

Gild-GTV

Gildemeyer

COPY

*Original 1/28/48
copy sent to Mrs.
These people are
fine agricultural
people, good
workers. Can't we
take in a few?*

Amsterdam, 1st of January 1947
Deurloestraat 30

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Since February 1946 I am in the field as a director from an UNRRA D.P. team in Germany. Our team takes care of 18 camps with 6000 D.P.'s, principally Balts, Estonians, Lithuanians and Latvians. For these people and all other Baltic D.P.'s I implore your attention and assistance.

Their position is growing worse instead of better. Since November all D.P.'s are on German rations. UNRRA supplies, and very small ones, are only given to the sick.

Polish D.P.'s can repatriate. Baltic D.P.'s can not. They have no fatherland. Repatriation means suicide. This healthy, intelligent, capable and clean people, three of Europe's best breeds, have been massacred and deported by two enemies. Now they are with even less prospects than the Germans.

No country bothers about them. Officially they are expected to adapt themselves to the German population! To a German population which despises every D.P.

In America, Canada or any other country the creation of a home-centre, a small fatherland, would cost less than one day of world-war.

I am trying to find employment for a restricted number in our very small and presently very poor country. You can help on a higher level. There are 250,000 waiting for salvation.

Sincerely yours,
J. Gildemeyer (signed)

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FEBRUARY 13 1947

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



In reply refer to
VD 150 D P/2-447

Sub

February 13, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mr. Hassett, Secretary to the President, has referred to the Department your letter of January 31, 1947 with which you enclosed among other correspondence a copy of a communication from Mr. J. Gildemeyer of Amsterdam, Netherlands expressing his anxiety for the many displaced persons in Germany particularly those from Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The plight of the unfortunate refugees and displaced persons has been a matter of deep concern to the Department. As you know, since last March the Department along with other interested agencies of the Government has been actively engaged in implementing the visa program for displaced persons instituted in pursuance of the President's directive of December 22, 1945.

Under this program displaced persons are being accorded a priority in the issuance of quota immigration visas and the major portion of the quotas of the different nationalities involved are being used for such persons. However, the combined annual quotas for Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia are only 738 which means that many qualified displaced persons from those countries will encounter a delay in the consideration of their cases.

As the Congress has limited through the establishment of quotas the number of immigrants admissible annually into the United States any proposal involving

the

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, New York.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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the issuance of visas in excess of the existing quota limitations is a matter which would require Congressional action.

You may rest assured that the Department through its American consular officers abroad will continue to do everything possible to facilitate the granting of visas to displaced persons so far as existing quota limitations permit.

The correspondence from Mr. Stevan Trivunac and other Yugoslavs who are now in Salzburg and who were formerly in German concentration camps will be made the subject of a separate communication.

Sincerely yours,

Dean Rusk