the immigrants had nothing on except some worn-out cloths. The tents and the huts in the camps had only a bed, a pillow and kerosene lamp, and despite the fact that it was forbidden all the immigrants in the camps had a portable radio supplied by a Jewish person named *Rivka Kehana*. The summer tents were composed of three rooms for generally three married families with no stoves except the holes dug primitively on the earth to be used so. American journalist *I. F. Stone* described the camps as the ugliest architecture created by the humanity for his newspaper, *PM*. As well as these Jewish camps, another camp

for German POWs was established in Dikelia, and 1.603 German POWs were transferred to the camp in 1-4th September 1946 (Hürsöz; 1 September 1946.).

6.2. The First Arrivals of The Jewish Immigrants To Cyprus

The first Jewish ship which faced with the disaster was Rafiah on the way to Cyprus. The ship headed for Palestine ran into the cliffs off Greece, and crashed into pieces. 8 Jewish immigrants were drowned and 785 immigrants were saved by a British warship towards Cyprus (Laub; 1985, 6). Therefore the first illegal guests of the camps in Cyprus were those Jewish immigrants whose ships were restricted and sandwiched by British warships in the Mediterranean Sea (Larchmont Gazete; 24 November 2003). The ship named Shabtai Lozinsky carrying hundreds of Jewish immigrants headed for Haifa instead of directing towards Cyprus on 13th March 1947, and ran into the cliffs as the previous one did, and they were transferred to Cyprus by British warships. On the other hand, Palestinian Jewish people who tried to help the survivors, swimming off the shores were also taken to Cyprus unfortunately. British authorities who couldn't tell apart the Jewish people of Palestine and the Jewish immigrants assigned a police detective named Captain Marner in the camp. On the other hand, Jewish immigrants and those people from Palestine would study together and would get the answers of the questions together such as "Which newspaper are you reading? How can we go to Ben Yehuda Avenue in Tel Aviv? What is the last movie you have already seen? Where do you enjoy shopping How much is a bottle of milk?" Consequently instead of 140 Jewish people of Palestine who were by force transferred to Cyprus, totally 325 Jewish immigrants would go to Haifa (Laub; 1985, 10). Following these arrivals, 1.416 illegal Jewish immigrants arrived in Cyprus on the 18th May of 1947.

Disembarkation of the immigration went on smoothly, and there were eight stretcher cases. Half the total number were taken to Xylotymbou camp and the other half to Dikelia camp. 1125 immigrants, on the other hand, were started to be embarked for Palestine on 19th May 1947. Within the same days, the government of Palestine, on 21st April 1947, issued a statement that false reports had been circulated to the effect that the government of Palestine had not honored its promises in admitting illegal immigrants from Cyprus, and expressed that the number of immigrants received from Cyprus into Palestine since November 1946 had actually been larger than was provided for in program. As expressed by the government, regular monthly quotas of 300 for November-December 1946, and of 750 for succeeding monthly periods, had arrived in Palestine. In addition, a pool of 1.000 immigrants had been established at Athlist, and departures from Cyprus were in fact one month ahead of schedule. The government of Palestine had also stated that the monthly quota from Cyprus was liable to reduction in proportion to any successful Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine from other sources (P.I.O. Communiqué, No.1, 21st April 1947).

The general security of the camps was on a British Major, and the general responsibility of the camps was on the government in Cyprus, Colonial Office, and British mandate government. British military authorities gave assignment to some liaison workers being expert on various topics such as Tony Aldridge and Sir Godfrey Collins so as to solve the reactions, the protests, the needs, and the demands of the immigrants. The communication between the Jewish people and the official authority was carried out by a six-man Jewish delegation and C. R. C. Donald, Assistant Secretary at the Savoy Hotel in Famagusta (**FO.PIO Communiqué Confidential Press Comment**. No.5.16 August 1946).

6.3. Assistance To The Jewish Immigrants

The foundations mostly focusing on the immigrant issue on the island was Jewish associations and the foundations in the United Kingdom and the United States of America such as American Joint Distribution Committee, and Jewish Agency (**FO.PIO News Item**. 29 August 1946). Charles Passman of the American Joint Distribution Committee discussed the questions of relief and welfare facilities in some detail, and explained what relief his organization was able to afford to a typical camp of the size of Caraolos. He stated that relief took two main forms. One to be a grant which included the provision of clothing and suggested that a supplementary clothing issue might be made available. As explained by him, the Tel Aviv Municipality had purchased 2.000 pound of the clothing for the three batches of immigrants in Cyprus.

