

75 DE ANI DE LA HOLOCAUST

EVREII DIN EUROPA ÎN TIMPUL CELUI DE-AL
DOILEA RĂZBOI MONDIAL: NOI DOCUMENTE,
MĂRTURII ȘI ABORDĂRI



JEWS IN EUROPE DURING THE SECOND
WORLD WAR: NEW DOCUMENTS,
TESTIMONIALS AND APPROACHES

ANTONIO FAUR
(COORDONATOR)



UNIVERSITATEA DIN ORADEA
CENTRUL DE CERCETARE A ISTORIEI EVREILOR „EVA HEYMAN”

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Private American Efforts to Obtain Palestine Certificates and Transit Visas for Hungarian Jews in 1944

John M. HOENIG*, Ladislau GYÉMANT**, Levente OLOSZ*¹

Abstract. *In 1944, three non-governmental organizations in New York, the World Jewish Congress, the Zionist Organization of America, and the International Relief and Rescue Committee, compiled 48 or more lists of people in Hungary and Hungarian-speaking lands that wanted to immigrate to Palestine. There may have been 9 additional lists but their location, if they exist, is unknown at present. There is evidence the three relief agencies coordinated efforts to some extent, based on the numbering of the lists, and that they were in contact with other private organizations based on correspondence. The 48 lists are comprised of 9,000 people in about 2500 families from Hungarian-speaking lands in present-day Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Serbia. About a third of the people lived in Budapest, a third in the rest of present-day Hungary, and a third in territory occupied by Hungary. The lists identify families and contain names, ages, and towns. In many cases they also contain detailed descriptions of extended families (cousins, in-laws, etc.) and street addresses. Early lists were sent directly to the Jewish Agency for Palestine. After the creation of the US Government's War Refugee Board, the 48 lists were sent to the Board for forwarding to the representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul. It is not known how effective were these efforts of the relief organizations but certainly some people obtained certificates and reached Palestine. The relief agencies'*

¹ *John M. HOENIG – Ph.D. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William G. Mary (S.U.A.), ** Ladislau GYÉMANT – Profesor universitar emerit, Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca; *** Levente OLOSZ, „Esterházy Karolyi” University (Ungaria).

efforts may have resulted in the issuance of 8000 Palestine Certificates that, unfortunately, were not used during the war.

Keywords: *War Refugee Board, World Jewish Congress, Zionist Organization of America, Jewish Agency for Palestine, lists of names, Istanbul*

Introduction

In 1944, the United States government was under pressure to rescue Jews in Hungary, Romania and other parts of Europe. The Roosevelt administration responded by creating the War Refugee Board (WRB) by executive order on January 22, 1944. It had an initial, modest budget of one million dollars. Its mandate, as described by Erbelding (1, p. 77), included supporting the work of private relief groups and eliminating obstacles; staff would be “red-tape cutters, cable senders, diplomatic liaisons, project supporters, and negotiators, but they would not be funders”.

Also in 1944, private relief agencies in New York were working to compile lists of people in Hungarian speaking lands, mostly in present-day Hungary and Romania, who wanted to obtain Palestine Certificates granting them entrance into Palestine. The idea was to send these lists to the British authorities to obtain certificates and then assist the people to travel to Palestine via Turkey.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in New York had difficulty transmitting their lists to the representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul and asked the War Refugee Board to send them by cable or diplomatic pouch. Thus began cooperative efforts between the War Refugee Board and the NGOs. Copies of (most of) these lists are located in the records of the War Refugee Board located at the Theodore Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York. The lists have also been digitized and are available online (2). Copies of the lists compiled by the World Jewish Congress are in the organization’s files at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (3, box D109, file 9).

The two principal NGOs doing this work in New York were the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and the World Jewish Congress (WJC). A third NGO, the International Relief and Rescue Committee (IRRC, now the International Rescue Committee), also compiled one list (2). Together, these three organizations compiled between 48 and 57

lists in 1944 (some lists in a numbered series of lists are either missing or were not created), and these lists contain references to some 9,000 people in about 2500 families. Efforts of the World Jewish Congress began in February, 1943, resulting in the creation of various-format, short, unnumbered lists (e.g., 3, Box D109, files 08 and 09; Box D111, file 1). These early lists have not been examined for the present study. Efforts of the Zionist Organization of American also began before the creation of the War Refugee Board but lack of access to these records has precluded investigation of the ZOA's early efforts to rescue Hungarian Jews.

In this paper, we review the context and nature of the relief efforts, including the timing, magnitude, and organization of the work, and the relationship between the War Refugee Board, the ZOA and the WJC, and other private agencies. We describe the lists of names that were created including variables, data structure, censoring of variables, and other uncertainties. This is followed by an analysis of the data including geographic distribution, family size and structure, and age composition. Finally, we present tentative conclusions about the significance of the relief efforts in 1944.

Context and nature of the relief efforts

Erbelding (1, chapter 8) and Hirschmann (4) describe the procedures necessary at the start of 1944 for getting people from Hungary to Palestine as follows: 1) A list of people recommended for the issuance of Palestine Certificates had to be transmitted to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, either by sending it directly to Palestine or to the Agency's representative, Chaim Barlas, in Istanbul. Barlas would send the list to Palestine. 2) The Jewish Agency for Palestine would transmit the list to British authorities who would send it to London. 3) From London, the list would go to the British passport official in Istanbul, who would 4) send it to Turkish authorities who would, in turn, send it to Turkish consulates in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. The travelers would need the Palestine Certificate and permission to cross Bulgaria and pass through Turkey en route to Palestine. Finally, the travelers would need a means of transportation.

The private relief agencies in New York received numerous requests in 1943 and early 1944 from family members in America requesting assistance in rescuing relatives trapped in Hungarian-speaking lands (3, Box D111, file 1). Similarly, other private organizations such as

the Jewish Labor Committee sought help in rescuing labor leaders and others in Europe. Thus, the WJC sent numerous requests to the Jewish Agency for Certificates for individual families or small groups of people. Family sponsors had to bear the cost of sending cables which could be appreciable (one example in the WJC records (3, box D109, file 9) bore a cost of \$11.22 which would be about \$170 in today's dollars). The private relief agencies in New York had difficulty transmitting their lists to the Jewish Agency because of the military censor; consequently, they turned to the WRB for assistance in sending the lists to Istanbul (2, file 2, pages 385–387). At this point, the length of the lists increased to up to 13 typed pages of names.

