

OF 3186
Political Refugees
1941

3186

January 7, 1941

Dear Harold:

I have received your letter of December 27, 1940 and have been much concerned to note the information given you by Mr. Julio Alvarez del Vayo to the effect that a number of prominent leaders in the former Spanish Government have been arrested in unoccupied France, as well as the statement by Mr. Alvarez del Vayo that a large number of adherents of the former Spanish Government in unoccupied France are in danger of being turned over to the authorities in Spain for execution.

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I have brought your letter to the attention of the State Department and I am now informed that a telegram has been sent to our Embassy at Vichy advising it of the foregoing information and requesting a telegraphic report thereon. I am informed that as soon as a reply is received by the State Department from Vichy, the Department will communicate with you.

In view of your interest in this matter, as Honorary Chairman of the Spanish Refugee Relief Campaign of New York, I may add for your information that last September a report was received by the State Department to the effect that the Government of Spain had requested the

Government

The Honorable
Harold L. Ickes,
Secretary of the Interior. x 6

x422-6
x203-A
x203

-2-

Government of France to turn over to it the former President of Spain, Dr. Manuel Azaña, who was then residing in France. In reply to our inquiry, the Embassy at Vichy at that time expressed doubt that such a request had been made of the French Government, and added that the Spanish Government had as a matter of fact requested the French Government not to grant exit visas to a certain number of prominent leaders of the former Spanish Republican Government. The Embassy reported at that time that the French Government had acceded to this request and that accordingly these persons, including Azaña, were not being permitted to leave France. As you may know, Dr. Azaña died at Montauban, France, on November 4 after a long illness.

Very sincerely yours,

Winged Franklin D. Roosevelt

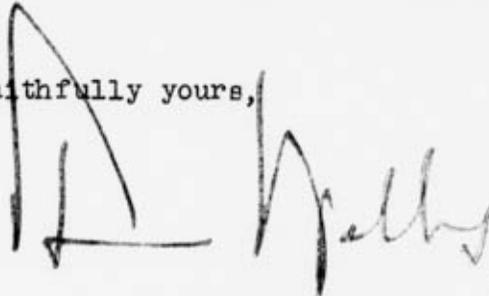
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your request I am attaching for your signature a draft of a reply to Mr. Ickes' letter of December 27, 1940, which is returned herewith.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Berle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke.

Enclosure:
From Mr. Ickes,
December 27, 1940.

The President,
The White House.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Brooksville, Florida.

January 2, 1940.

THE WHITE HOUSE
JAN 4 11 20 AM '40
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My dear Mr. President:

I have already written you about the call that Senor Julio Alvez del Vayo made on me last Friday before I left Washington. On that occasion he made another statement to me which I thought you might like to have. He brought up the possibility of the United States granting a large credit to Franco for the purpose of feeding his people. He knew nothing about this officially, but he had seen it discussed in the newspapers as I also had.

According to del Vayo, Spain had an ample crop of rice, potatoes and olive oil. He told me that these were the staple foods of the Spaniards and that they would have had enough to provide for their wants if large shipments of all three had not been made to Germany more or less under duress from the Hitler government. As he sees it, if we now supply food to Spain or credit for the purchase of food, we will be (1) either replacing what has already gone to Germany, or (2) supplying Spain with food an equivalent of which will be exacted by Germany.

Jane joins me in affectionate regards. We are having lovely weather, but the party lacks a real fisherman. Please do not misunderstand from this language that I am hinting for "Pa". What I said was "a real fisherman."

Sincerely yours,

Harold I. Peters

Secretary of the Interior

x 892

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 30, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR
SECRETARY HULL

For preparation of reply.

F. D. R./tub

Enclosure

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, 12/27/40 to the President. States that Mr. Julio Alvarez del Vayo, who was Foreign Minister of Loyalist Spain, called on him and said that he had information from friends that Francisco Largo Caballero, Manuel Portela Valladares, and Mariano Anso, have all been arrested in unoccupied France, and is apprehensive that these men will be turned over to Franco. Stated also that there are at least 2,000 Spanish Loyalist in unoccupied France who want to come to this hemisphere who are in daily peril of being turned over to Franco for his firing squads.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1940.

Handwritten:
1/7/41

My dear Mr. President:

Mr. Julio Alvarez del Vayo, who was Foreign Minister of Loyalist Spain during almost the entire period of the war, called on me this morning. He said that he had information from friends that Francisco Largo Caballero, a member of the socialist party and former Prime Minister of Spain from 1936 to 1937; Manuel Portela Valladares, a member of the republican party and former Prime Minister of Spain from 1935 to 1936; and Mariano Anso, also a member of the republican party and former Minister of Justice of Spain, from 1937 to 1938, have all been arrested in unoccupied France. He does not know whether this has been at the instance of Franco or whether any of these men will be turned over to Franco, but, of course, he is apprehensive.

He tells me that there are at least two thousand Spanish Loyalists in unoccupied France who want to come to this hemisphere who are in daily peril of being turned over to Franco for his firing squads.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature: Harold I. Phillips

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,
The White House.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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3186

January 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT: 1892

TO READ AND RETURN.

F. D. R.

Letter from the Secretary of State, 1/6/41
to the President, enclosing memo on the refugee
activities of the Dept. of State. Copies of papers
in our files.

January 6, 1941.

My dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a memorandum on the refugee activities of the Department in the thought that you may desire the information which it presents. The memorandum is a factual review of the activities of the Department during the six-months' period, July 1st to December 31st, 1940--the period during which the problem became very acute and assumed a considerable importance.

Faithfully yours,

W. Stewart Clegg

x20

Enclosure:

Memorandum.

Press Release, No. 549,
December 18, 1940.

The President,

The White House.

A-L

January 6, 1941.

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Mr. Secretary:

Refugees

This is a statement of the refugee visa work of the Department of State for the six months' period, July 1 to December 31 (1940). It was during these months the problem assumed emergency proportions.

Visas have been issued to 22,508

Visas authorized and outstanding but action on which not yet reported 2,432

Visas brought to Consul's attention for 1941 quotas (Russian territory)

GRAND TOTAL 1,500
26,430

- Not including 10,000 visas provided for British children, of which 3,500 were used.

3,500
Including British children 29,930

The figure 22,508 represents visas actually issued and is correct in Department's information as of December 31, 1940. More than that have been issued but reports of them had not been received in the Department up to December 31, 1940.

Some

-2-

Some of the 2,432 visas have also been issued but are unreported. The Quota Control officers collect the information from local officers in their respective jurisdictions with whom communication is usually delayed. On account of war conditions transmission of this information is frequently interrupted for periods. Consequently it is not possible for them to receive promptly the information so they can report the exact status on any given day. For that reason some reports are incomplete as to some Consulates for a period of weeks preceding the date of the control officer's statement. Therefore it is practically certain that some hundreds of the 2,432 authorized but unreported cases have been issued. However, the information in the Department as of December 31 is that 22,508 visas had been actually issued to persons, practically every one of whom is a refugee from German, Italian or Russian oppression and who originated in territory east of the Rhine.

These refugees

These refugees are geographically allocated as indicated below:

| German (controlled, occupied or dominated) territory - | <u>Immigrant</u> | <u>Visitors and Transits</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| Germany | 13,685..... | 339 |
| Czechoslovakia | 1,437..... | 76 |
| Norway | 61..... | 69 |
| 1/2 Poland | 1,681..... | 86 |
| Denmark | 65..... | 71 |
| Hungary | 435..... | 49 |
| Rumania | 188..17552.... | 22 712 |

Russian (controlled, occupied)

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| U.S.S.R. | 256..... | 63 |
| 1/2 Poland | 1681..... | 86 |
| Lithuania | 31..... | 6 |
| Latvia | 2..... | 1 |
| Finland | 67...2037.... | 109 265 |
| Italy..... | 199..... | 66 |
| Switzerland..... | <u>235.....</u> | <u>206</u> |
| Immigrant total..... | 20,023..... | 1,249 |
| Visitors and transit in regular course..... | 1,249 | |
| Recommended as in particular danger for special consideration - analyzed on next page - authorized 3,268 of which reported issued..... | <u>1,236</u> 22,508 | |

Organizations Sponsoring Refugees

A number of organizations interested in refugees have recommended the names of political refugees in particular danger for special consideration in the issuance of visas. The following groups have been especially interested:

