

TRANSLATION.

Hilel (Gilel) Storén
Norr Mälarstrand 10
112 20 Stockholm

Report from visit to Foreign Minister Carl Blix June 8, 1972

Sven Hirdman, Head of Department, was present at the visit. I wanted the chairman of the Jewish community, Torsten Press, to be present, but he was not available.

I have also contacted Senior Physician Dr Bruno Kaplan, now chairman of the WJC committee in the Jewish community. Dr Kaplan was, however, not able to be present. He said that his activity within the Congress started in 1950 and that I am the man who knows about the work of the Congress during and after the war. He, therefore, thought that I could represent him as well.

I informed Mr Blix that I was a representative for the WJC and the Jewish Agency Rescue Committee and after WWII political representative for the Jewish Agency until the Israeli Embassy was established in Stockholm in 1950. Nowadays, the Swedish section of the WJC is liquidated since the Jewish Community has joined the Congress.

During the visit I have taken up three questions:

1. Raoul Wallenberg

I related that at a key persons conference in New York in 1947 the Wallenberg question was taken up by me. It was decided that Lady Reading would intervene in London and that Stephen Wise, president of the WJC and originally from Hungary, should intervene in the USA. Afterwards, it was decided that Mr Berkowitz, a well known journalist with good relations with the Russians, should go to Moscow. He had good relations with the Russian President Kalinin. During a visit to Kalinin, Berkowitz asked for information whether Wallenberg was alive, and where he was to be found. Kalinin had promised to give the information before Berkowitz's departure. But this did not occur, unfortunately. We got the impression at that time that Wallenberg was no longer alive. The question is what year Berkowitz visited Kalinin, 1948, 1949 or 1950. I thought in 1948, but I doubt it now, since Lady Reading and Stephen Wise have intervened too and I do not know in what year this took place. Maybe Berkowitz intervened in 1950. Unfortunately, Wise as well as Lady Reading are dead now and I have learned that Berkowitz is dead too.

2. Count Folke Bernadotte

In 1959, the WJC had its Fourth Plenary Assembly in Stockholm. I asked Prime Minister Tage Erlander to make a statement. On this occasion, he pointed out to me that he and the Swedish government are anxious to have an investigation made regarding the activities of Count Bernadotte. Erlander asked me to forward this to WJC's president Nahum Goldman. It was decided at a meeting with the Executive that I should point out the necessity of an investigation during my statement at the plenary meeting.

I handed to Foreign Minister Blix protocols of the plenary meeting of the Congress in 1959. I also pointed out that President Goldmann decided that Mr Nehemia Robinson, chief of the Institute of Jewish Affairs in New York, should visit Germany and Sweden. At a meeting with the Foreign Ministry Head of Archives, Sir Kronos, Robinson learned that Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson refused to place archive documents at his disposal.

At a visit to Kersten, Robinson informed him that the so-called Bernadotte letter is a forgery and pressed him strongly. Kersten admitted this. I pointed out to Foreign Minister Blix that Folke Bernadotte did many good deeds of which not all are known, unfortunately. As for example, the rescue of 427 Danish Jews from Theresienstadt. Nowhere in the world has this been published. Furthermore, I stated that rumours saying that Bernadotte did not want to save Jews in 1945 do not tally with the truth. Foreign Minister Günther first wanted to complete the rescue of Danish and Norwegian police. I said that I can give more examples of Bernadotte's efforts. Regarding Bernadotte's positive effects in Israel, I could also tell much.

3. Sweden's efforts during and after WW II

I pointed out that Sweden had made many efforts not known to the world, as for example

In 1945, Sweden decided to receive 10,000 sick Jews from Bergen-Belzen. Less than this number arrived.

Sweden's valuable efforts as protecting power in various countries is not known.

Transmigrants to Sweden, especially from Poland.

Many efforts after the end of the war are not known.

I pointed out that it is important to make a historical survey as long as several persons who can contribute are still alive. Such a historical survey is important, not least to coming generations.

I pointed out that I had had a talk with Dr Goldmann in Tel Aviv in May this year. He said there were chances that possibly 50,000 dollars could be provided for this. I think that a contribution must also be made by Sweden.

I pointed out that Professor Wilhelm Carlgren could contribute with information and not least Tage Erlander and Gösta Engzell and others.

Stockholm, June 9, 1979

G Storch
Honorary Member of World Jewish Congress Executive Committee