As Erbelding (1, page 90) explains about the situation at the start of 1944, "Even though the [British] White Paper [of 1939], limiting Jewish immigration [to Palestine] to seventy-five thousand over five years, was technically set to expire in March 1944, there were still thirty-one thousand unissued certificates because so few Jews were able to escape during the war." It was hoped that the British would ignore the March expiration date and issue certificates.

Soon after it was created, the War Refugee Board sent Ira Hirschmann to Istanbul to try to speed up the process for helping Hungarian Jews immigrate to Palestine (1, chapter 8). A new, shorter and simplified procedure was implemented in which the private relief agencies sent lists to the WRB which transmitted the lists to Chaim Barlas in Istanbul. Barlas was authorized to issue certificates and send the papers to the Turkish Government which would then send the Certificates and transit visas to Turkish consulates in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Hirschmann also helped arrange transport for the travelers.

Description of surviving lists

There are 48 typed lists of names with varying amounts of personal information (Table 1) in the records of the War Refugee Board (2). Most of the lists are numbered in a sequence from 1 to 41. However, lists numbers 8, 10, 22, 27, 28, 30, 39, 40 and 41 are missing from the online documents (2). (The existence of some lists is inferred from the fact that they were mentioned in correspondence between the aid societies and the War Refugee Board; others are inferred from the gaps in the numbered sequence of lists.) Also, there are two lists with the numbers 4, 8, 9, 18,

and 19. Nine lists are not numbered. For the most part, the numbering of the two principal aid societies' lists is non-overlapping. (There are numerous short lists from the period from January to April, 1944, in the records of the WJC (3) but these are not considered here.)

The World Jewish Congress prepared 21 of the lists. Its first list was dated May 1, 1944 (Figures 1, 2); its last was dated October 18, 1944. The Zionist Organization of America prepared 25 lists. Its first list was dated June 1, 1944, and the last list was dated November 16, 1944. However, correspondence in the files of the WRB refers to a list compiled by the ZOA dated December 5, 1944 (2, folder 1, p.10). The International Relief and Rescue Committee prepared one list dated June 20, 1944. The lists range in length from one to thirteen pages and, together, they comprise 178 typed pages. There are 9399 people and, significantly, names are presented as family units in most lists. The lists describe 2465 families, though the given name is not available for 31% of the people (e.g., for entries like "Mr. and Mrs. Janos Klein and child").

The lists are of two formats. The first format, comprising 25 lists, provides just information about individuals and families recommended for the granting of Palestine Certificates (Figure 3). The second format (Figure 4), comprising 22 lists, includes the name and address and familial relationship of an American sponsor, i.e., someone who requested their relative(s) be granted certificate(s).

Early lists emphasized the quality (being of good character) of the people recommended for receiving Palestine Certificates and the fact that the people had been evaluated for suitability. Thus, the list prepared by the IRRC and the list prepared by the WJC dated May 1, 1944, described "notable" people while lists 3, 4 and 5 prepared by the WJC listed clergy. Many lists stated the people were "recommended" for Palestine Certificates. It was apparently felt that lists with an American sponsor might be persuasive to British authorities as it indicated American interest in seeing the granting of Certificates.

Almost all lists provide at a minimum the name, age and town of the people recommended for Palestine Certificates. Family structure is identified in various formats such as

- Janos Klein and wife Sara and sons Sandor and Bela
- Janos Klein and wife and 2 sons
- Janos Klein and wife and children
- Janos Klein and family

For purposes of statistical analysis, we record the first two entries as indicating a family of size 4; the third entry is recorded as a family of size 4+, the + indicating the observation is censored because “children” implies at least 2 individuals but possibly more; we record the fourth entry as a family of size 3+ assuming “and family” implies at least two more people. Because of the censoring of data, it is not possible to determine exactly how many people are included in the lists.

Many of the lists describe extended families. Thus, in a grouping of names one might find any of the following descriptors next to a name: grandparent, parent, spouse, sibling, in-law, cousin, aunt/uncle, nephew/niece and grandchild. Different parts of a given family might have different addresses including different cities specified.

Analysis of data

Of the 9399 people referred to in the lists, 3883 were males and 3580 were females. For 1936 individuals, the gender was not specified as, for example, when a family was described as having “and 2 children”.

There were 155 families (6.3%) whose size was censored. This indicates a high degree of completeness of the records. However, no given name is available for 31% of the people.

Professional titles are provided where appropriate. There are 206 doctors and 94 clergy (81 Rabbis, 6 Chief Rabbis, 1 Grand Rabbi, 1 Cantor and 5 Calvinist ministers) identified in the lists. Other professions are provided for 224 individuals in two early lists, the one created by the IRRC dated 20 June and one created by the WJC dated 1 May. These included:

- 7 members or former members of the House of Representatives or Senate
- 7 lawyers, advocates (1), Director of Jurist College (1)
- 21 deputies
- 4 trade union leaders
- 108 publishers (1), editors (6), authors (81), journalists (8), poets (11), critics (1)
- 4 historians
- 14 economists
- 8 performing arts – musician, conductor, actor/actress, theater director
- 15 visual arts – painters (9), sculptors (6)
- 8 composers
- 7 university professors (5), lecturer (1), teacher (1)
- 7 physicists (3), mathematicians (3), statisticians (1)

- 4 architects
- 2 farmers
- 8 other professionals

These notable people were mostly from Budapest but ranged across all of Hungary in 1944.

Families ranged in size from 1 to 25. This reflects that the entries often refer to extended families, sometimes with siblings having their families in separate cities or towns. The modal family size was 4, and 72% of the families contained 1 to 4 individuals (Figure 5).

Ages ranged from 0 to 94 years. The distribution of ages was mound shaped with a peak at 35–40 years (Figure 6). This is not a stable age distribution because the numbers at age are not continuously decreasing with age. If we assume that all of the unspecified ages in the database pertain to young people, and that all censored family sizes have three children, then adding these additional people to the left of the age distribution would still not make the distribution stable (Figure 7).

There are a number of potential explanations for the lack of young people in the lists. There may have been few births during the perilous times of the early 1940s. Alternatively or additionally, the people compiling the lists may not have known the families well enough to know all the children, especially those born in last few years (during war). A third explanation is that people with young children may have been more cautious about the dangers of emigrating. It is seen that the first two explanations would affect mostly the first bar of the histogram (0–4 years of age) and thus would not explain the wide under-representation of young ages. By elimination, this gives support to the hypothesis that families with young children were less interested in emigrating than those with grown children.