President's

| | <u>Issued</u> | <u>Authorized</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| <u>President's Advisory Committee</u> | | |
| <u>on Political Refugees</u> | | |
| Names received to Dec. 31, 1940 | | 1224 |
| (Of about 750 names submitted up to Nov. 15th, Consuls have reported issuance of visas as follows - Names submitted later, reports not received as of 12/31/40): | | |
| Visitors'..... | 266 | |
| Immigration..... | 87 | |
| Transit Certificates... | 22 | |
| Type of visa not stated | 27 | |
| Total | 402..... | 402 |
| (Reports have not yet been received from several offices) | | |
| <u>American Federation of Labor</u> | | |
| Names recommended (closed Oct. 1) | | 705 |
| Reports indicate issued to | 413..... | 413 |
| <u>Catholic Organizations</u> | | |
| Names recommended | | 58 |
| Reports indicate issued to approximately all | 58..... | 58 |
| <u>Jewish Organizations</u> | | |
| American Jewish Congress | | |
| Agudas Chasidei Chabad | | |
| Agudath Israel Youth Congress | | |
| and other organizations, mostly in Russian controlled territory where many difficulties to exit, total | | 1,143 |
| (The organizations are highly responsible and have selected the names from a much larger number as outstanding in their religion and in special danger. Many are in Soviet-occupied Lithuania and Poland and are experiencing difficulty in traveling.) | | |
| Reports indicate issuance of visas to about | 250..... | 250 |
| <u>American Unitarian Association</u> | | |
| Names recommended | | 50 |
| Visas have been issued to at least | 25..... | 25 |
| <u>Dominican Republic Settlement</u> | | |
| Association (transit certificates) | 88 | 88 |
| | 1236 | 3268 |
| | The persons | |

-5-

The persons to whom these visas have been issued originated in the territories specified, though many of them, including practically all of those on the lists of the President's Committee, and on that of the A. F. of L., were, at the time, in France, Portugal or Africa. Under the law they are chargeable to the country of their origin and are so indicated in this summary.

Many of these persons originated in Germany, fewer in Italy and Poland and retreated into France, either directly during the past few years or through Holland and Belgium where they remained temporarily until the German advance.

Others were still in Germany at the time they received visas.

Many of these whose visas have been authorized originated in Poland and retreated to the Baltic States or originated in the Baltic States. When those countries were absorbed into the military jurisdiction of Russia it became practically impossible for them to travel and consequently they are unable for the time being to claim the visas to which they are entitled. That situation largely accounts for the fact that of 1143 persons recommended by Jewish Organizations only 250 have actually received visas. We had only one Consulate in Russia during this period. It was at Moscow and intending emigrants have encountered

many

many difficulties to prevent travel to Moscow to approach the American Consulate. Conversely, the Russian Government refuses the privilege to Consular officers to visit other parts of the country to exercise the Consular function.

Likewise, a number of persons recommended by the President's Committee are under assumed names, or hiding from the Gestapo, or have moved out of the Consular district, or for similar reasons are either afraid to or prevented from approaching the American Consul in order to obtain their visas.

In addition to granting immigrant visas to persons originating east of the Rhine, there have been issued, within the quota, visas to persons originating in Belgium, France, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. The factual information in the Department is too fragmentary as regards these four territories to permit a factual statement in connection with them, but an estimate based on the best information available is submitted herewith:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| Belgium..... | 500 | (estimated) |
| France..... | 1543 | (estimated) |
| Luxemburg..... | 50 | (estimated) |
| Netherlands..... | 1100 | (estimated) |
| Total - Western Europe..... | 3193 | |
| Total - East of Rhine..... | 26430 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 29623 | |

The policy

-7-

The policy of the Department of State and the procedure adopted by it for dealing with the refugee immigrant problem was summarized in a press release issued on December 18, 1940.

Although the laws relating to the entry of aliens do not provide preferential treatment for refugees as such, administrative measures have been taken to meet the emergency. Consuls have been instructed to be as liberal as the law allows and to expedite action in the cases of qualified applicants when satisfied that they will not engage in activities inimical to the interests of the United States. In view of reports indicating that Nazi and other totalitarian agents are endeavoring to enter the United States in the guise of refugees, it has been considered essential in the national interest to scrutinize all applications carefully.

B. L.

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3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 24, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE: 220

For necessary action. Let x6
the Secretary of the Interior know.

F.D.R.

Note from the Secretary of the Interior, 1/22/41
with attached memorandum to Harold Oram, from Paul
Hagen, brought to the Secretary's attention by
* Frank Kingdon, asking aid for a famous group of
anti-Nazis, Francois Boegler, Jean Tittel, Fritz
Lamm, and Pfeffer, who have reinterned in Camp
Vernet, and radiogram from Fry, Marseilles,
< 1/19/41 asking that Washington intervene in the
matter and that embarkation be transferred to
Camp Milles Aixenprovence.

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3186

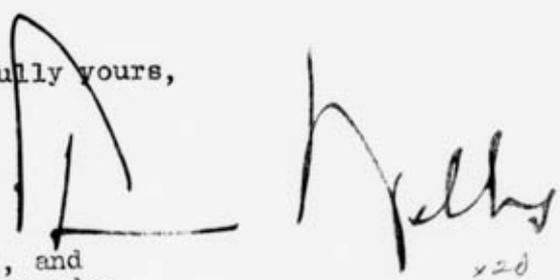
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 28, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with your memorandum of January 24, 1941 enclosing a communication addressed to you by Mr. Ickes, the Department sent a cablegram to the Embassy at Vichy requesting Ambassador Leahy to arrange with the appropriate French authorities for the transfer of the four internees in question to Camp Milles. Mr. Ickes was informed by telegram of the action taken and he will be advised of any developments resulting therefrom.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosures:
From Mr. Ickes,
January 23, 1941, and
its enclosed memorandum
and telegram.

The President,
The White House.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1941.

My dear Mr. President:

Dr. Frank Kingdon, whom you doubtless know, showed me this memorandum today and I asked him if I might have it to submit it to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Harold Z. Fisher".

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,
The White House.

Enc.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Harold Oram

FROM: Mr. Paul Hagen

A famous group of anti-Nazis, Francois Boegler, Jean Tittel, Fritz Lamm, and Pfeffer, originally interned in Camp Vernet were liberated through the intervention of American friends and authorities in Washington but were recaptured when trying to leave France together with Belgian and French officers. Reported in American press aboard boat, they have now been tried and acquitted. In spite of the acquittal, the French authorities have reinterned these people in the Camp Vernet to be held until handed over to the Germans. It is desired to get French permission of their transmittal to Camp Milles, Aixen Provence. In this camp the French authorities concentrate all of those aliens and refugees already in possession of American visas.

The reinternment of these four is an act of autocratic sadism. There would be no hope for them ever to leave France before the German authorities would have got hold of them. The four people were already listed by the German Control Commissions before they were released from Camp Vernet last summer. They are in immediate life danger. Cables are desired to be sent simultaneously to Prefect Ariege Marshal Petain's Cabinet, and telegrams to French Embassey and Sumner Welles, State Department, Washington.

| FAST | RCA | DIRECT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|------|------------|--------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---|--|-----|--------------|-----------------|--|------------|--|
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| <p style="margin: 0; font-weight: bold;">TO ALL THE WORLD — BETWEEN IMPORTANT U. S. CITIES — TO SHIPS AT SEA</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Send the following Radiogram *"Via RCA"* subject to terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

W4883 MARSEILLES PO 249 L& L() January 19, 1941 12 PM

FRANCOIS AND FRIENDS RETURNED CAMP STOP DOING UTMOST BUT URGE YOU HAVE EVERYBODY INTERESTED CABLE FRENCH AUTHORITIES MAKE THEM REALIZE MANY AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMITTEES FOLLOWING CASE CLOSELY SUGGEST CABLES PREFECTS BOUCHES DU RHONE AND ARIEGE COMMANDANT OF CAMP MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARSHALS CABINET AND AMERICAN EMBASSY SIMULTANEOUSLY GET WASHINGTON INTERVENE OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY STOP DESIDERATUM TRANSFER EMBARKATION CAMP MILLES AIXENPROVENCE

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3186



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1941.

My dear Mr. President:

I have your memorandum of this date to which was attached a copy of a letter from Cordell Hull to you under date of February 25 with reference to four persons in France with respect to whom representations were made by the Department of State at your instance. The persons concerned are Francois Boegler, Jean Tittel, Fritz Lamm and Pfeffer.

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I deeply apologize for the embarrassment that I have caused you. On January 22 I forwarded to you a copy of a memorandum which had been left with me by Dr. Frank Kingdon. I accepted this memorandum in good faith at its face value and you were good enough to interest yourself in the fate of the men who appeared to be ~~put~~ in jeopardy for democratic political beliefs. Lacking any first-hand information on the subject, I am at a loss what to suggest to you. I have written a letter to Dr. Kingdon, a copy of which I am sending for your information. This will go forward by air mail today and I ought to hear from him within a day or two, whereupon I shall communicate promptly with you.