In addition to the education of the children and the other immigrants in the camps primarily, publishing a newspaper of the native language also got the priority. Additionally American Joint Distribution Committee would take care of the requirements for scrolls of law prayer shawls and other religious articles and books as well as employing two social welfare workers, one who would be extremely experienced in occupational therapy, and the other with perhaps less experience to deal with entertainment for the children (**P.I. O. News Item**, 18th September 1946). Then, some efforts were carried out to establish some infrastructure and facility spots such as the kitchen, toilet, mess hall, and the dormitory (**FO.PIO News Item**. 29 August 1946). Just after then, Mr. Charles Passman of the American Joint Distribution Committee arrived again in Cyprus on 9th September 1946. The supplies which were previously negotiated were due to arrive by a Turkish ship named Foudaieh. The first consignment of the supplies would take the form chiefly of medical supplies and equipment, school books and kindergarten accessories, religious accoutrements (**Hürsöz**, 14th May 1947). There would also be a large amount of clothing which in this first consignment would take the form of underclothing, shirts and shorts for both men and women. (**FO. PIO.Communique** No.7. 9th September 1946).

Totally 17 political parties from Palestine such as Mapai which was known to be Labor Party, some religious parties such as Hashomer Hatzair, Agudas Israel, Mizrachi, and Hapoel Hamizrachi, and Noar Zioni or Betar had at least one representative or a secretariat. These 17 parties were so organized, and in the

very center of the influential activities that the Jewish immigrants who were not the members of these parties were subjected to hunger because all the meals were distributed by these parties, and the parties normally took care of the members only and firstly (www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/libkany/lip001.html).

British administration on the other hand restrained from giving information about the camps up to 18th August 1946 (**FO.PIO Communiqué**. No.3. 16 August 1946.). The first reporter to visit the camps was from Cyprus Mail. The reporter and the photographer of that journal were given permission to come into the camp but would get no permission to talk to the immigrants (**Hürsöz**, 20 August 1946). On the above-mentioned day in the morning there was a disturbance in the immigrants camp at Caraolos South. When Press representatives, who were carrying out a conductive tour, entered the camp they were immediately rushed and surrounded by a mob of the immigrants singing "Palestine, Palestine". Part of the mob rushed the main gate and almost succeeded in breaking out. The military guard at the gate were forced to resort to firearms and shot over the heads of the immigrants. The civil police were called in to assist. By twenty past ten peace had been restored. Unfortunately there were two casualties among the military guard but none among the immigrants (**FO.PIO Communiqué Confidential Press Comment**. No.1.18 August 1946). BBC and Reuter reporters in addition those from Cyprus newspapers such as **Hürsöz**, **Vakit**, **Haber** and **Son Dakika** would enter the camp for the first time on 9th September 1946 to visit 2.139 immigrants available in the camp (**Vakit**, 10 September 1946.).

That the married couples had no privacy and no private tent or hunt, that four family were given only one tent in the successive days, that the pregnant women were given no extra food and the insufficiency of the food and water all reasoned the complaints and the protests (**Hürsöz**, 11 September 1946), therefore human dignity had already started decaying. Claire Neikind, the American journalist of American News Agency who claimed, on the other hand, that she traveled the entire distance with the illegal immigrants was arrested up to 11th September 1946, and was released from Caraolos then (**Hürsöz**; 8 September 1946). The mayor of Nicosia on the other hand declared that he had no personal objections against the period and the number of the immigrants (**FO.PIO Communiqué Confidential Press Comment**. No.5.14 August 1946).

While 3.845 Jewish immigrants aboard **Knesset Yisrael** stepped on the harbor in Famagusta and they were taken to Caraolos camp, they distributed some booklets with some slogans such as "Cypriot brothers! Don't let Cyprus turn to be a detention and death camp for us who had experienced Auschwitz, Bucheuwad, and Maidauek detention camps. Cypriot brothers! You can also make some demonstrations so that we can be transferred to Palestine, our homeland" (**Hürsöz**; 5th December 1946).