About a third of the people in the lists lived in Budapest. Another third lived in the rest of modern day Hungary and the remaining third lived in parts of modern Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Serbia that were in Hungary in 1944, plus a few other places (Table 2). Nineteen people were believed to be in concentration camps (Camp Nováky Provno, Slovakia; Camp Theresienstadt; Camp Westerbork; Auschwitz; Concentration Camp Ricse, near Ungvar; Tctnant; Clarahaus, Germany; unknown). Two hundred and three locations from Hungary are represented in the

lists, 54 from Romania, 39 from the Ukraine, and 50 from Slovakia (Tables 3–6).

A number of early lists (WJC lists of May 1, June 1 and June 7; IRRC list of June 20) featured prominent people, emphasized that applicants were screened and recommended, and provided names of American sponsors (Table 1). As the summer of 1944 progressed, it appears the emphasis was on providing as many names as possible.

Discussion, conclusions and future work

The picture we have of the private relief agencies' efforts to assist Hungarian-speaking Jews is colored by the fact that the materials we examined are largely from the records of the WRB. Additional insights could undoubtedly be had by examining the records of the private relief agencies and the Rescue Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine (5). For example, a letter in the files of the WRB from the Zionist Organization of America dated May 3, 1944, indicated that in April, 1944, 30 cables were sent on behalf of 500 people to the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem but they did not arrive, presumably because of the military censor (2, folder 3, p. 385–7). Thus, the activities of the ZOA were apparently more extensive and began earlier than is apparent from the lists in the WRB records. Unfortunately, the ZOA declined to respond to our requests to view archival material. The World Jewish Congress was actively seeking Palestine Certificates and arranging transportation for small groups of Hungarian Jews from February, 1943, through early 1944 (3, Box D109, files 08 and 09; Box D111, file 1). These efforts appear to have been driven by individual requests to the WJC to rescue family members or colleagues. Considerable effort appears to have been devoted to assisting people in concentration camps (e.g., Theresienstadt, Westerbork) in contrast to later efforts. Correspondence indicates that a number of people (not in concentration camps) received Certificates and made it to Palestine.

A fundamental question is the impact of the lists sent to the WRB on the effectiveness of relief efforts. Erbelding (1, p. 90) describing the situation in February of 1944 states: “[Chaim] Barlas [representative of the Jewish Agency in Istanbul] compiled lists of names, dates of birth, and addresses, information he received from representatives in occupied territory.” Although no reference was cited for this in her book, Erbelding

(personal communication) points to a letter dated March 6, 1944 from Ira Hirschmann to the WRB clearly indicating that Barlas prepared lists (4). The lists were used by Ira Hirschmann of the War Refugee Board to start the flow of emigrants from Hungary through Turkey. Although we know lists were compiled by the private relief agencies in New York before the creation of the WRB, we do not know when the NGOs began communicating with Barlas. The ZOA began creating lists at least as early as April, 1944. The Hungarian Committee of the WJC, referred to in the first letter to the WRB, dated May 1, 1944 (Figure 1), was created in February of 1943(3, D106-6-23); it is not known at what point the Committee created the Subcommittee that prepared the lists sent to the WRB but correspondence between the WJC and the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem began at least as early as February, 1943 (3, box D17, file 6, p. 8).

At present, we have found no indication that the lists transmitted to the WRB by the New York private relief organizations had any impact on the rescue of Jews. However, correspondence in the files of the WJC includes confirmations of the receipt of most of the lists by the Jewish Agency. Comparison of the names in the records of the Jewish Agency with those in the lists prepared by the NY agencies should quantify the success of the rescue efforts.

It has been argued that rivalries among private aid groups hindered cooperation and reduced the effectiveness of relief efforts (6). Examination of the lists sent to the WRB reveals a degree of coordination of the activities of the two societies given that the numbering of the lists is largely consistent with just a few cases of overlapping list numbers. Correspondence in the files of WJC illustrates both cooperation and conflict among private relief agencies. Thus, the Jewish Labor Committee prompted the WJC to request Certificates for leaders of the labor movement in Eastern Europe; on the other hand, correspondence indicates conflict between Va'ad ha-Hatzela and the WJC and between the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe and the WJC; the Jewish Agency pleaded for coordination of activities among the private aid societies (3).

Although Erbelding describes the role of the WRB as red tape cutters and cable senders (among other things), the example of the Palestine Certificate lists suggests this may not have happened as smoothly as anticipated. The ZOA sent a request to transmit lists to the WRB on May 3, 1944. The response was one of caution and it was not until May

16 that the WRB responded with a request for suggested accompanying test. With time being of the essence, this was not a particularly quick response.

With the end of World War II, the mandate of the War Refugee Board ended and the Board ceased to exist on September 15, 1945. However, the need for relief of Jews in Hungarian-speaking lands did not end with the end of the war. The WJC continued seeking Palestine Certificates as late as April, 1945 (direct correspondence between WJC and Jewish Agency, 3, box D17, file 09). In October of 1945, a letter was sent to the Jewish Agency in London by Ernest Marton of the Palestine Office (previously the Palestine Committee) in Hungary inquiring about the number of certificates to be issued (7). Specifically, the letter refers to 38 lists containing some 8000 names compiled during the German occupation of Hungary and transmitted by the British Legation in Istanbul to the Budapest Swiss Legation. The letter indicates that these 8000 people had "vatiques" or other kind of certificate awaiting them in Istanbul but most of the people had been deported and hadn't returned. (The term "vatique" appears to refer to a Zionist of long standing and may indicate here a person with a record of being a Zionist. Alternatively, "vatique" may be a typographical error for the French word *viatique*, which translates to *viaticum* in English, which would be referring to provisions (money) for a voyage.) The letter asks whether that number of certificates could be reallocated to people who currently wished to immigrate to Palestine. The origin of those certificates is not certain; likely they were compiled by private relief agencies and, possibly, by the ZOA or the WJC. If so, it would appear that the New York NGOs succeeded not only in getting the lists to Istanbul, but in having certificates approved and notifications sent to Budapest. Furthermore, even though the letter cited above indicates most of the people in the lists had been deported, the lists were also used to argue for new certificates for postwar Jews wishing to emigrate from Hungary.

It is also apparent that the surviving lists of people wishing to obtain Palestine Certificates are of great genealogical value. This is because many of the lists contain extended family groupings so that in-laws, cousins, grandparents and nieces and nephews are identified for many families, and most lists provide age and address. This level of detail greatly increases the ability to identify people.