Sincerely yours,

Howell T. Fehes

Secretary of the Interior. *x6*

The President,
The White House.

Enc.

x422-6
x422-A

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON.

AIRMAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY February 26, 1941.

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Three or four weeks ago you expressed an interest in certain Spanish refugees who were originally interned in Camp Vernet in Free France. You left with me a memorandum referring to "a famous group of anti-Nazis, Francois Boegler, Jean Tittel, Fritz Lamm, and Pfeffer." I at once took up the matter with the President and at his instance, the Secretary of State interested himself in the matter. Now, the Secretary of State, on the authority of our Ambassador to France, who had made a representation to the French Government, advises that none of these four persons appear on the list of political refugees which are claimed by the German Government. The Embassy further advises that the French Government has responded favorably in the case of Maurice Pfeffer and Jean (Hans) Tittel and has transferred them to Camp Miles, which apparently implies a consent to the departure of these persons from France. The Embassy report is further to the effect that both of these persons have belonged to the Trotskyist branch of the Communist Party in Germany. As Communists they are inadmissible to the United States.

As to Pfeffer, it is stated that there is nothing specific against him except that he has been considered by the French authorities to be politically undesirable and that he was once ordered deported.

Tittel's record, however, as reported by the French Government, is bad. Our Embassy at Vichy advises that he has indulged in political activities of a subversive nature; that he has been brought on several occasions to the attention of the police; that he has used both Polish and German identity papers, the German papers being false; that he was in possession of a secret radio transmitter, as late as 1938, for the purpose of communicating with Germany; that he was in possession of explosives and of seditious tracts of the Fourth International in such circumstances as to lead to the suspicion that he was implicated in the Etoile bombing outrage.

You can imagine the embarrassment in which this places not only me but the Secretary of State and the President himself. Our Ambassador, in his telegram to the State Department, said that the Foreign Office at Vichy indicated some surprise that the American Government would interest itself in these men. As matters stand, if the men alleged to be Communists are such, they could not be admitted into this country even temporarily, nor would the United States want to have any hand in helping them to be admitted to any of the other American Republics. As a matter of fact, Tittel was given a visa to come to the United States in 1940, but it is indicated that, in the light of the information above set forth, this visa will now be withdrawn.

I acted in good faith in this matter and I know that you did too. However, if these allegations are true, it would appear that someone has allowed his zeal to run away with his judgment. I know of nothing better calculated to create difficulties about admitting refugees to this country than such facts as this case discloses. All of us ought to be particularly scrupulous not to intervene except in a clear case. Certainly, I do not care to become involved, as I have in this instance, in making representations on behalf of persons who should not be admitted in any circumstance. It even appears from the communication from our own Ambassador that Tittel may have been a German fifth columnist working in Free France. Certainly we want no such person in this country now, nor, as I see it, do we want any communists.

I think that you owe it to your organization, and certainly you owe it to the Secretary of State and the President, to get full cable advices at once on this case and correct the record here so far as it may be corrected.

Very truly yours,

(Sgt.) Harold G. Hubbs

Secretary of the Interior.

Dr. Frank Kingdon,
Chairman, Emergency Rescue Committee,
122 East 42nd St.,
New York, New York.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

*Thank in
Advance*

3186

*copy
3/2/41
J.
O.S.B.*

March 14, 1941

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

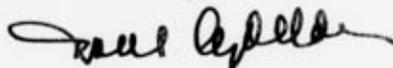
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The conference on world refugee problems, called by Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Taft, Mr. Pickett, and myself, was duly held on February 28 and March 1. We very much regretted that you were unable to attend and we hope that you will continue to be interested in the subject of the conference and that you will wish to know of the conclusions which were reached.

I take pleasure in sending you the enclosed summary of the discussions. The Continuation Committee, which was provided for in the resolutions adopted by the conference, has already held one meeting and is making good progress toward the outline of a plan for future action, to be presented at a second meeting of the conference, which will be called as soon as the plan is ready.

If the report of the conference suggests to you any ideas which should be considered by the Continuation Committee, I hope very much that you will send them immediately to the Secretary, Mr. Roy Veatch, 405 West 23rd Street, New York City.

Yours sincerely,



FRANK AYDELOTTE

X

Hon. Harry Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

March 21, 1941

My dear Dr. Aydelotte:

In Mr. Hopkins' absence from the city, I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March fourteenth, which I shall be glad to bring to his attention upon his return. Meanwhile, I want to thank you ever so much, in his behalf, for your kindness in sending him the accompanying summary of the discussions.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Mr. Hopkins

Dr. Frank Aydelotte,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton,
New Jersey.

avb

Statement by Dr. William Haber,

Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan
and until recently Executive Director of the National
Refuge Service.

Dr. Haber indicated that the refugee problem is not primarily an European problem, nor is it a recent problem. The current refugee problem, particularly as it expressed itself in regard to the European refugees during the last eight years, differs from the refugee problem of earlier periods in that it was deliberately created by policies of government.

He indicated further that the problem of refugees will continue to be of great moment and will involve hundreds of thousands, if not millions of persons, even after the end of the war. The economic and social shock which the Nazi policies or the war will have created in many European countries will make it necessary for people to find homes elsewhere.

Havens of refuge, Mr. Haber indicated, have been very limited, and almost every nation in the world has sought to protect itself against the immigration of refugees in flight. Until restrictions became severe great numbers have been able to get out of Europe and nearly 125,000 have come to South America, some 20,000 are found in Shanghai, and Cuba, and other places in this hemisphere have also received either as permanent immigrants or for temporary refuge large numbers of people.

To the United States, throughout the entire period, about 150,000 refugees have entered. This number is not large when compared to the American population. It represents an almost insignificant addition.

The problems which refugees have brought to the agencies established to assist them can readily be classified.

First, the refugee asks help in emigration. He wants to get out. In fact, he must get out, and he needs assistance in preparation of documents, and in the provision of transportation. The immigrant's problem is a highly technical one and the members of the staffs of all the agencies have had to be familiar with the rules and regulations, the customs and practices, of almost every country in the world, in order to be of immediate assistance to the refugees.

Affidavits, visas, temporary permits, entry permits, and countless documents, about all of these the agencies have had to keep themselves fully posted in order to be of maximum aid. An important limitation to immigrants today is funds for transportation since steamship companies will not accept marks or other foreign currency to pay for passage.

Second, the refugees need temporary financial assistance. They arrive in their new countries quite penniless and when their relatives or friends cannot help them they turn to the agencies for temporary emergency aid. All of the agencies, the American Friends Service Committee, the American Committee for Christian Refugees, the American Committee for Catholic Refugees, the Joint

Distribution Committee, these and others have provided temporary emergency assistance to tens of thousands of people in countries of temporary refuge and for permanent immigrants.

In the United States, no less than 25,000 refugees have been given help by the four major agencies operating here during 1940. Such help which is provided is temporary for the refugees have shown a tremendous capacity for rapid adjustment and self support.

In the third place, they ask our assistance in finding work. This has been a difficult job for the agencies, which had to be handled tactfully and with skill, for we have our own unemployment problem and it has been important to make certain that the employment of refugees did not result in displacement of our own people. This is particularly important since there have been many individuals eager to pounce upon occasional instances where this has been true, in order to develop their pet ideas about aliens or intolerance in general. It is a tribute to the agencies that the adjustment of refugees has taken place in our own country, for example, without hardly a ripple of commotion about the problem.

It should also be indicated that the refugee has not competed with Americans for jobs; that in a great number of instances they have brought new skills to our country, and have, in fact, established industries producing products heretofore imported, and now employing a considerable number of Americans.

In the fourth place, they bring to us their problems of retraining. Agencies recognize that a great number of these newcomers cannot transplant their professions and skills and work experience into our country. In many instances they have to be retrained. This is an expensive undertaking, but one which is of tremendous importance, for unless we are prepared to assist these people to become self-supporting we incur the hazard of their becoming a public charge and subject to deportation at a later time.

There is also the problem of assisting those who have had business experience to be set up in some business. The refugee brings to this country skills, craftsmanship, and in many instances patents and specialized expertness in certain lines which are very necessary. The several agencies have assisted a great number of these people to establish themselves in business. They not only have become self-supporting but have provided employment for others in their group, and, in most instances, for some of our own unemployed people.

In the fifth place, there is the problem of resettlement. New York happens to be the port of entry and the refugee is naturally inclined to want to remain there. There are many advantages from his point of view to doing so. Agencies, however, have recognized that the best interests of our own country, as well as of the refugee, can be served by making every effort to avoid the establishment of little refugee colonies and to aim at the widest

possible distribution of these newcomers to all parts of the United States. Nearly 60,000 of the total number who have come here have been distributed to over 300 communities all over the country. Our experience is clear; adjustment has been much more satisfactory in the smaller community.

