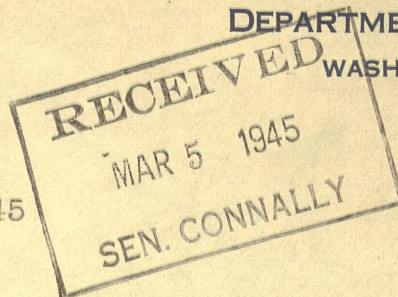


DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



In reply refer to
SWP 711.62114A/2-1645

March 3, 1945

My dear Senator Connally:

I have received your letter of February 16, 1945, with which you enclosed a copy of a communication from a constituent of yours expressing concern regarding the conditions prevailing as a result of the evacuation by the German authorities of American prisoners of war from camps in eastern Germany.

As you know, I have given this matter my close personal attention. Every phase of the question is under urgent consideration by the highest Allied military authorities, and the matter is receiving the active attention of representatives of the Swiss Government acting as the protecting Power of American interests in Germany. Information concerning the new locations of the camps at which Americans are held is being made available, as soon as it is received, to the Allied military authorities for appropriate action.

The Department has already initiated action through the Swiss Government calling forcibly to the attention of the German Government its obligation under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 to provide prisoners of war with suitable food, clothing, medical attention and living quarters, and informing the German Government that the Government of the United States intends to hold the former strictly accountable should any harm befall American prisoners of war by reason of its failure to comply fully with the provisions of the Convention.

The

The Honorable

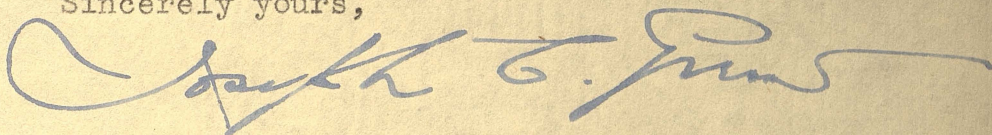
Tom Connally,

United States Senate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross with the full support of this Government is endeavoring to arrange by all possible means for the continued movement of food and other relief supplies to these Americans in satisfactory amounts.

Certain questions raised by your constituent concerning military security, censorship, postal and export control regulations seem to fall primarily within the purview of other Governmental agencies. You may wish to seek the observations of the agencies concerned regarding these matters.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Acting Secretary