

10  
OF 20  
Department of State  
Box 9 1941

Feb 12, 1941  
New York City

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President F. D. Roosevelt:  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Surely there can be no  
place in our government for  
a man like Breckenridge Long  
of the State Department.

To think that a man  
in his position would deliberately  
betray poor humans who  
have nowhere to turn is  
beyond any persons under-  
standing.

I and every Jew in particular  
to say nothing of non-Jews  
demand his resignation  
Sincerely, to President

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4/21/41

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have a letter of March 21, 1941, from the Under Secretary of State wherein he states the belief that as a matter of national defense it is highly desirable to centralize all alien visa control in the Department of State at the earliest possible moment.

x133  
x336

The letter outlines a plan for expansion of the Visa Division to embrace about 500 persons which I understand to be an increase of approximately 400 percent. I should like to have the matter reviewed to see if the main objectives of the plan cannot be accomplished with a somewhat less elaborate and consequently less expensive establishment.

Also, considering the large number of alien seamen who are understood to have gained entrance to this country illegally during the past year, it is urged that you expedite consideration of plans to eliminate this danger to our national defense.

x133-A  
x99

Subject to the foregoing, the plan presented is approved in principle and I have instructed the Director of the Budget to make arrangements with the Federal Works Administrator to give priority to the assignment of the necessary office space in the vicinity of the State Department Building. I have also instructed the Director of the Budget to give careful consideration to a deficiency estimate to cover your actually necessary increased costs incident to the proposed centralization plan.

x3710  
x380

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

x285-6

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APR 21 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Your memorandum of April 1, 1941, transmits a letter addressed to you on March 21, 1941, by the Under Secretary of State, with reference to a proposed plan for the centralization of all alien visa control in the Department of State. In accordance with your request, a draft of a reply is attached for your signature if approved.

The plan which is generally outlined in the Under Secretary's letter contemplates sweeping changes in the present method of handling visa work particularly with respect to the investigation in this country of persons sponsoring aliens seeking to enter the United States. The Under Secretary's letter also recommends that you direct priority in the allocation of approximately 45,000 square feet of office space near the State Department Building and asks that you direct this Bureau "to receive a request for and approve the necessary funds as a defense undertaking and approve a request for a deficiency appropriation"--- estimated at a minimum of \$700,000. The proposed plan contemplates that the existing force of the State Department now engaged on visa work be increased from approximately 100 employees to something in the neighborhood of 500.

From conferences held with officials of the Departments of State and Justice it is understood that the policies involved in the proposed expansion of the Visa Division have formed the subject of conversations between you, Under Secretary Welles, the Attorney General, and Mr. James G. McDonald, Chairman of your Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, and that such policies bear your general approval.

While it is found that there are some features of the proposed administrative plan with respect to which officials of the Department of State and the Department of Justice are not in complete agreement, it is believed that all essential details of the plan can be made workable. The justification for such a large additional staff as is proposed will be thoroughly explored at the Budget hearing.

While the proposed plan deals with the problem of aliens entering the United States under visas, it leaves untouched the control of alien seamen, of whom it is understood that some 4,000 are known to have jumped ship at the port of New York alone since June 1940. It would appear that plans of action now under consideration for coping with this broad and uncontrolled avenue of entrance are of equal importance to the proposed centralization plan in order to attain the objectives set forth in the Under Secretary's letter.

Considering the matter from its broader aspects, and the Departments involved appearing to consider the proposed plan as administra-

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tively necessary to give effect to the general policies understood to have been previously discussed with and approved by you, the attached draft of a reply has been so phrased as to approve in principle the expansion program outlined, and to suggest that it be kept within reasonable limits.

I am taking up with the Federal Works Administrator direct the matter of giving priority to the assignment of necessary office space as near to the State Department Building as possible.

Director

x 79

Att.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 21. 1941

My dear Mr. President:

In view of information which has been received from our officers abroad concerning the known activities of the German and Soviet governments in endeavoring to introduce agents into the United States in the guise of visitors, immigrants, or seamen, it is believed that as a matter of national defense it is highly desirable to centralize all alien visa control in the Department of State at the earliest possible moment.

I enclose a copy of a Departmental Order to accomplish this purpose, which I propose to issue if you approve. It is contemplated that the Visa Division of the Department shall be expanded to create on or before July 1, 1941, a unit with a staff of about 500 persons. With this staff the Visa Division will be able to handle from 2000 to 3000 cases a week received from missions and consulates abroad and from interested persons or organizations in the United States. These cases will

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The President,

The White House.