Disclosure

The first author's grandfather, Maurice Honig, was a member of a subcommittee that prepared lists for the World Jewish Congress. This was discovered when the files of the War Refugee Board were examined (2, folder 3, p.388).

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Letter from Ira Hirschmann to John Pehle dated March 6, 1944. War Refugee Board Papers, Box 48, Folder: Turkey, volume 5. FDR Presidential Library, Hyde Park, NY.

References and notes

1) Erbelding, Rebecca. 2018. *Rescue Board – the untold story of America's efforts to save the Jews of Europe*. Anchor Books, New York.

2) The PDF files with images of the original documents and lists from the War Refugee Board can be found online at:

http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/_resources/images/wrb/wrb0460.pdf (folder 1)

http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/_resources/images/wrb/wrb0461.pdf (folder 2)

http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/_resources/images/wrb/wrb0462.pdf (folder 3).

3) World Jewish Congress Collection, Series D: Relief and Rescue Department, 1939–1969, Subseries 6: Advisory Council on European Jewish Affairs, 1941–1947. Record Group RG-67.011M, US Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives.

4) Letter from Ira Hirschmann to John Pehle dated March 6, 1944. War Refugee Board Papers, Box 48, Folder: Turkey, volume 5. FDR Presidential Library, Hyde Park, NY.

5) Records of the Rescue Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine are available as Record Group RG-68.126 at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

6) Pinsky, Edward David. 1980. Cooperation among American Jewish organizations in their efforts to rescue European Jewry during the Holocaust, 1939–1945. Ph.D. dissertation, New York University.

7) Letter to “The Executive of the Jewish Agency, for Mr. Elijahu Dobkin”, from Ernest Marton dated 5 October, 1945. The Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research, Historical Documentation Center, Haifa, Box 13 – The Ernest Marton Collection, III/14.

Table 1. Inventory of lists of people recommended for the issuance of Palestine Certificates. “Not num” = list has no number associated with it. Pages were numbered by the person who filmed the files. Organization = the private aid society that created the list (WJC = World Jewish Congress, ZOA = Zionist Organization of America, IRRC = International Rescue and Relief Committee.) “Applicants” refers to whether the list contains the names of American sponsors who requested their relatives be considered for issuance of certificates. NA = information Not Available. Bold indicates list is missing. Underlined italic entries indicate there are two lists with the same number.

| List | Folder | Starting doc page # | Length (pg) | Organization | Date | Applicants | Notes |
|------------|----------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------|
| correction | 2 | 158 | 1 | WJC | 28-Aug-44 | no | a |
| not num 2 | 3 | 355 | 1 | ZOA | 1-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 3 | 3 | 356 | 1 | ZOA | 2-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 4 | 3 | 357 | 1 | ZOA | 2-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 5 | 3 | 358 | 1 | ZOA | 2-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 6 | 3 | 359 | 2 | ZOA | 2-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 7 | 2 | 245 | 12 | IRRC | 20-Jun-44 | no | b |
| not num 8 | 3 | 348 | 3 | ZOA | 24-Jun-44 | yes | |
| not num 9 | 2 | 218 | 3 | ZOA | 11-Aug-44 | no | c |
| 1 | 3 | 389 | 2 | WJC | 1-May-44 | no | d |
| 2 | 3 | 379 | 2 | WJC | 1-Jun-44 | no | e |
| 3 | 3 | 372 | 3 | WJC | 21-Jun-44 | no | f |
| <u>4</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>191</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>ZOA</u> | <u>22-Aug-44</u> | <u>some</u> | |
| other 4 | 3 | 264 | 13 | WJC | 29-Jun-44 | no | |
| 5 | 3 | 296 | 4 | WJC | 7-Jun-44 | no | g |
| 6 | 3 | 301 | 4 | WJC | 7-Jul-44 | no | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| 7 | 3 | 310 | 9 | WJC | 7-Jul-44 | no | |
| 8 | 2 | 183 | NA | ZOA | 30-Aug-44 | NA | h |
| <u>other 8</u> | 3 | 329 | 7 | WJC | 7-Jul-44 | no | |
| 9 | 2 | 150 | 4 | ZOA | 31-Aug-44 | yes | |
| <u>other 9</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>238</u> | 5 | WJC | <u>25-Jul-44</u> | <u>no</u> | |
| 9a | 2 | 236 | 1 | WJC | 27-Jul-44 | no | |
| 10 | NA | NA | NA | WJC | NA | NA | i |
| 11 | 2 | 230 | 4 | WJC | 28-Jul-44 | no | |
| 12 | 2 | 226 | 4 | WJC | 4-Aug-44 | no | |
| 13 | 2 | 208 | 9 | WJC | 16-Aug-44 | no | |
| 14 | 2 | 161 | 7 | WJC | 22-Aug-44 | no | |
| 15 | 2 | 128 | 10 | WJC | 1-Sep-44 | no | |
| 16 | 1 | 77 | 6 | WJC | 12-Sep-44 | no | |
| 17 | 1 | 76 | 1 | WJC | 12-Sep-44 | no | j |
| 18 | <u>1</u> | <u>69</u> | 7 | WJC | <u>20-Sep-44</u> | <u>no</u> | |
| <u>other 18</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>199</u> | 4 | ZOA | <u>21-Aug-44</u> | <u>no</u> | |
| 19 | 1 | 98 | 8 | WJC | 28-Sep-44 | no | |
| <u>other 19</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>197</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>ZOA</u> | <u>21-Aug-44</u> | <u>no</u> | |
| 20 | 1 | 89 | 7 | WJC | 6-Oct-44 | no | |
| 21 | 1 | 55 | 9 | WJC | 18-Oct-44 | no | |
| 22 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| 23 | 1 | 123 | 2 | ZOA | 6-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 24 | 1 | 119 | 3 | ZOA | 7-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 25 | 1 | 64 | 3 | ZOA | 13-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 26 | 1 | 67 | 2 | ZOA | 14-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 27 | 1 | 112 | NA | ZOA | 14-Sep-44 | NA | k |
| 28 | 1 | 109 | NA | ZOA | 20-Sep-44 | NA | k |
| 29 | 1 | 110 | 2 | ZOA | 20-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 30 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| 31 | 1 | 107 | 1 | ZOA | 29-Sep-44 | yes | |
| 32 | 1 | 88 | 1 | ZOA | 5-Oct-44 | yes | |
| 33 | 1 | 48 | 1 | ZOA | 22-Oct-44 | yes | |
| 33a | 1 | 49 | 1 | ZOA | 24-Oct-44 | yes | |
| 34 | 1 | 50 | 1 | ZOA | 24-Oct-44 | yes | |
| 35 | 1 | 51 | 1 | ZOA | 24-Oct-44 | yes | |
| 36 | 1 | 32 | 1 | ZOA | 31-Oct-44 | yes | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|--------|----|-----|-----------|-----|---|
| 37 | 1 | 30 | 1 | ZOA | 2-Nov-44 | yes | |
| 38 | 1 | 16 | 1 | ZOA | 16-Nov-44 | yes | l |
| 39 | 1 | 11, 12 | NA | ZOA | 17-Nov-44 | NA | k |
| 40 | 1 | 10 | NA | ZOA | 5-Dec-44 | NA | k |
| 41 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | |

Notes:

- a) correction to June 5 cable
- b) noted professionals
- c) list appears to duplicate much of list # 18
- d) "List of outstanding Hungarian Jewish personalities". List sent to War Refugee Board bore no number; copy in WJC files had handwritten annotation List # 1. (World Jewish Congress collection, Box D109, file 09, p. 167)
- e) list is described as containing "outstanding Hungarian rabbis" but contains many women & children
- f) Supposedly a list of rabbis but does not look like a list of rabbis. NOTE: There are 3 versions with different dates. The versions are 2 or 3 pages long but appear to have the same names.
- g) "list of outstanding Hungarian rabbis" appears to contain just a few rabbis
- h) there's a letter requesting transmission of the list but no list in folder 2; there is a list 8 in folder 3 but it's by WJC
- i) letter referring to list 10 is on doc page 234; World Jewish Congress collection Box D109, folder 9 describes list 10 as having 64 families and 255 individuals
- j) people in concentration camps
- k) a letter to the WRB refers to a list but no list was found
- l) people from Bukovina

Table 2. Locations of people seeking Palestine Certificates. Locations for 178 people (2%) have not been determined.

| Place | Number | % total | Place | Number |
|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|
| Budapest | 3072 | (33%) | France | 7 |
| Rest of Hungary | 3210 | (34%) | Czech Republic | 4 |
| Romania | 1220 | (13%) | Croatia | 3 |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|--------|-------------|----|
| Ukraine | 925 | (10%) | Belgium | 1 |
| Slovakia | 669 | (7%) | Netherlands | 1 |
| Serbia | 30 | (0.3%) | Camps | 19 |

Table 3. Locations in modern day Hungary of people seeking Palestine Certificates in 1944.

Numbers refer to numbers of people from the locations.

| | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------------|-----|
| Budapest | 3072 | Kisvarda | 199 |
| Nyiregyhaza | 178 | Szombathely | 168 |
| Satoraljaiújhegy | 163 | Miskolc | 140 |
| Szerencs | 117 | Debrecen | 107 |
| Edeleny | 63 | Eger | 57 |
| Nyirbeltek | 57 | Vac | 56 |
| Sopron | 54 | Szeged | 52 |
| Nyirmada | 51 | Hajduboszormeny | 50 |
| Nagykallo | 49 | Salgotarjan | 43 |
| Abaujszanto | 41 | Ujfeherto | 40 |
| Nyirbator | 39 | Szikso | 38 |
| Gyor | 37 | Hajdunanas | 36 |
| Ujpest | 36 | Fehergyarmat | 33 |
| Mad | 32 | Mako | 30 |
| Papa | 29 | Mateszalka | 26 |
| Kiskunhalas | 23 | Gyongyos | 21 |
| Mandok | 21 | Nagyecsed | 21 |
| Nyirbogát | 21 | Kapuvár | 19 |
| Csenger | 18 | Kecskemet | 18 |
| Olaszliszka | 18 | Croshaza | 17 |
| Nagykanizsa | 17 | Nyirkarasz | 17 |
| Szarvas | 17 | Tallya | 17 |
| Tolcsva | 17 | Tiszavasvari | 16 |
| Tokaj | 16 | Fegyvernek | 15 |
| Paks | 15 | Pecs | 15 |
| Tarcal | 15 | Kispest | 14 |
| Patroha | 14 | Hatvan | 13 |
| Tata | 13 | Berettyoujfalu | 12 |
| Derecske | 12 | Letavertes | 12 |
| Pestújhegy | 12 | Bodrogkeresztur | 11 |
| Gergelyiugornya | 11 | Szolnok | 11 |
| Bonyhad | 10 | Fuzesgyarmat | 10 |
| Onod | 10 | Onod | 10 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Szekesfehervar | 10 | Vasarosnameny | 10 |
| Veszprem | 10 | Apatfalva | 9 |
| Bekescsaba | 9 | Bokony | 9 |
| Cegled | 9 | Szentgotthard | 9 |
| Biharkeresztes | 8 | Fulesd | 8 |
| Hajduhadhaz | 8 | Karcag | 8 |
| Kenderes | 8 | Mezocsat | 8 |
| Polgar | 8 | Rakospalota | 8 |
| Tarpa | 8 | Abaujvar | 7 |
| Balkany | 7 | Beled | 7 |
| Gavavencsello | 7 | Gegeny | 7 |
| Kalocsa | 7 | Kiskunfelegyhaza | 7 |
| Rudabanya | 7 | Sajoszentpeter | 7 |
| Seleusu | 7 | Sikator | 7 |
| Vamospercs | 7 | Zalaegerszeg | 7 |
| Zalaszentgrot | 7 | Barabas | 6 |
| Bataszek | 6 | Csorna | 6 |
| Esztergom | 6 | Kemecse | 6 |
| Mezocsokonya | 6 | Nagyoroszi | 6 |
| Polena | 6 | Segesd | 6 |
| Siklos | 6 | Szigetvar | 6 |
| Szabadszallas | 6 | Tamasi | 6 |
| Tiszalok | 6 | Ungvar | 6 |
| Baja | 5 | Bercel | 5 |
| Demecser | 5 | Dombovar | 5 |
| Jozsefhaza | 5 | Kiskoros | 5 |
| Lovopetri | 5 | Mezokovesd | 5 |
| Nagyaszo | 5 | Nyirmihalydi | 5 |
| Oroshaza | 5 | Osagard | 5 |
| <i>Pilisvorosvar</i> | 5 | Siofok | 5 |
| Balassagyarmat | 4 | Babocsa | 4 |
| Balatonfured | 4 | Balmazujvoros | 4 |
| Barand | 4 | Csaroda | 4 |
| Diosgyor | 4 | Gibart | 4 |
| Hajduszoboszlo | 4 | Hejocsaba | 4 |
| Kal | 4 | Keszthely | 4 |
| Kokenyes | 4 | Kormend | 4 |
| Kunbaja | 4 | Mezokovacshaza | 4 |
| Mosonmagyarovar | 4 | Nogradmegyer | 4 |
| Opalyi | 4 | Sarospatlak | 4 |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Senyehaza | 4 | Soltvadkert | 4 |
| Takos | 4 | Ujvaros | 4 |
| Vaja | 4 | Acsa | 3 |
| Azod | 3 | Csepel | 3 |
| Godollo | 3 | Heves | 3 |
| Kaposvar | 3 | Karancslapujto | 3 |
| Kecel | 3 | Kecskemat | 3 |
| Megyaszo | 3 | Nyiradony | 3 |
| Nyireggyhaza | 3 | Pecsvarad | 3 |
| Pest | 3 | Pestszentlorinc | 3 |
| Sarvar | 3 | Seregelyes | 3 |
| Sumeg | 3 | Szentpeterfa | 3 |
| Szob | 3 | Toszeg | 3 |
| Agard | 2 | Bekes | 2 |
| Bicske | 2 | Budakeszi | 2 |
| Cigand | 2 | C. Camp Ricse ¹ | 2 |
| Dömbrad | 2 | Jaszarokszallas | 2 |
| Kistelek | 2 | Magyarbanhegyes | 2 |
| Mor | 2 | Nadudvar | 2 |
| Nagyhalasz | 2 | Nyirkata | 2 |
| Nyirtass | 2 | Ozd | 2 |
| Putnok | 2 | Sarbogard | 2 |
| Tab | 2 | Varpalota | 2 |
| Verpelet | 2 | Balatonlelle | 1 |
| Forro-Encs | 1 | Gara | 1 |
| Janoshaza | 1 | Kunmadaras | 1 |
| Paszto | 1 | Rakospelota | 1 |
| Szentendre | 1 | Tiszaigar | 1 |
| Zengovarkony | 1 | | |