6. 4. The Reactions of the Journals, and the Impressions

All the camps as well as Caraolos were visited on 5th December 1946 by the journalists working in Cyprus (Ateş; 10th December 1946) escorted by British Major G. J. Wilson who was supposed to be the planner and the architect of these camps (Hürsöz; 6th December 1946). Firstly the clinic having two parts for women and men with the capacity of 96 patients were visited. The patient having more serious and fatal problems was, on the other hand, hospitalized in Nicosia with no sheets and no blankets. The camp had a 125 person-mess hall, 400 person-meeting room, and the 15-person dormitories (Hürsöz; 6 December 1946). The huts in which the immigrants lived had a stove and a few broken chairs. One of the songs sung by Jewish immigrants all day long was "Cyprus is also a Palestine."

The little-roomed huts were given to the married couples, but since the number of the married couples naturally increased in time, the British authority in the camp brought this to an end, and no room was given even to the married ones, so everybody had to share the same huts with no privacy. In addition to the insufficient mess hall and the huts, the camp also had two huts used for taking showers. In spite of the fact that a depot was established to solve the matter of water, scarcity of water was believed to be the first and the most vital problem till the closure of the camps. Out of the Jewish immigrants, some 3.500 Cypriots worked in the camps as well as 800 German prisoners of war. Xylotymbou camp was ruled by Major C. J. Wilson, and the camp had a trainway between the camp and Dikelia even if it was useless for the kept people. Because the above-mentioned camp was divided into two parts with a highway, camp command built a high covered wooden bridge for the Jewish immigrants over two barbed-wire barricades so that they could pass from one section of the camp to the other. They called this overpass Forty-Second Street. The streets between the tents and the huts had no name, and this situation caused the Jewish immigrants who survived Nazi invasions and death camps to show reactions, protesting that they were given no ID card in the camps in Cyprus but they were given ID cards even in Hitler's detention camps, and they called themselves no-name immigrants in a no-name island. Even if the immigrants were not permitted to go out of the camp and to swim but volleyball field was established (Hürsöz; 6 December 1946).

7- NUTRITION, DRESSING AND SHELTERING IN THE CAMPS

British authorities never give permission to the local shop-keepers who demand to sell something to the Jewish immigrants in the camps, and those who want to run the canteen there, saying the number of local purchases for the illegal immigrants confined in Caraolos Camp was likely to be very small, and the letters from the trading community containing quotations for commodities would not be answered. In such instances where local supplies were required they would be obtained from the Controller of Supplies, Transport and Marketing. (FO.PIO News Item. 30 August 1946). Even on the subject of local purchases

made for illegal immigrants detained at Caraolos Camp as were made, such purchases would not be heavy, and would be through the Controller of Supplies. Letters from commercial interests to the Civil Administrative Officer containing quotations would not be answered (**FO. PIO. News Item**.17 September 1946). Actually the immigrants who brought nothing to the camps had no money to purchase something.

Despite the fact that Greek Cypriots had sympathy for these people, the article in *Eleftheria* headed "Settlement of Jews and the cost of living" stated that the start of the immigration of Jews to Cyprus held public opinion in anxiety in case the cost of living would be affected. Then this would be unavoidable if food stuffs and other commodities were supplied to the Jews from the existing stocks of the island (**Eleftheria**, 16th August 1946). Bedsteads, mattresses, covers and other materials, intended for the Jewish camp, were surprisingly provided by the military authorities and not from the stocks in possession of the government. Furthermore, it was not known whether Jews would be permitted to move freely at intervals, and to move all over the island. C.R. C. Donald also made a speech to the Jewish immigrants on behalf of the Cyprus government on 16th August 1946, stating that "No one who has considered the difficulties of displaced people in central Europe, and the sufferings of your race, can fail to sympathize with you, and the government of Cyprus and the military authorities are alike anxious that you should be as comfortable as possible during your temporary stay in Cyprus, for you will understand that you will remain here only until arrangements can be made for your ultimate future" (**P.I.O. Communiqué** No. 5, 16th August 1946).