Finally, the refugee needs help in making his social and cultural adjustments to his new home. He has been subjected to terrific psychological and sometimes even physical punishment, and has had little opportunity to prepare himself for the country to which he has gone. There is, of course, the basic problem of learning the language, and even something about our mores and customs. Unless aided in this quest, eventual economic adjustment would be postponed.

Some time ago President Roosevelt, in meeting with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, said that after the war the world might be concerned with as many as ten million refugees. Almost everyone thought that that statement was an exaggeration. We know now that it represented perhaps a conservative estimate of the magnitude of the refugee problem. In emphasizing some of the problems brought by the European refugee to this country we must not overlook the fact that the refugee problem is not primarily one which is concerned with Nazi Germany only. The Spanish refugee problem is important. Equally tragic is the problem of refugees in China, whose numbers probably exceed that of the European refugees.

In conclusion, Dr. Haber indicated that the very magnitude of the problem has inclined to discourage people and to give them the excuse for saying that it is too big for us to do anything about it. He emphasized, however, that we are dealing not with masses but with individual human beings, with families of men, women, and children, and while private efforts alone may contribute materially to solving the problem of thousands, if not tens of thousands, of individual families.

Outline of Talk by Patrick Murphy Malin,
American Director, International Migration Service,
on certain pressing needs in the refugee situation
and certain inadequacies in the refugee service ac-
tivities which could be remedied by a relatively
simple increase in general education and available
resources.

I. Refugees bound for the western hemisphere.

- A. Concentrated in Portugal, France and England; lesser concentration in Shanghai and Japanese ports. Entering the United States at an annual rate of 30,000 to 40,000 under all quotas; thin stream into Latin American countries.
- B. Many of those waiting abroad have no visas and lack transit visas, many have irregular visas, most have none at all. Exit permits are difficult to obtain in France, and transit permits are equally difficult to obtain through Spain. This whole situation is of course chiefly a matter of government policy, but the refugee agencies could help considerably if they had more trained staff here and abroad..... The transportation situation reveals an appalling scarcity of ships and of funds for individual passage payment. The provision of ships is largely a matter for decision between the shipping companies and the government, but the refugee agencies could even now make use of greatly enlarged funds for the securing of future reservations.
- C. Among the most difficult current situations, the following will serve as examples:
 1. The precarious position of aliens in Switzerland.
 2. Non-Aryan Protestants in Germany equipped with American visas but lacking transportation funds.
 3. Those interned in French concentration camps, whose release could be secured if guarantees were provided for their support until their departure from the country.
 4. The special case of the Spanish refugees -
 - a. There are perhaps 100,000 in France and they are of course unable to get out through Spain.
 - b. The 8,000 or so Basques among them would be admitted rather generally over Latin America, whereas others have the choice of only Mexico or Chile. In this connection it should be noted that the Spanish refugees now in Mexico seem to be facing the collapse of their ambitious economic and cultural projects because funds have been cut off - partly for the reason of the war time exchange restrictions, and partly for the reason of internal partisanship. The group in the Dominican Republic is even worse off materially for the same reasons.

- c. In this country the various agencies interested in Spanish refugees are in need of improved organization and technical wisdom.

II. Salient needs of the refugee service organizations, which are asked to serve those refugees (less than one-half of the total number) who are not being cared for completely by their own reserves or those of relatives or friends.

- A. These agencies need expansion in all departments of their work outlined by Dr. Haber. Particularly do they need increased staff-trained administrative workers abroad and an increased number of executives at home so that their present pre-occupation with crisis after crisis may not indefinitely prevent long term planning.
- B. The re-training program needs special expansion, particularly for those refugees who have what may be called second grade skills; so does the placement service, on which depends in considerable measure the desirable distribution of refugees over the country in place of seaboard concentration. Certain groups of the refugees need to have from interested individuals or groups of Americans modest subsidies beyond the average to which the agencies must of course adhere- for example, old persons who have been accustomed abroad to a high level of culture, and young students.
- C. The most crying need is in the field of public relations- to extend education as to the problem and as to the services being provided, and also for the purpose of increasing available funds.
 1. Only a small part of the nation is actively conscious of the refugee situation; especially is this true among the non-Jews who have contributed almost no funds, leaving even the non-Jewish agencies to be supported by Jewish money.
 2. Three barriers to understanding need special attention; anti-semitism, fear of fifth columnism, and the threat of economic displacement of those already here.
 3. Some way should be devised to meet the public clamor for co-ordination among agencies and for a basis of selection among the numerous new agencies always appearing.

III. Some long term considerations.

- A. Almost all migration at the moment is infiltration rather than mass settlement. The Dominican Republic Settlement at Sosua for Germany refugees has approximately 300 now in residence and anticipates perhaps a 1000 more this year; a similar project may develop to the active stage during the year in the Philippines.
- B. Whatever the outcome of the war millions will probably want to leave Europe, to escape either political oppression or economic disaster. To take care of them it will help to learn by expanding present efforts, and to engage in increased direct planning with regard to

group colonization- not only to keep hope alive among those now caught abroad, but also to steal a march on events by reducing unmanageable general plans to simple specific steps whose effectiveness can be more easily appraised.

1. We should, for example, know more than we do about South American attitudes and capacities; conflicting information needs to be resolved with respect to the reported South American desire to limit migration to non-Jewish agriculturists supplied with capital.
2. Can we find groups there similar to our own and join with them in planning and experiment?

IV. China

- A. The refugee movement in China is distinguishable from the European movement of refugees in three ways; it is intra-national; perhaps a higher percentage of those who have moved will move back; and more of those who have moved are already where they will stay.
- B. There have been two major movements; one from the central and southeast to the southwest; and the other from the northeast to the northwest. Refugees have gone in short jumps, and there are almost no statistical measures of their total. Outstanding among their types are the skilled workers, the merchants, the government officials, the students and older intellectuals. Generally speaking, they have moved into more sparsely populated and economically and culturally backward areas.
- C. The Chinese refugees need: relief funds (especially for the war orphans), funds for educational and medical services, and funds for the industrial co-operatives. Improved organization among the agencies designed to care for China has been initiated through the seven-agency campaign now being launched in this country.

Broadly it may be said that the refugee agencies could do much to alleviate suffering among accessible refugee groups, and to increase their adequacy in serving several important purposes within their present framework- if only they had more workers and more funds.

Statement by Eugene E. Barnett,
General Secretary, the International Committee
of Young Men's Christian Associations

Mr. Barnett: "The refugee problem is a world problem and not a purely European problem. Since July 1937 it has been a colossal and a very acute problem in China. In Hangchow, a city in which I lived from 1910 to 1921, when the invasion came the population fell from 650,000 to 90,000. During the three years which have passed the population has grown to 250,000 - 300,000 people. That means 350,000 have moved West and have scattered through an already densely populated area.

I spent one day last summer in the city of Nanking. Before the invasion there were 1,100,000 people there. When Nanking fell, that number fell to 250,000. There are not more than 400,000 now. That means there are 700,000 people to be accounted for.

The lowest estimate was 30,000,000 people who have been dislocated by the invasion. The people who have come back to Hangchow and Nanking are only the desperately poor. Among the sixteen churches of Nanking, seventy-five per cent (75%) of the membership has gone and has not come back. Those who are left are abysmally poor. What happens to these people? They seek their ancestral homes in the interior even though they may not have 'been back' for three hundred years!

In China there are agencies already in existence for administering relief if funds are available. Across the country there are mission points, Protestant and Catholic, everywhere -- people who have had experience during past periods of famine and distress from other causes.

The Chinese Industrial Cooperatives which do refugee and rehabilitation work should be mentioned. As refugees come in they merge with the community and what is needed is relief to the poverty stricken population in which chronic indigence is intensified by sudden congestion due to the inrush before invasion. It is a movement which promises to relieve the immediate situation and has great significance for the future in that it is creating means of livelihood for multitudes of people who are taught skills and provided the small capital needed to carry on small-scale industries for which the raw materials required are at hand.

Only the better off refugees get far West. The poorest remain in the coastal and central provinces.

I do not suppose there is any place on the earth where the American dollar goes further (\$1 American = \$18 Chinese) not only in meeting immediate needs but in helping people who have an amazing ability to start over again with a little help."

Statement by Paul Baerwald,

Chairman, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

For many years past collections have been made for foreign relief in New York City and throughout the country. These figures amount to a very large total. Our own Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee, was started immediately after the last world war. Our activities of relief and reconstruction reached their peak in the years 1919 and 1920, but gradually we were able to withdraw from the field of relief abroad, so that in 1932 we had a total budget of approximately only \$400,000. Last year - 1940 - our organization had a budget of \$6,000,000., but not all of this has gone for the purposes of emigration or of refugee relief abroad.