Table 4. Locations in modern day Romania of people seeking Palestine Certificates in 1944. Numbers refer to numbers of people from the locations.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| SatuMare | 219 | Oradea | 190 |
| Cluj-Napoca | 188 | Seleuşu | 111 |
| Bistrita | 56 | Carei | 40 |
| Sighetu Marmatiei | 39 | Negreşti-Oas | 33 |

¹ Concentration Camp Ricse, near Ungvar.

| | | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Dej | 32 | Baia Mare | 29 |
| Halmeu | 19 | Marghita | 18 |
| Plopiș | 17 | Arad | 16 |
| Gherla | 14 | Valea lui Mihai | 13 |
| Biharia | 9 | Târgu-Mureș | 9 |
| Aleșd | 8 | Beclean | 8 |
| Bocicioiu Mare | 8 | Huedin | 8 |
| Ocna Mures | 8 | Tarna Mare | 8 |
| Viseu de Mijloc | 8 | Medieșu Aurit | 7 |
| Nusfalau | 7 | Săcueni | 7 |
| Szamosborhid | 7 | Seceani | 6 |
| Botiza | 5 | Onok | 5 |
| Săcel | 5 | Salonta | 5 |
| Sânmihaiu de Campie | 5 | Seini | 5 |
| Șimleu Silvaniei | 5 | Borșa | 4 |
| Iara | 4 | Sadova Veche | 4 |
| Târnova | 4 | Izszacsals | 3 |
| Salard | 3 | Șomcuta Mare | 3 |
| Zalău | 3 | AlbaIulia | 2 |
| Halmi | 2 | Lechința | 2 |
| Reghin | 2 | Tășnad | 2 |
| Timișoara | 2 | Băița | 1 |
| Szilagycseh | 1 | Vișeu de Sus | 1 |

Table 5. Locations in modern day Ukraine of people seeking Palestine Certificates in 1944. Numbers refer to numbers of people from the locations.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Mukacheve | 304 | Uzhhorod | 106 |
| Berehove | 105 | Khust | 51 |
| Svalyava | 34 | Mizhhirya | 31 |
| Irshava | 25 | Tyachiv | 25 |
| Keretsky | 24 | Korolevo | 16 |
| Vylok | 16 | Bilky | 14 |
| Seredneye | 12 | Ilnytsya | 11 |
| Gazlo | 10 | Bar'ovo (Batyu) | 10 |
| Patskanovo | 9 | Dilove | 8 |
| Koson | 8 | Mynai | 8 |
| Serne (Szernye) | 8 | Chop | 7 |

| | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Solotvyno | 7 | Chernivtsi | 6 |
| Koroleve | 6 | Novoselytsya | 6 |
| Pallo | 6 | Syurte | 6 |
| Iza | 5 | Kamjans'ke | 5 |
| Kostryna | 5 | Lypcha | 5 |
| Repynne | 5 | Nelipyno | 4 |
| Nyzhni Vorota | 4 | Storozhynets | 4 |
| Velikiy Rakovets | 4 | Bushtyno | 3 |
| Tysaashvan | 2 | | |

Table 6. Locations in modern day Slovakia of people seeking Palestine Certificates in 1944. Numbers refer to numbers of people from the locations.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|----|
| Galanta | 155 | Kosice | 76 |
| Nove Zamky | 67 | Kralovsky Chlmec | 38 |
| Velky Meder | 33 | Senec | 22 |
| Michalovce | 19 | Sena | 18 |
| Lucenec (Losonc) | 15 | Komarno | 14 |
| Sala | 12 | Samorin | 12 |
| DunajskaStreda | 11 | Krog (Korong) | 11 |
| Trnava | 10 | Surany | 9 |
| Velke Kapušany | 8 | Sahy (Ipolysag) | 8 |
| Vrable | 8 | Bratislava | 7 |
| Dvorynad Žitavou | 7 | Koromľa | 7 |
| Presov | 7 | Dubnik | 6 |
| Tornala | 6 | Ubla | 6 |
| Cicarovce | 5 | Pribenik | 5 |
| Pruske | 5 | Sturovo | 5 |
| Vyskovcenad Iplom | 5 | Banska Bystrica | 4 |
| Borsa | 4 | Medzilaborce | 4 |
| Remetske Hamre | 4 | Vynohradiv | 4 |
| Bos | 3 | Humenne | 3 |
| Jesenske | 3 | Ladomirova | 3 |
| Levice | 3 | Nemesocsa | 3 |
| RimavskaSobota | 3 | Zemianska Olca | 3 |
| DolneSaliby | 2 | Kolarovo | 2 |
| Roznava | 2 | Trebisov | 2 |
| Zemplinske Kopcany | 2 | Stos | 1 |