In the camps that exactly kept 52,384 Jewish immigrants, 2,000 babies were born within two years (www.hri.org/news/cyprus/eng/1998.) and the circumcision ceremonies of the Jewish babies were carried out in the camps in accordance with Jewish traditions. Despite the fact that the camps were all established in the seaside, not only the children but none of the immigrants was given permission to swim. Subsequent to the insistent trials, only the children kept in the camp named Camp 64 were given allowance to swim under the control of armed soldiers. On the other hand, Colonel Dent who couldn't bear such ridiculous manner resigned from his post and left Cyprus, going aboard (**Laub**; 1985, 100).

In the very first year of the camp, about 500 babies were born, and 800 couples got married. The journalist named Gruber who met more than 250 babies aged below 12 months got surprised. (**Herald Tribune**, 15 August 1948). The marriages had mostly realized between the Jewish immigrants with some exceptions such as the marriages between the workers and the immigrants, and the camp authorities. Moreover no sooner had the ship named Chaim Arlosoroff which escaped from Sweden come to the camp with more than 800 women on 28th February 1947 than the number of the marriages surprisingly increased (**Laub**;1985,91).

About 400 immigrants, most of whom were the old lost their lives in the camps due to a good many reasons. The first British soldier on duty on the perimeter who lost his life in the camp met his death during a night rain storm by touching a lamp standard, which had been affected by the wet due to the electrocution at the Caralios camp on the 9th September of 1946 (**FO.PIO Communique Confidential Press Comment**. No.5.11 September 1946). Those who lost their lives in the camps were all buried in a graveyard named Margoa, and expressed as "the forgotten Jewish people of the forgotten island" (**FO.PIO Communiqué** No.6. 19 April 1947).

Jewish relief organization try to register to get some doctors and the nurses for the camps, and two qualified welfare workers, named Lugton and Adler start working in the camp. As instructed to himself, Mr. Adler's primary attention would be given to the improvement of the baby clinic and to the children's welfare. Miss Ruth Pershitz, a member of the local Jewish community, would teach in the camp school for which three large tents had been provided (**FO.PIO News Item**. 29 August 1946). In addition to all these efforts, a start was also made on 29th August 1946 with the qualified optician to provide spectacles to illegal immigrants who had lost their own. In those cases where illegal immigrants were without funds the glasses would be supplied free of charge (Hürsöz, 1 September 1946). Considering the situation, so far only urgent cases had got allocation (**FO.PIO News Item**. 30 August 1946). Between those who helped the Jewish immigrants in Famagusta was the Turkish Cypriots such as Jeff Ertughrul; (**Ertuğrul**; 24 April 2006)

"I would present the oranges given to me by my mother to the Jewish people through the fences in my childhood. A British soldier, one day, caught me red-handed and hit me. Then my mother going to the camp grasped the soldier on duty and got his rifle. Then getting the rifle of the soldier, he rushed into the room of the commander and furied him a lot. The camp commander apologized from my mother, and ordered the soldier to do so. The following day, the commander gave me a box of chocolate. My mother never answered the questions such as 'Hanife, how did you that? The soldiers could fire you.'"

8-TRIALS TO ESCAPE FROM THE CAMPS

The Jewish immigrants kept in these camps proposing there is no difference between the prison, the prison of war camp and these camps try to escape from the camps getting assistance from Mossad, Jewish Relief Organization and the workers in the camps. Experiencing all these in the camps, current rumors that perimeter guards had received instructions to open fire on any vessel approaching the camp from the sea were entirely without foundation, as announced by the British authorities in the camp (**FO.PIO News Item**. 30th August 1946). On the other hand, the soldiers firing up during the turmoil and the protest demonstrations are all published in American newspapers (**Hürsöz**, 24th September 1946). Current rumors in the camps that the immigrants had all escaped by cutting their way through the wire were officially denied. The wire

surrounding the camp had at no time been cut and was intact. Therefore it was hardly possible for the immigrants to escape from the camps by cutting the wires, and for example the last three Jewish immigrants who evaded their guards surrendered to the authorities later during the daytime (**FO.PIO Communiqué Confidential Press Comment**. No.2.28 August 1946). In addition to those who tried to escape from the camps digging tunnels, some Jewish immigrants who were hospitalized in Nicosia also tried to escape off the island. It was, for instance, stated that two illegal immigrants had been taken in custody by the civil police at Limassol. These men had escaped from the military hospital at Nicosia where hospital cases were sent under escort from Caraolos camp (**FO.PIO Communiqué Confidential Press Comment**. News Item.11th September 1946).