It is difficult to give an estimate of the present rate of annual expenditures for assistance to refugees abroad and for migration and for assistance to refugees in this country and for their maintenance and resettlement. Perhaps it is reasonable to estimate that from the much larger totals collected throughout the United States, a sum of 10 to 12 million dollars has been spent during 1940 by various organizations for the direct purposes of migration of refugees and for relief and constructive assistance to refugees. In this rough estimate I do not include the money spent by the Red Cross or the Children's Fund or various other funds, such as Miss Morgan's fund for France, and it is important to mention that it does not include those large amounts which are almost impossible to estimate, namely the money spent by thousands of people here for their relatives abroad, and of which no record can be kept.

Various governments have officially recognized the refugee question -- France, Belgium, Holland, England, Switzerland have been generous in their reception of unfortunate refugees and so have a number of the Eastern countries. Prior to the war, all these countries contributed money out of their own government funds to the local committees which were immediately formed to be of assistance to these refugees. Even today the French Government has set aside 10 francs a day for a large number of the internees in various camps.

In England, similarly, the government concerns itself actively and by the contribution of money, with help for refugees in England. Our own President has not only recognized the problem of the refugees but has taken active steps in their behalf by creating the Inter-Governmental Committee and in calling the conference in Evian which was later on followed by a meeting in Washington.

This is a very sketchy report, but our Chairman was anxious that at least an estimate of a figure should be mentioned here tonight.

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Statement by John Rich
American Friends Service Committee

Mr. Rich gave a report on the condition of 1,300 Spanish refugees in Santo Domingo. Many of these refugees had been put out on unimproved land without tools and with almost no shelter, and were reduced to the lowest living standards. These people have been completely neglected since the Loyalists in France collapsed. The problem is complicated by the fact that there are two factions within the Loyalists - the Negrinistas and the Prietoistas. Negrin is in London and Prieto is in Mexico. Neither one seems to be of any practical assistance to the group in Santo Domingo. What these people need are the most primitive things - hoes, seed, hens and eggs, etc. It is not a very big problem numerically - it is just a little island of people who have been lost in the shuffle; \$20,000 a year would work a miracle for these Spaniards.

Excerpts from Statement by Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Regarding the Children's Crusade for Children in
which she took part last winter.

The appeal was made to American children themselves -- that is, to those of them who had some extra money, or could get it with a little self-sacrifice. Since they are never asked to give to charity for poorer children in their own country, it was thought that nobody could say that the Children's Crusade money was something "taken away from our poor American children". All school children and high school young people, both in public, private and parochial schools were reached as far as this was possible. As far as the officers of administration went, the reception of the idea of giving help to the child victims of war and persecution was very uneven -- a good many favorable, a good many definitely opposed to it.

But once this barrier had been passed, so that the idea could be suggested to the actual teachers who were in charge of the actual flesh-and-blood children, there was an unbroken unanimity of sympathy and approval. We knew of hardly a single case of all the hundreds of thousands involved, who refused to cooperate, or who did not cooperate with a good will and truly humane feeling. The children themselves responded admirably and -- this should not have been surprising but was -- the poorer children with a more generous spirit than the more well-to-do.

Mrs. Fisher emphasized the fact that all elements of competition were eliminated. In order to overcome the objection that the inability of the poorer children to give as much as the more well-to-do might hurt their feelings, the collection was arranged so that nobody knew how much any child gave or indeed whether any particular child had given anything at all. Sealed steel mite-cans were put on the teacher's desk for the last ten days of April. Any one who wished to contribute dropped in what he could, at any time he wished. There was no passing of the mite-cans up and down the aisle. There was no way of knowing what any one classroom gave, so that the old principle of "now let's have our fourth grade beat the fifth grade" could not be applied. Anything that was given, was given out of a decent humanity, just because it is something to be ashamed of to have more than one needs, and not share with those who haven't enough.

The idea of this plan was to make it easy for the poorer children not to contribute if they had no money. But it was pointed out that nearly all American children have some superfluties-- more than most Americans realize. Mrs. Fisher made a little informal research inquiry among social welfare workers and teachers of very poor children, asking them if the children under their care were so poor that they never chewed gum. (Chewing-gum was selected as an example because it is a commodity which must be purchased with cash.) Without exception those working with poor children said that practically all American children at some time or other did have chewing-gum. And of course most children also have ice-cream cones, all-day suckers and occasional tickets to the movies. What was suggested to them was that they go without these extras a few times, and put the pennies saved into the Children's Crusade mite-cans.

Yet, after all this care to avoid putting any pressure on our poorer American children, after the invention of a collecting mechanism which would make it

possible for them not to give without being criticized for it, what happened was that, in general, they gave more generously than the more well-to-do. The expensive private schools of the East made a poorer showing than the ordinary public school grade students.

In particular, Negro school children showed great generosity. Mrs. Fisher said that since the contributions were being asked from the children as a thank-offering for being born under the American flag, she felt really ashamed to ask Negro children, as they have not much to thank our country for. But before she could make up her mind whether or not to include Negro school children in the appeal, it was found necessary to have all mailings done by one of the great companies in New York who do this professionally. They simply sent the Children's Crusade printed matter to all schools, without inquiry as to whether the students were colored or not. The Negro children, very poor as many of them were, responded with warm-hearted fellow-sympathy for child refugees, and gave out of proportion to their means.

The total collection came to fourteen million pennies -- \$140,000. But far more important than the money was the fact that humane civilized descriptions of the desperate sufferings of refugees had been broadcast in enormous numbers, to all the corners of the United States -- in many cases into communities which never before had so much as known what the word refugee means. An enormous amount of newspaper publicity in all these communities was given to the refugee problem. Since the appeal was made entirely inclusive, asking help for all child victims of war and persecution wherever they could be reached on the globe, no political animosity was aroused by differences of opinion. Mrs. Fisher thinks that this entirely inclusive character of the appeal had a great deal to do with its general acceptance.

There was no time to organize a speakers' bureau, although this is -- Mrs. Fisher is convinced from her experience -- the very best way to reach the American public, by speakers going out to the ordinary groups and organizations, the Parent-Teachers Association, the Grange, the Rotary and other commercial clubs, Chambers of Commerce, etc. She herself did as much speaking as her health and the time allowed, and always found that sympathy was aroused, difficulties smoothed away, objections easily met, by speakers who met audiences face to face.

The Children's Crusade did have a Writers Committee, ably organized by Mrs. Henry S. Canby, wife of the well-known critic. Each one of them promised to contribute at least one article, poem, essay, story, to a magazine for which he usually wrote. It was noteworthy that many of the writers required much factual information before they were in shape to write material.

Mrs. Fisher continued by saying that in this country we have a group of writers who are incomparably skillful in presenting material persuasively to ordinary people. These writers can make people interested in things which they would not be interested in, otherwise. The name of this group is the American Advertising Writers. Their ability is used to sell washing machines and automobiles to people who, without their persuasion would never think of buying. Since most people are anxious "to do something for the country", now, why should not the advertising writers be willing to contribute their skill? What we need are those who can present the refugee problem with the special arts of practiced experience in printing, graphs, pictures, illustrations, slogans. It is of course necessary also to have somebody in charge to see that this is done with taste and dignity.

WHO'S WHO

Princeton Conference on Refugees
February 28 - March 1, 1941

- ARMSTRONG, Lady Margaret- President, Ladies of Charity; Chairman, International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs.
- AYDELOTTE, Dr. Frank- Director, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.
- BAERWALD, Paul- Chairman, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
- BANGS, Mrs. Grace Allen- Director, Clubs Service Bureau, New York Herald Tribune.
- BARNETT, Eugene C.- Executive Secretary, National Council of Young Men's Christian Association.
- BORG, Mrs. Sidney C.- Vice President, Federation for Support of Jewish Charities; Director, Salvation Army; etc.
- BOUDREAU, Frank G.- Executive Director, Milbank Memorial Fund.
- BRUNAUER, Dr. Esther Caukin- Associate in International Education, American Association of University Women (representing Dr. Kathryn McHale, General Director, A.A.U.W.)
- CHAPMAN, Oscar- Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
- CLOSE, Miss Kathryn- Writer; authority on refugee movements (representing Victor Weybright, Managing Director, SURVEY GRAPHIC).
- CARTER, Edward C.- General Secretary, Institute of Pacific Relations.
- DUGGAN, Stephen P.- Director, Institute of International Education, Inc.
- ELLIOT, Dr. John L.- Senior Leader, Ethical Culture Society.
- FISHER, Mrs. Dorothy Canfield- Author.
- GOODRICH, Carter L.- Professor, Columbia University; Chairman, Governing Body, International Labor Office.
- HABER, William- Member, Executive Committee and lately Executive Director, National Refugee Service; Professor of Economics, University of Michigan.
- HARRIMAN, Mrs. J. Borden- Former Minister to Norway.