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:
1634 BROADWAY
New York 23, N. Y.
Ch. 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St. W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Cavallotti 2024-6c

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Seneca 174-4

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Teles
MAY 1, 1944
NEW YORK, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: LI 6-2600

May 1, 1944

O.K.
Sour

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Pursuant to our conversation of Thursday, April 27, I attach herewith a list of outstanding Hungarian Jewish personalities, whom we are urged to recommend without delay for the granting of immigration certificates for Palestine.

As you may well know, there are 16 Committees of European Jewish leaders in exile that are affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. Our Hungarian Committee also is composed of Jewish leaders who recently arrived in this country. The attached list has been prepared by a special sub-committee composed of Rabbi Dr. Julius S. Fischer, formerly Rabbi in Deva, Transylvania; Maurice Honig, former member of the Executive Committee of the Central Jewish Community in Budapest; and Rabbi Emanuel Pollack, formerly Chief Rabbi in Szeged, Hungary, and former member of the Executive Board of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of Hungary.

The message which we are asking you to send through the State Department should be addressed either to Elihu Dobkin of the Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, or to the representative of the Jewish Agency in Turkey, Mr. Chaim Berlin, Pera Palace, Istanbul. The message would read as follows, under my signature:

"Strongly recommend for granting Palestine certificates following outstanding Hungarian people selected by special sub-committee."

Please let me have your decision as soon as possible. Thanking you in advance for the attention you will grant this most urgent matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Leon Kubowitzki
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:by

Figure 1. Letter sent by the World Jewish Congress to the War Refugee Board with its first list of people recommended for receiving Palestine Certificates. Note that the letter emphasizes the good character of the nominees and the fact that they were screened by a committee. One of the members of the screening committee was Maurice Honig, the grandfather of one of the authors of this paper.

List of Outstanding Hungarian Jewish Personalities

| Member of House of Representatives & Wife Budapest | | |
|--|--|---|
| Dr. Imre Gyorki | | V. Honvéd-u 16 |
| Mano Buchinger | " " " | XIV. Nürnberg-u 29 |
| Dr. Erno Brody | " " " | I. Perry Oskar-u 78 |
| Dr. Bela Fabian | " " " | VI. Teréz-korut 43 |
| Dr. Geza Desi | " " " | V. Bathory-u 5 |
| Dr. Lajos Szabolcsi-Editor | " " " | I. Trombitás-ut 16 |
| Dr. Hugo Gergo | Writer | VII. Sip-uoca 12/Posta Israelia Hitkoszeg Szekhaza |
| Jozsef Buhler | Journalist | VII. Nepazinhas-u 21 |
| Dr. Mihaly Revessz | Editor | IX. Ulloi-ut 63 |
| Jeno Nallessz | " " " | XIV. Americai-ut 74 |
| Mano Abrahamson | Cantor | VII. Rombach-u 9 |
| Abraham Freudiger de Obuda | " " " | VI. Izabella-u 51 |
| Denes | " " " | VI. Andrássy-ut 128 |
| Fulop | " " " | V. Csaky-u 9 |
| J. Lipot | " " " | VI. Andrássy-ut 128 |
| Eroly | " " " | VI. Podmaniczky-u 35 |
| Samuel | " " " | V. Nador-u 31 |
| Dr. Henrik Endrei | " " " | VII. Erzsébetkorut 26 |
| A. Emil Dinner | " " " | VII. Dob-u 18 |
| Bela Fulop | " " " | VI. Szinyei Mersé-u 1 |
| Kalman Donath | " " " | V. Pannónia-u 8 |
| Bela Revessz | Writer | VI. Szondi-u 93 |
| Lajos Land Dr. | Senator | V. Deak Ferenc-u 16-18 |
| Andor Oluckethal | Advocate | I. Naphegy-ter 3 |
| Eroly Keleti /28 Years/ Wife Eva 23 Years/ Daughter Judis 1 Yr./ Budapest Kiralykiraly ut3/o | | |
| Laszlo Hirschler | Wife Klara, 28 Yrs Son 3 Yrs./ Budapest, Dohany-u 30 | |

Figure 2. First list sent by the World Jewish Congress to the War Refugee Board containing the names and addresses of "outstanding" Hungarians. The list includes members of the House of Representatives, literary personalities and other intellectuals.

Fried Tibor 42 yrs., wife Emma 31, daughter Eva 16, daughter Magda 14,
 brother-in-law Krauss Marton 40, sister-in-law Olga 28, niece Mariska 8,
 Hay Banya, Hungary

Fried Ferenc 64 yrs., wife Ene 54, daughter Irene Friedlander 22, Szikso
 Friedl Hedwig 62, sister Rasonyi Matilda 68, her husband Rasonyi Adolf 72,
 sister Honai Amalia 67, Szikso, Absung megye

Figure 3. Example of a list without American sponsors.

PALESTINE BUREAU
 Zionist Organization of America
 41 E. 42nd St., N. Y.

June 2, 1944

Via Clipper

Mr. Chaim Barlas
 Hotel Pera Palace
 Istanbul, Turkey

Dear Mr. Barlas:

Rabbi Solomon Gottlieb of 471 Miller Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.,
 hereby applies for Palestine certificates for his brother-in-law,

HERMAN AXELROD, born July 8th, 1900,

wife Sara (nee Gottlieb), born April 15th, 1902
 in Jerusalem, Palestine

daughter Margit Aranku, born December 23, 1924,
 in Munkacs

son Israel MaJer, born March 10th, 1928,
 in Munkacs

son J. Salomon, born June 8th, 1932,
 in Munkacs

daughter Evi Esther, born November 22nd, 1934,
 in Munkacs

daughter Deborah, born January 3rd, 1938,
 in Munkacs

Address: MUNKACS, KESZALJA Ut 23, HUNGARY

Sincerely yours,

S. Bernstein
 Dr. S. Bernstein,
 Director, Palestine Bureau

SB:tz

Figure 4. Example of a list with an American sponsor.