9- THE REBELLIONS IN THE CAMPS

The only motto known by all the Jewish immigrants is "Early come to the camp early go from the camp." and out of this rule the people who are allowed to leave the island earlier than the others are the doctors dealing in the branches mostly as brain surgery, general surgery, and microbiology, who are mostly needed in Palestine, and they are with no lottery and no queue taken to Palestine urgently. Despite the fact that the British authorities expressed to give 750 certificates to the Jews "on the prison island" (**Gruber**, 1948; 45) these restrictions were generally ignored by the British themselves (**FO.PIO Communiqué** No.3. 21 April 1947).

The first group of Jewish immigrants who were allowed to leave the camps and to go to Palestine get aboard Yagar would be selected from 754 Jewish immigrants who came from Poland on 14th August 1946. The British authorities also permitted the Jewish immigrants aboard Henrietta Szold which arrived in Cyprus on 14th August 1946 with 536 immigrants to join in the lottery to choose those to go to Palestine, at last 300 persons were given granted to go to Palestine. The individual selection of the first 300 Jewish immigrants to receive certificates on the November/December quota had been , as said by British authorities, satisfactorily concluded by the Jewish Agency Team and other authorities concerned. The infants who were with their parents and other children, if any, had first priority, followed by children aged one to four with parents and elder children, if any, and lastly, expectant mothers in the eight or ninth month of pregnancy. (**FO.PIO Communiqué** No.2. 29 November 1946). Approximately 270 certificates were involved in this selection; the remaining 30 people go to Palestine, getting selected by ballot from the "Yagur".

Agreements had also been reached for the 750 proceedings on the December/January quota, who would be drawn by ballot from the balance of the "Yagur" and "Henreitta Szold" in proportion to the numbers arriving on each ship. Thereafter the selection would be according to date of arrival of the illegal immigrant ships, giving priority in each ship to the various categories as expressed before. Due to 375 Jewish immigrants transported to the detention

camps in Palestine by Susannah, the number and quota of the immigrants to be taken from Cyprus to Palestine is reduced from 750 to 375. Moreover, British authorities thinking that saturating more than 150 Jewish immigrants to Palestine territory is certainly in favor of the quota of the immigrants as 150. Adapting such a reduced quota, the ship headed for Haifa from Cyprus, aboard the P. P. Efthalia which was flying the Panama flag, carrying 100 passengers below the deck and 50 on deck, and no military escort accompanied the party.

The illegal immigrants at Caraolos went on a serious hunger strike for the first time on 18th September 1947 in protest against the non-satisfaction of their demands for an increase in the number of transfers to Palestine. There was no major disturbance in fact during the night, on the other hand, sporadic incidents took place and attempts were made to burn down three main gates (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.6. 19 April 1947**). In the meantime, an extra military team was also deployed to the camp, led by a Major, and the body of the Jew named Shlomoh Chaimson who was shot one day before at Caraolos was buried in the Jewish cemetery at Margo. Seventy-five inmates from Caraolos camp attended the funeral. All the Jewish illegal immigrants, except those who had arrived at the camp recently, pregnant women and the women with the babies, were on five-day hunger strike. (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.3. 21 April 1947**). Later on, it was understood that going on strike was nothing but eye-polishing and the food for the strikers were brought to the camp clandestinely (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.6. 19 April 1947**). Of the Jewish people who had attended the funeral ceremony of the Jewish person named Shlomoh Chaimson was also Major Wewman who held the funeral on his shoulder (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.3. 21 April 1947**). The Jewish illegal immigrants in Caraolos and Xylotymbou camps ceased hunger strike the same day afternoon following the decision of the Central Committee to finish their hunger strike which started at noon on Friday. The decision was taken after the Committee had met the Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Cyprus and a member of the Jewish Agency Executive. Special arrangements were also being made to bring in food to the camps as all previous offers of rations have been refused by the internees until that day's decision. This made the supply of food for children in the camps during the hunger strike a difficult problem, and many of the children also joined in the hunger strike. (**FO.PIO Communiqué No.7. 22 April 1947**).

10- EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMPS

The British authorities in the camp terrified by the Jewish strike tried to find out some ways for the immigrants to spend time, and Jewish Relief Organization opened a nursery, kindergarten, and a primary school for the children numbered more than 1.000 in 1947. Most of the children used to be kept in a summer camp named Camp 65, and get the courses from 06.00 to 12.00 at noon (**P.I.O. News Item. 30 August 1946**).