- MC AFEE, Dr. Mildred- President, Wellesley College.
- MILLIGAN, Mrs. Harold- President, National Council of Women of the United States.
- MOHLER, Mr. Bruce M.- National Catholic Welfare Conference (representing The Most Rev. Joseph J. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans; Chairman, Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany; Chairman, International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs).
- MUNRO, Dr. Dana- Professor of History and Director of The School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University; Director, Survey of the Dominican Republic.
- PICKETT, Clarence E.- Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee.
- PINCHOT, Mrs. Gifford- (representing Hon. Gifford Pinchot).
- PRITCHARD, Edward P., Jr.- Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States.
- REYHER, Mrs. Rebecca Hourwich- Executive Secretary, Dominican Republic Settlement Association (representing James N. Rosenberg, Chairman, DORSA).
- RICH, John- American Friends Service Committee.
- SEWARD, Ralph T.- Chairman, Board of Immigration Appeals, Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice (representing Francis Biddle, Solicitor General of the United States).
- STEVENS, Miss Helen K.- National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (representing Miss Louise Franklin Beche, Executive Secretary).
- SWEETSER, Arthur- Secretariat, League of Nations.
- TAFT, Mrs. Robert A.
- TIXIER, M. Adrien Pierre- Assistant Director, International Labor Office, Montreal, Canada.
- VAN ZEELAND, Paul- Executive President, Coordinating Foundation.
- WARREN, George L.- Executive Secretary, President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees; International Director, International Migration Service.
- WATT, Robert J.- International Representative, American Federation of Labor (representing William Green, President, A. F. of L.).

WEISS, Louis S.- Attorney; Member, United States Committee for the Care of European Children.

WISE, Dr. Stephen S.- President, American Jewish Congress.

WOODRUFF, K. Brent- Executive Director, American Committee for Christian Refugees, Inc.

WOOLLEY, Miss Mary E.- Former President, Mt. Holyoke College.

Roy Veatch,
Acting Secretary of the Conference
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NO PUBLICITY

REPORT OF THE PRINCETON CONFERENCE ON REFUGEE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

PRINCETON INN - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 1941

I. Needs

Almost all of the opening meeting of the conference, on Friday evening, February 28th, was devoted to a discussion of refugee needs and of the relation to those needs of the existing programs of the refugee service agencies. Some of the outstanding needs stressed in the discussion may be summarized as follows.

1. Transfer of refugees from dangerous or impermanent stopping places to new permanent homes or at least to better havens of refuge. Visas-transportation costs- places to go.
2. Coordinated attack on the problem of making available adequate transportation facilities for refugees who would thus be enabled to reach better places of refuge.
3. Great expansion of funds and other aid to organizations assisting the reconstruction of Chinese refugees in Free China .
4. Development of new services and great expansion of some present services to refugees who are now in or will enter the United States. Especially retraining, better geographic distribution, new industries and occupations.
5. Increased assistance to settlements in the most suitable areas (outside of the United States) and further facilities for study of this method of meeting refugee needs and of guarding against anti-immigration feeling in such areas.
6. Great expansion of the staffs of almost all refugee service agencies, making possible more nearly adequate service, better coordination, and more study and planning for the future.
7. Removal of prejudice, misunderstanding, and ill-considered opposition to refugees and the development of informed and sympathetic understanding in the receiving countries.

A number of special statements regarding needs, and the relation of those needs to the programs of refugee agencies, were made in the course of the conference. Transcripts of the major portions of these statements are attached to this report.

II. Objectives

Although limitation of time prevented an extensive exploration of the subject under discussion, and allowed opportunity for not more than half of those

present to express their views, the following points were given considerable emphasis as desirable objectives of any new coordinated national effort in this field:-

1. Mobilization of all of the available facts regarding refugee situations and needs, and their organization in such form as to make possible the presentation of a complete picture of the world's refugee problems and needs.
2. A much broader and better presentation of the facts regarding refugee problems and needs to the American public, with the following general purposes in mind:
 - a. To make possible broad knowledge and understanding in place of misinformation and prejudice.
 - b. To arouse the potential interest and sympathy believed to exist in all parts of the country, as a basis for much greater aid to refugees, financial and otherwise.
3. Increased financial support of essential refugee service programs and funds for new services where needed.

III. Some Problems

Discussion of ways and means of achieving these objectives brought out the following general problems or questions, among others:-

1. Can the refugee agencies achieve these objectives merely by a closer coordination of their own activities, or are their own resources (of staff, energy and funds) too limited?
2. If a new agency is needed, should it be merely a committee or a clearing house of the refugee agencies, with some new staff, or is new initiative and leadership from outside the refugee agencies needed to launch and carry forward such a new effort?
3. To what extent are refugee agencies able and willing to take direct responsibility for the organizing job and for the continuing program contemplated in the objectives stated above?

These general problems may be pointed up by mention of a number of specific questions which emerged from the discussion:-

1. If a joint national educational program is developed and it succeeds in arousing individuals and organizations all over the country to new interest in refugees, will the service agencies acting singly be in a position to take full advantage of this interest from a financial point of view, by their own efforts increasing to the maximum the funds available to meet recognized needs?
2. Will the leaders of refugee service organizations be willing and able to take much responsibility for the new national program? Should they

be appointed by their organizations and represent those organizations officially in such a new function, or should they act as individuals only? Or is a combination of the two possible, some acting in an official capacity while others would act only with the informal support of their organizations?

3. Is there or is there likely to be sufficient interest and feeling of responsibility on the part of leading citizens not now engaged in refugee work to warrant the expectation that a major part of the initiative and leadership required could be assumed by such leadership? Particularly there is the problem of securing the support and participation of outstanding business men.

IV. Some Generally Accepted Points

There was no vote by which the conference endorsed the following statements, but there seemed to be full acceptance of these points:-

1. The general lines of policy to govern the presentation of refugee problems and needs to the public and the mobilization of new public support for refugee aid should be determined by or in close consultation with the recognized leaders of the refugee service agencies. This is desirable in order to insure a sound and factual basis, to achieve close coordination with actual service programs and needs, and most particularly to guard against an excess of inexperienced and uninformed zeal which might do more harm than good to the interests of refugees.
2. Some way should be found to mobilize and use the untapped resources of leadership and assistance which all agreed are available in many sections of the national community and perhaps in every local community in the country.

V. Action Taken

Two things became clearly apparent before the close of the Saturday morning session, (a) that the members of the conference wished to take definite action before adjourning, but (b) that there was insufficient time left for adequate consideration of and decision regarding the many detailed problems involved in the proposals under consideration.

At the afternoon session, therefore, the conference unanimously approved a resolution providing that it should continue in being, merely adjourning the present session until another one should be called, and that the Chairman should appoint a Continuation Committee to study the problems raised at the conference and to prepare a report and recommendations for specific action, to be referred back to the conference at its next session. The resolution as adopted also empowered the Committee to take such action as it might find necessary or desirable in carrying forward a program of information about the refugee problem and about the work of refugee agencies, even before the conference shall be re-assembled; the Committee was not authorized, however, to launch now any sort of fund-raising program for refugee work.

The Continuation Committee was also requested to study and report upon the possibility of holding during the spring a number of regional conferences, somewhat similar to the Princeton conference, perhaps in the South, in the Mid West and in the Far west.

The Continuation Committee is at present constituted as follows:-

Mr. Patrick Murphy Malin, Chairman
Mr. Roy Veatch, Secretary
Lady Margaret Armstrong
Mr. Paul Baerwald
Mrs. Sidney C. Borg
Dr. Esther Gaukin Brunauer
Dr. Samuel Guy Inman
Mr. Clarence E. Pickett
Mrs. Robert A. Taft
Miss Mary E. Woolley

VI. Some additional Points

1. Attendance at the conference was good, indicating that leaders of various groups in the community are prepared to give time and thought to this problem. Many who wished to be present were forced to decline the invitation because of illness, trips to other parts of the country, and conflicting engagements. More than 50 people actually arrived in spite of the buffeting of a considerable snow-storm. A list of those actually attending is attached.
2. The attendance was so good that the conference was embarrassed with riches of resource material and experience. Unfortunately time, and the manner in which the discussion developed, did not permit consideration of the relation of organized labor and agriculture to the proposed national program, of the relation of such agencies as the International Labor Organization and the League of Nations to long-range migration movements, or of the plans and programs for settlement, being developed by such agencies as the Coordinating Foundation, the Refugee Economic Corp., and the Dominican Republic Settlement Association.
3. It was agreed that no publicity should be sought for the Princeton conference and that all participants in that conference should be requested to guard against any publicity for projects discussed there until more definite decisions are reached regarding them.