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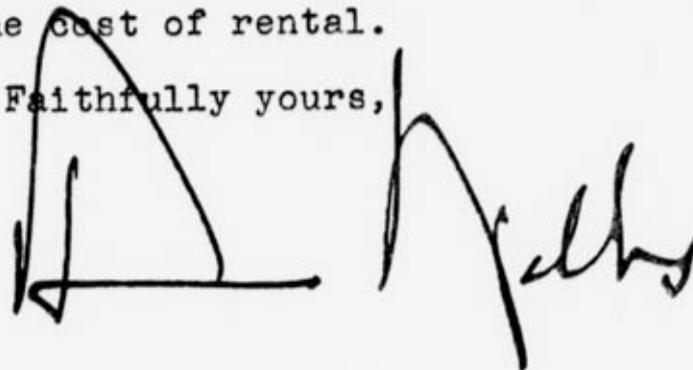
be considered by an inter-Departmental Committee composed of representatives of the Departments of State, Justice, Military Intelligence Division and the Office of Naval Intelligence, divided into a sufficient number of sections and sitting continuously to handle these cases. The examination and investigation of the cases will cover all categories of aliens and also their sponsors in the United States, who will be required to furnish guarantees of support and moral assurances on their behalf. The services of the President's Advisory Committee and of other organizations supervised by that Committee will be availed of in connection with the assembling of documents in cases originating in the United States. The Department of Justice, the Army and Navy Departments, and the President's Advisory Committee are heartily in support of the proposal and have promised cooperation in its execution.

If this proposal meets with your approval, it will be most appreciated if you will direct priority in the allocation of approximately 45,000 feet of office space as close as possible to the State Department. It will also be appreciated if you will direct the Director of the Budget to receive a request for and approve the necessary funds as a defense undertaking and approve a request

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request for a deficiency appropriation. It is estimated that the increased outlay for personnel will amount to \$700,000 over a twelve-month period. This estimate is exclusive of the cost of rental.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "H. H. H. H.", written over the typed text "Faithfully yours,".

Enclosure:

Copy of proposed  
Departmental Order.

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER

No.

Referring to Departmental Order No. 870 of August 9, 1940, defining the functions of the Visa Division, the following additional duties are assigned to the Visa Division as a National defense measure:

The Visa Division is charged with the duty of centralizing, within the scope of the authority of the Department of State, the alien visa control, in the Department of State. In this connection, the function of the Visa Division is as follows:

To supervise and control the entry of all aliens into the United States and its possessions,

To initiate the policy action of the Department and to advise the Secretary of State with respect to the measures necessary for the national defense,

To exercise the responsibility for authorizing or for directing the refusal of visas, in the interest of the public safety,

To cooperate with the investigative and intelligence agencies of this Government to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

CORDELL HULL  
Secretary of State

Department of State  
March 1941.

1 COPY SENT *mb*

TELEGRAM

RCA D 283

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM June 8 1941

NLT The President

The White House

It is only two months from attack of German army on Yugoslavia and already news reaching us from all sides that in occupied districts of Yugoslavia, Serbian people is being treated in a way which must revolt whole civilized world.

Alinea, in northern regions of the state, in Banat, during occupation German army shot and hanged Serbian population in masses Alinea in back area Hungarian army in same way massacred Serbian population in masses.

At the same time tens of thousands Serbs were forced under terrible terror to quit their houses and at shortest notice leave land without any means whatsoever Alinea in South Serbia, also after military occupation, Bulgarians are pitilessly killing Serbian populace in masses, among them in first place priests and teachers, and those who escaped slaughter were forced to leave their homes stripped and barefoot. Alinea in so-called Independent Kingdom Croatia annihilation of Serbs in carried out systematically.

In order that destructions may be as efficacious and speedy as possible one of most brutal laws, so odious to civilized world, the law against the jews is also applied to Serbian population.

Classed as inferior race which is destined to disappear Serbs are deprived by that law of all rights and all means existence. The very existence of more than two million Serbs who have lived for centuries in those areas is barbarically threatened alinea In the name of my emperilled people I make appeal to you that the raising of your voice and the voice of your great nation may end these crimes stop.

Peter II, King of Yugoslavia.

1017 amd

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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*2* *Ru* *file*

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VI CHICAGO ILL JAN 4 1942

THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

THE REFUGEES FROM EUROPE RESIDING IN CHICAGO WISH TO  
REAFFIRM THEIR LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND  
SOLEMNLY PLEDGE UNLIMITED SUPPORT TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM  
AND DEMOCRACY FOR WHICH THIS COUNTRY FIGHTS

FRITZ BAMBERGER 425 BELMONT AVENUE ON BEHALF OF  
SELFHHELP OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE STOP THE  
JEWISH CENTER STOP THE JEWISH NORTH CENTER STOP  
CENTER SPORT CLUB STOP FRIDAY EVENING CONGREGATION  
KAM TEMPLE STOP NEW HOME CLUB STOP HEVRAH  
KADISHAH.

735AM JAN 5.

**FILED**  
OCT 24 1942

425.  
~~PS/THH 811-001 ROOSEVELT, F.D./8270~~