The courses arranged for the adult is mostly composed of Jewish history, traditions, protocol and fine arts and social manners, social life in Palestine,

Jewish artists, poets, religious leaders, literary and cultural personalities. The foundations and organizations mostly arrange all these courses for the immigrants in Cyprus camps are Rutenberg Foundation led from Haifa and the Youth Aliya Foundations established by Henrietta Szold for mostly the orphaned Jewish children. The concert and dance groups were also set in the camp, and a concert was also given on the 5th September 1946 to the Jewish illegal immigrants at Caraolos camp by Franz Rosner, violinist, of the Palestine Broadcasting Corporation accompanied by Gerhard Jarecki on the piano. Both musicians were on holiday in Cyprus and volunteered to give up their spare time to entertain the illegal immigrants. The concert and the following ones were all much appreciated and well attended by the people there. (FO. PIO Communiqué No.1. 12th September 1946).

In addition to all these entertaining activities in the camp, the Jewish New year had been celebrated in Caraolos camp during the last three days of September. At Camp 55 Rabbi Dayam, Dr. Grunfeld, a senior member of the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council who arrived at the island before from London stayed in the camp with the immigrants during his stay and had conducted services. Captain B. Ebstein of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, Palestine, who was also living in the camp held services at Camp 60 and 61 as well. (FO. PIO Communiqué No.3. 28 September 1946). The football teams were also established in the camps as well, and these football teams had got football matches against the British military personnel, and German Prisoners of war kept in the island in the following days.

By the way, that Turkey keeps a policy against the division of Palestine territory is regarded respectfully by Arabic countries as eternal appreciation (BA.030.10.266.793.49.). Soon after Israel is established on 15th May 1948, but Turkish assistance towards Jewish immigrants would continue (BA.030.18.01.02. 118.80.14.). In February 1949, the camps in Cyprus are closed down and the last immigrants there numbering some 10.000 are all transported to Israel by the ships from that country.

11. JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TRANSPORTED TO THE CAMPS, AND THE SHIPS

The number of the immigrants, the ships, where they came from, and when they left Europe between 29th July 1946-14th April 1948 is listed as follows (Hürsöz, 7th October 1947.). 52.384 Jewish people are transported to the island in totally 39 actions, but some more ships are also available out of the list below. For example Empire Rival with 544 men and 153 women on 15th March 1946, Empire Rest with 390 people on 5th October 1947, Empire Comfort with 398 immigrants, Snow Smith with 829 Jewish immigrants, and Empire Shelter with 402 immigrants on 4th October 1947 are out of the list.

The Ship	Country	Departure	Arrival	Person	Country
Yagar	France	29.07.1946	14.08.1946	754	<i>Poland and others</i>
Henrietta Szold	Greece	03.07.1946	14.08.1946	536	<i>Greece Hungary</i>
Katriel Yaffe	Italia	30.07.1946	18.08.1946	601	<i>Poland Romania</i>
Kaf-Gimel Yordei Hasira	Italia	02.08.1946	18.08.1946	790	<i>Poland and others</i>
Arbah Heruyot SP. Empire Heywood	Italia	23.08.1946	04.09.1946	1.032	<i>Poland & others</i>
Palmach	Italia	11.09.1946	23.09.1946	630	<i>Italia, Greece</i>
Bracha Fuld	Italia	09.10.1946	21.10.1946	806	<i>Poland-Romania</i>
Latrun	France	19.10.1946	02.11.1946	1.252	<i>Poland and & others</i>
Knesset Yisrael	Yugoslavia	08.11.1946	30.11.1946	3.845	<i>Romania</i>
Rafiah	Yugoslavia	26.11.1946	12.12.1946	785	<i>Romania</i>
Lanegev	France	18.01.1947	17.02.1947	647	<i>Poland</i>
Hama'apil Ha'almoni	France	03.02.1947	17.02.1947	796	<i>Poland</i>
Chaim Arlosoroff	Sweden	27.01.1947	28.02.1947	1.348	<i>Poland Germany</i>
Ben Hecht	France	22.02.1947	10.03.1947	626	<i>Poland France Tunisia</i>
Shabbatai Lozinsky	Italia	04.03.1947	13.03.1947	848	<i>Poland</i>
Moledet	Italia	23.03.1947	30.03.1947	1.563	<i>Poland</i>
Theodor Herzl	France	01.04.1947	15.04.1947	2.641	<i>Poland Hungary</i>
Shear Yashuv	Italia	06.04.1947	23.04.1947	768	<i>Poland</i>
Hatikva	Italia	08.05.1947	17.05.1947	1.416	<i>Poland & others</i>
Mordei Hageetaot	Italia	13.05.1947	25.05.1947	1.457	<i>Poland</i>
Yehudah Halevi	Algebra	10.05.1947	31.05.1947	460	<i>North Africa</i>
Shivat Tzion	Algebra	16.07.1947	28.07.1947	411	<i>North Africa</i>
Af-al-pi	Italia	15.09.1947	27.09.1947	434	<i>Poland &</i>

