

An Index to the Microfilm Edition of

Records of the U.S. State Department

**Records of the
Intergovernmental
Committee on Refugees,
1938-1947**



Primary Source Media



Records of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, 1938-1947

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Records of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, 1938-1947

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGCR) was organized in London in August 1938 as a result of the Evian Conference of July 1938. The Evian Conference was called by President Franklin Roosevelt outside the formal framework of the League of Nations “for the primary purpose of facilitating involuntary emigration from Germany (including Austria)” of “persons who have not already left their country of origin (Germany, including Austria), but who must emigrate on account of their political opinions, religious beliefs or racial origin, and persons who have already left their country of origin and who have not yet established themselves permanently elsewhere.”

For the first time in European history, there was discussion on extending protection to would-be refugees inside the country of potential departure, particularly central Europe. American lawyer and first director of the IGCR, George Rublee, opened negotiations with Hjalmar Schacht, the President of the German Central Bank in December 1938. After Schacht was removed from his post, the negotiations went on with Helmut Wohltat of the Ministry of Economy. The IGCR called for the creation of a fund, to be guaranteed by Jewish property in Germany, and a Coordinating Foundation in order to finance the emigration of 400,000 Jews from Germany. This attempt to resolve the Jewish emigration issue failed. Throughout the life of the IGCR, member nations only half-heartedly funded its operation, supported the resettlement of refugees from Europe in countries allowing permanent immigration, and accomplished little in opening countries to refugees.

This collection is divided into four sections: Meeting records, 1943-1947; Country files, 1938-1941; Subject files, 1938-1944; and Administration files, 1943-1948.

SOURCE & EDITORIAL NOTE

This microfilm publication comprises the full records of State Department Lot File 52D408 from Record Group 59, Records of the Department of State, Records of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and comprises the following entry numbers:

Entry 1409: Alphabetical Subject File, 1938-1941

Entry 1407: Miscellaneous Subject File, 1942-1947

Entry 1408: Country Files, 1938-1941

Entry 1406: Records Relating to Meetings, 1943-47

Entry 1405: Records Relating to Administration & Finances, 1943-48

All documents have been filmed in their entirety.

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