Roy Veatch
405 West 23rd Street
New York, N. Y.

Watkins 9-2792

Mr. Purvis: - State
called & said he
had file on this man
his desk & would
be glad to let you see

Guizkadi
Basque
pronounced
in Spain
early Spanish
maps.

if he was told the
meany of state would
see him - but he
never came to see
meany.

De G. nchauer
White Plains
N.Y.

Mr. Curtis

March 13
Maney =
=

3186

March 14, 1941

Respectfully referred to the
Department of State for appropriate
acknowledgment. x20

Attention: Mr. Summerlin.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

hm

x
Letter from M. de Ynchausti, 36 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains,
N.Y., 3/13/41 to the President. Asks appt. with the President
to discuss case of President Jose Antonio de Aguirre, of the
autonomous Govt. of Euzkadi, exiled in Paris before the Nazi
invasion, and of his desire to come to the U.S.
x

x422-A
x422-6
x203

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ^{x6}

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Transmitting to the Secretary of the Interior, copy of a paraphrase of the telegram from the Embassy at Vichy, (No. 539, 5/12/41 4 p.m.), the original of which has been retained for our files.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 14. 1941

My dear Mr. President:

The Secretary of the Interior has communicated with you several times in the course of the last few months in regard to four persons who were held in France and intercession on whose account was requested originally by Dr. Kingdon. Two of these persons, Pfeffer and Tittel, were allowed to leave France because of our intercession. * 1772980

We are now in receipt of advice from the Embassy at Vichy that the other two, Boegler and Lamm, will not be allowed to leave for reasons arising out of the Armistice Convention. I am attaching a paraphrase of the telegram from Vichy which you may care to send to Mr. Ickes.

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
Paraphrase of cable.

The President,
The White House.

4203
4203-A

x20

Paraphrase of telegram No. 539, May 12, 4 p.m.
from Vichy.

The Foreign Office has now been advised by the Interior Ministry, which has been studying the matter but has been hesitant, that because of considerations emanating from the Armistice Convention the departure of ^{Fritz}Lamm and ^{Franz}Boesler cannot be authorized.

^{*4073}
The answer is very disappointing to the Foreign Office. Their position has been to approve the exit of people of German nationality unless the German Government asked for them particularly under paragraph 2, Article 19 of the Armistice Convention. We are advised by the Foreign Office that these two men were not asked for particularly. Nevertheless, the Interior Ministry has been more hesitant and inclined to retain people they feel may be demanded by the German authorities later, and it would appear that these men are considered in that light.

We have continued to press the Foreign Office, and they have sent many communications to the head of the Ministry of the Interior, one of which Darlan himself signed and which was forceful. Furthermore,

we have

-2-

we have taken the matter up orally with the Interior Ministry. The position of the Foreign Office now is that no further influence can be brought to bear upon the chief of the Ministry.

March 20, 1941

Respectfully referred to the State
Department for acknowledgment.

In the absence of the President.

M.H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

Let. addr. to the Pres., 3/19/41

x
James N. Rosenberg,
Pres., Dominican Republic
~~Settlement Assn., Inc.,~~
165 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Refers to the President's let. to Mr. William Rosenberg re aid to refugees and says that the refugee work in the Dominican Republic proceeds steadily and soundly; also refers to 26,000 acre estate contributed to their assn. by Generalissimo Trujillo and encloses copy of the Generalissimo's letter to him.

April 2, 1941

2186

Respectfully referred to the State
Department for appropriate acknowledgment.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

Letter from Moise Magoune, 12 Rue Isidore Girard,
Montpellier, France (non-occupied), February 4, 1941
to General Edwin M. Watson, a Russian Jewish refugee
who requests permission to come to the U. S.

April 2, 1941

Dear Mr. Girard:

I have your letter of March twenty-ninth.

Quite frankly, the matter in which you are interested is one that has to be handled with the State Department.

In view of the fact that you have had it up before with Mr. Harrington of the Visa Division, I would suggest that the matter should properly be taken up with him.

Very truly yours,

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

Frank Girard, Esq.,
Hotel Washington,
Washington, D. C.

mhm/tmb



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OVERLOOKING WHITE HOUSE AND PARKS

HOTEL WASHINGTON

PENNA. AVE. AT 15TH STREET



"CABLE ADDRESS:
HOWASHTON"

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March, 29th, 1941.

3186

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- Fort Worth
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- MIRAMAR COURT
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- San Diego
- HOTEL CACTUS
- ★
- San Antonio
- ANGELES COURTS
- ★
- Virginia
- HOTEL MOUNTAIN LAKE
- ★
- Mountain Lake
- ★

Mr. H. M. McIntyre,
3106 Thirty fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mac:-

While in Washington last December, I believe that it was Sunday the 7th., I called you at home and talk with you relative to the following matter. At the time you also talked with Mr. Clein.

On or about November, 1st, 1940 a Doctor Eishler arrived at New York from Lisbon, Portugal, on a visitors Visa, and representing a Mr. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold is an inventor and very famous Engineer, his last position as Chief Engineer of the Skoda Works in Czechoslovakia, and, while in this capacity he perfected an invention whereby you can burn crude oil in the present day Aeroplane Motors, and, we have the assurance of Doctor Eishler that this a fact and not fiction, as Mr. Arnold had this patent in operation in a limited manner in Czechoslovakia until Germany's invasion, at which time Mr. Arnold destroyed all possible working models, blue prints, and also his laboratory and escaped to France, where Mr. Arnold again proceeded to make said invention and again at the time of the invasion of France by Germany, Mr. Arnold I believe had four Aeroplanes equipped with this patent device, but again Mr. Arnold destroyed all evidence and escaped to Lisbon, Portugal. Where he has been in hiding, virtually in danger of his life, due to the fact that most all foreign governments have been looking for Mr. Arnold, first to obtain this patent, and, I personally know that Germany would like to lay their hands on him for destroying his laboratory and other materials of great value at the Skoda Works in Czechoslovakia, and again in France.

2536-a





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- ★
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MOUNTAIN LAKE
- Mountain Lake
- ★

(2)

Due to Mr. Arnolds perilous position and in being in danger of his life, he sent Doctor Eishler to the United States, and he in turn contacted a Mr. John Klein, a prominent movie producer here and in European Countries, and he in turn interested a Mr. Ira M. Ornburn, Secretary and Treasurer of the Label Trades, Division of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Ornburn being civic minded immediately grasped the tremendous value of this patent would have for our National Defense program. Mr. Ornburn proceeded in proper fashion or channels to obtain a temporary Visa for Mr. Arnold. This request eventually reached Mr. Harrington at the State Department, who proceeded to investigate Mr. Arnold and found several things detrimental to his character, viz;- First that Mr. Arnold was using fictitious names at various times in Lisbon and other places. Pray tell me who wouldn't if ones life is in danger. Second- That the English Government was looking for him, naturally they wanted this patent. However Mr. Ornburn got this matter straightened out at the English Embassy in Washington, Third- Another obstacle Mr. Harrington found was that the Italian Government objected, naturally they would, because they wanted the patents. Mr. Harrington was finally convinced that the Italian Government had no moral, physical or any other objection worthy of consideration- and last but not least, Mr. Harrington finally agreed to issue the Visa and advised that Mr. Arnold would be put on an export boat for New York, but when the boat arrived no Mr. Arnold, and why Mr. Harrington did not or would not issue a temporary Visa;- particularly after a group of wealthy and prominent citizens agreed to meet all requirements of our laws, only Mr. Harrington can explain. We are most emphatically at a loss at Mr. Harrington's attitude in this matter, due to the fact that this patent device has many vital interests relating to our National Defense and eventually to the wealth of this nation as a great oil producing country, that control of such a devise, which is bound to become a reality, taking into consideration the marvelous inventions that have been perfected in the Automotive and Oil Industry. Under such conditions this Country should be grateful to Mr. Arnold for the opportunity to benefit humanity.