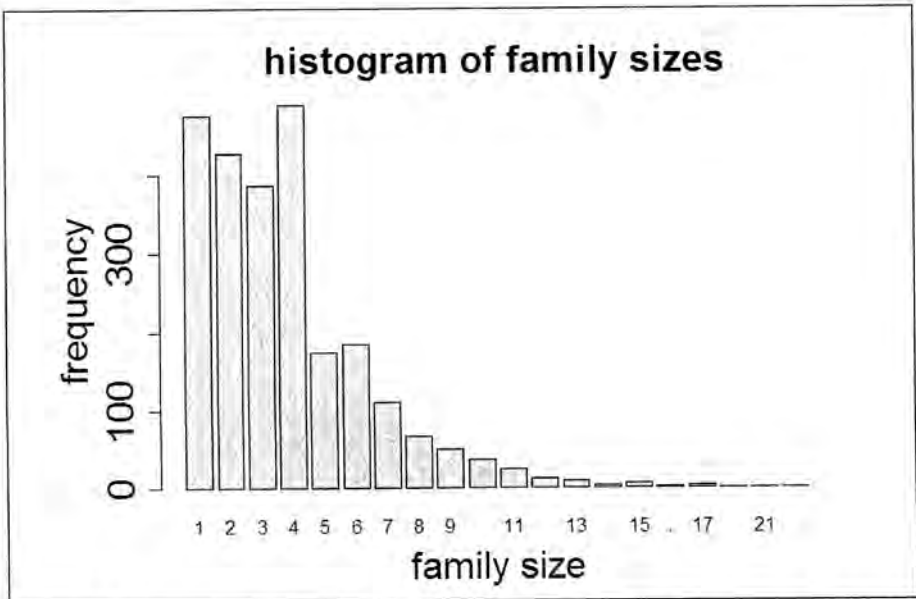


Figure 5. Histogram of family sizes. Average family size (ignoring censoring) = 3.8. Range of family sizes is 1–25. Because 6% of the family sizes are censored, the average family size is underestimated.

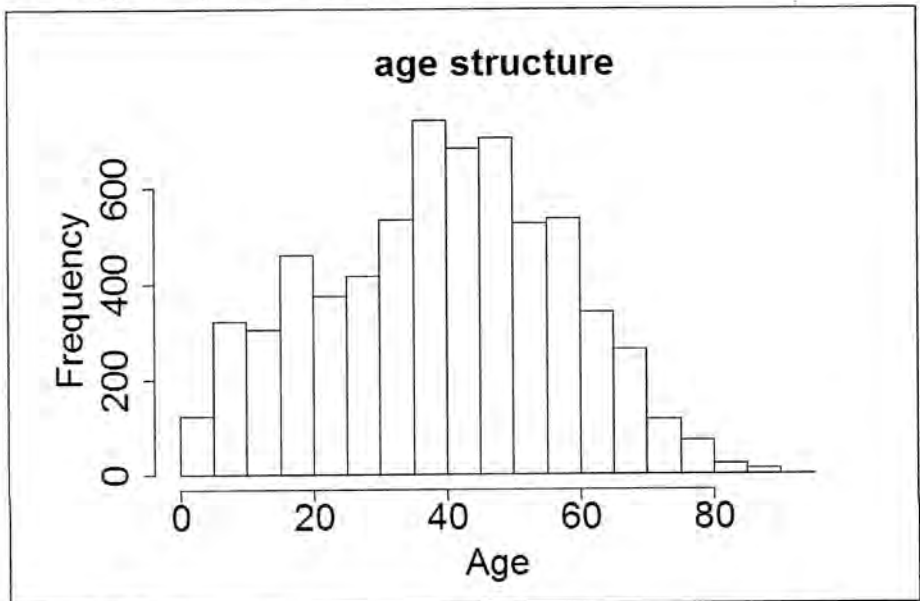


Figure 6. Age structure of the people recommended for the issuance of Palestine certificates. The ages range from 0 to 94 years. Note that this is not a stable age distribution.

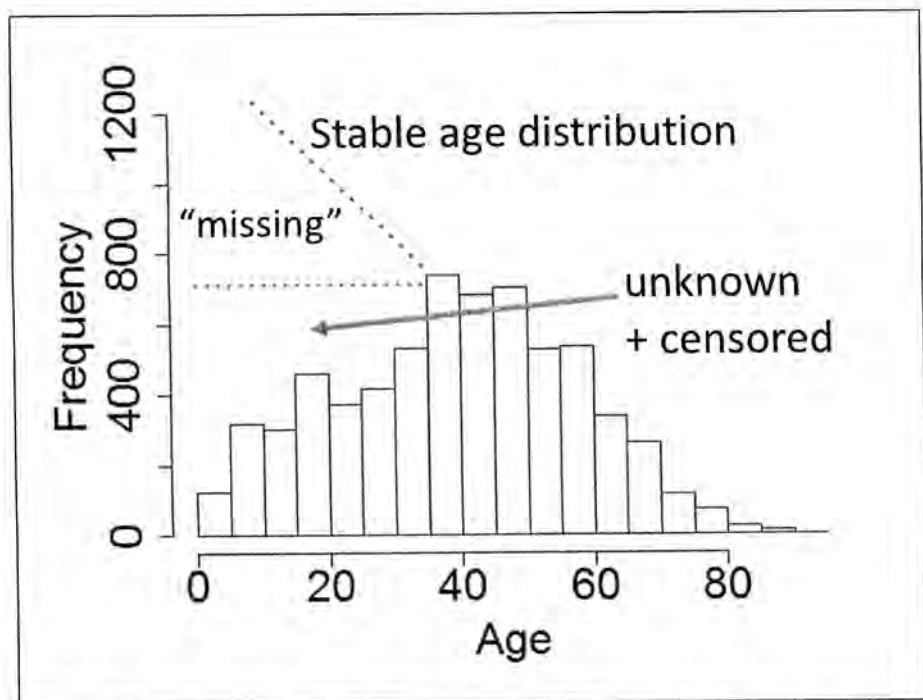


Figure 7. Bars give the age distribution of the people in the lists. To be a stable age distribution, the numbers at age must be continuously decreasing with age (diagonal dotted line). The horizontal dotted line assumes all unknown ages pertain to young people (less than 35 years old) and assumes that all censored family records have two children under age 35. The missing and censored ages do not account for the lack of a stable age distribution.