					<i>others</i>
Geula	Bulgaria	26.09.1947	02.10.1947	1.388	<i>Romania</i>
Medinat Hayehudim	Bulgaria	26.09.1947	02.10.1947	2.644	<i>Romania</i>
Kadima	Italia	05.11.1947	16.11.1947	792	<i>Poland-Romania Hungary</i>
Lo-Tafchidumu	Italia	11.12.1947	24.12.1947	884	<i>Poland-Romania Hungary</i>
Kaf-tet b'november	Corsica	14.12.1947	29.12.1947	680	<i>Romania Hungary North Africa</i>
Atzmaut (Pan Crescent)	Bulgaria	26.12.1947	01.01.1948	7.612	<i>Romania Bulgaria</i>
Kibbutz Galuiot Pan York	Bulgaria	26.12.1947	01.01.1948	15.557	<i>Romania</i>
Lamed-Hei Giborei Kfar Etzion	Italia	16.01.1948	01.02.1948	274	<i>Romania-Hungary Poland</i>
Yerushalayim Hanetzura	Italia	03.02.1948	----- -	670	<i>Romania-Hungary Poland</i>
Lakomemiut	France	08.02.1948	20.02.1948	699	<i>Europe-North Africa</i>
Bonim Velochamim	Yugoslavia	18.02.1948	28.02.1948	1.002	<i>Bulgaria</i>
Yechiam	Italia	09.03.1948	28.03.1948	767	<i>Hungary-North Africa</i>
Tirat Zvi	Italia	03.04.1948	12.04.1948	798	<i>Various Countries</i>
Mishmar Haemek	France	14.04.1948	24.04.1948	788	<i>Various Countries</i>
<i>Nachshon</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>14.04.1948</i>	<i>26.04.1948</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>Various Countries</i>

12-RESULT

The war period especially in Europe passed away within Nazi horror, and thousands of Jewish civilian people from different countries such as primarily Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Austria, and some African countries like Morocco and Algeria were taken to the death camps, and lost their lives in the gas chambers. The survivors tried to escape from those

countries towards Palestine; unfortunately almost no country except Turkey helped them and backed. British government unlike the reluctant countries to help the immigrants started using some restrictions against these immigrants leading them to Cyprus.

Turkey was one of those countries to help the immigrants. Turkey also helped Greece which was invaded by Italian and then by German military forces and suffered from starvation causing the death of at least 3.000 Greek people in Salonica and Athens as a result of 'Great Starvation / μεγάλος λιμός). Turkey also became negotiator between Allied and Axis forces to exchange the POWs in İzmir and Mersin Turkey also helped the poor civilian people in the war-torn countries supplying them with food, cloth, and medical assistance and shelter by means of Red Crescent organization, sending them all those necessary stuffs and establishing some camps, mess halls and hostels in Nazilli, Niğde, Erdek, Muğla, Nevşehir, Edirne for the refugees and the immigrants.

While Aphrodite's realm, the island named Cyprus turned to be a prison, a no-name island, a hell with no privacy, and the ugliest architecture, the Jewish immigrants were named to be mass, illegal, unlawful, refugees by British authorities. Therefore, the forgotten Jews of the forgotten island had to live with no infrastructure, no water, no bed, no privacy, and no social activity under the military authority. Despite all the negative and hard conditions, that Turkey continued to help those poor people is a virtue to be remembered even today.

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