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ANGELUS COURTS

★
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HOTEL
MOUNTAIN LAKE

★

Doctor Eishler submitted a set of blue prints of this patent and Mr. Ornburn submitted same to a most prominent engineer and after the engineer studied Mr. Arnold's blue prints, he admitted that Mr. Arnold really had something. The value of this patent to our National Defense, lies in equipping Aeroplanes with same, this patent does away with the necessity of having bullet proof gas tanks, as crude oil does not explode as high test gas does, also the elimination of an aeroplane having to carry loads of gas, as one gallon of crude with this patent will go as far as three (3) gallons of high test gas. Mr. Arnold thru Doctor Eishler claims that ten (10) gallons of crude in a pleasure automobile will travel from New York to California. Of course during the Auburn days we took an Auburn that burned crude oil and the expense from New York to California was about seven dollars and ninety cents.

x 56
x 249

This matter was taken up with General George Marshall, Chief of Staff, and he was very much impressed, also, admitted that he had heard something of this for the last two years.

Doctor Eishler assures us that Mr. Arnold would deem it a pleasure and an honor to supply all United States Aeroplanes with this device free.

In conclusion, I pray you will see your way clear to grant a temporary Visa if only for ten days for Mr. Arnold's entry to the United States. Any regulations you may stipulate will be adhered to the letter, and every expense regardless how small or large will be subscribed by very responsible people. An assurances will be given that should Mr. Arnold upon arrival prove his patent device a failure that he will return to Lisbon by the next boat.

Any favor that you may be able to grant me in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Frank Girard

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San Angelo
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San Antonio
ANGELES COURTS

★
Virginia
Mountain Lake
HOTEL
MOUNTAIN LAKE

★

P. S.

You can reach me at the above hotel and I certainly would be very glad to talk the matter over with you. I understand that Mr. Ornburn is on his way to Washington from California where has been. Mac there are several other things that I would like to talk to you about.

Frank.

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET x79

To let Mrs. Roosevelt know xPP72
what the status is.

F. D. R.

Enclosures

x20

Copy of letter from James G. McDonald to
Hon. Breckinridge Long, 3/29/41 in re ~~miscellaneous~~
continuation of the unspent portion of the
appropriation for U.S. Govt's. participation in
the work of the Intergovernmental Committee.
Unless the unexpended balance, approximately #
\$27,000, is reauthorized in the pending
Deficiency Appropriation Bill, the President's
hands will be completely tied. Attached is
memo for the President from Mrs. Roosevelt stating
that Mr. Long told Mr. McDonald that this was
included and upon checking up, Mr. McDonald found
that it will not included in the State Dept. Bill.

x119

for Political Refugees

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

BOB JACKSON: x10

What should I tell Ickes about
this?

F.D.R.

Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, 6/3/41
to the President, enclosing photostatic copy of
letter he received from the Archbishop of York,
Rt. Rev. William Ebor, Bishopthorpe, York, 5/6/41.
Writes in regard to refugees who are at present
interned in Canadian camps, who were rounded up
at the time of the invasion of Holland and subse-
quently of France. States there are still many in
the concentration camps in Canada who are hotly
opposed to the Nazi regime, and who are interned
through no fault of their own. The reason for his
writing is to be found in the resolution now to be
introduced in the House of Representatives, whereby
"all aliens incarcerated in the U.S.A. or foreign
countries will be ineligible for admission until
five years after their release". The question is
whether the term "incarcerated" is intended to cover
internment, which it most emphatically ought not to do.

x
448-B

x133-A

x246-A
4203-A

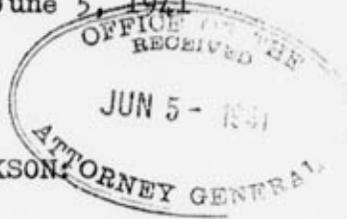
x463-6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

BOB JACKSON



What should I tell Ickes about
this?

F.D.R.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

June 3, 1941.

My dear Mr. President:

For your information, I enclose a copy of a letter that I have just received from the Archbishop of York, who labors under the mistaken belief that I have anything to do with immigration matters. However, I do believe that his point is well taken and perhaps you can do something about it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Z. Parker".

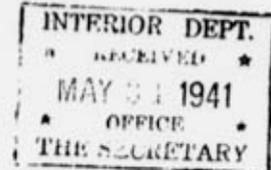
Secretary of the Interior.

The President,
The White House.

Enc.

Bishoptorpe.
York.

6 May 1941



Dear Mr. Ickes,

I am venturing to write to you, because I have reason to believe that there is some misunderstanding in the United States with regard to some of those refugees who are at present interned in Canadian camps. At the time of the invasion of Holland and subsequently of France, the British Government rounded up, as a precautionary measure, all persons of German nationality in this country, and, in the preoccupation with other affairs, the sifting out of them has gone very slowly. The result is that there are still in concentration camps here and in Canada many people who are hotly opposed to the Nazi regime, who have suffered from it and fled from it, and are now interned in the country of their refuge without any fault of their own. Most of these were admitted to this country as a resting place on their way to other countries overseas, including U.S.A. It would be a cruel hardship for them, after all their waiting, if difficulties are now created for their entry into U.S.A. as a result of any supposition that they are in any sense prisoners. We draw a sharp distinction between

prisoners and internees.

The reason for my writing is to be found in the resolution now to be introduced into the House of Representatives, whereby "all aliens incarcerated in the U.S.A. or foreign countries will be ineligible for admission until five years after their release." The question is whether the term "incarcerated" is intended to cover internment, which it most emphatically ought not to do.

I trust you will forgive me for pressing this matter upon you.

Yours faithfully,

William Ebor.

Archbishop of York.

Secretary of State Ickes,
Minister of Home Affairs,
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

①

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ^{x6}

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

F. D. R.

Transmitting copy of memorandum from the
Attorney General, 6/10/41, in re bill excluding
aliens who have been incarcerated.

x 133-A
x 133
x 463-6

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 10, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Rt. Rev. William E. Dox

x48
This Department agrees with the Archbishop of York that the bill excluding aliens who have been incarcerated should not govern those who have been interned. On the other hand, we are not accepting persons who are in internment camps and who want to come from internment camps directly to this country. I have taken the position that the British Government must release them and make some finding that the individual is fit to be free in its society before we can accept them here. I think this extreme resolution was inspired by fear that we would admit persons interned by the British as enemy aliens. The British Home Secretary sent a representative here, but he was unwilling to admit officially that the British have made the mistake of over-internment -- which everybody except the Government admits -- and I told him that it would be necessary to clear the status of persons wishing to come here before we could accept them.

s/ R.h.J.

Attorney General x10

*Original of this memorandum
sent to Secy. Interior 6/14/41
Jm*

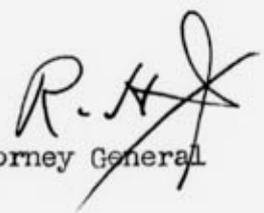


Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

June 10, 1941

Memorandum for the President

I think you could safely tell Ickes that ^{the} this Department agrees with the Archbishop of York that the bill excluding aliens who have been incarcerated should not govern those who have been interned. On the other hand, we are not accepting persons who are in internment camps and who want to come from internment camps directly to this country. I have taken the position that the British Government must release them and make some finding that the individual is fit to be free in its society before we can accept them here. I think this extreme resolution was inspired by fear that we would admit persons interned by the British as enemy aliens. The British Home Secretary sent a representative here, but he was unwilling to admit officially that the British have made the mistake of over-internment -- which everybody except the Government admits -- and I told him that it would be necessary to clear the status of persons wishing to come here before we could accept them.


Attorney General

TELEGRAM

Ben Watson

3WUC 99, 21 EX 11:08AM

The White House
Washington

NRH NEW YORK, N.Y., AUGUST 8, 1941

THE PRESIDENT.

YOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL REFUGEES HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE RECENT STATE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE ON THE BASIS OF WHICH REFUGEES ARE DENIED ADMISSION BECAUSE OF CLOSE RELATIVES LEFT BEHIND IN GERMAN-CONTROLLED AREAS. IN FULFILLMENT OF OUR ADVISORY FUNCTION WE VENTURE TO ASK THAT BEFORE ANY PROCLAMATION OR REGULATIONS ARE ISSUED UNDER THE ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED JUNE TWENTY-FIRST, 1941, YOU AFFORD US AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH YOU DIRECTLY.

JAMES G. McDONALD, CHAIRMAN;
HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG; PAUL BAERWALD;
JOSEPH P, CHAMBERLAIN; LOUIS KENNEDY;
GEORGE L. WARREN; RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE; ARCHBISHOP JOS F. RUMMEL.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

8-18-41

MEMORANDUM FOR: HON. SUMNER WELLES

Before replying to the attached telegram from James G. McDonald, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, may I have your advice?

E.M.W.

RB:rlk
Encl.

wire of Aug. 8, from James G. McDonald, NYC-states committee concerned over recent State Dept. procedure on basis of which refugees are denied admission because of close relatives in German-controlled areas. Wants to discuss problems with the President before any regulations are issued under Act of Cong., approved June 21, 1941.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

August 20, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Admission of aliens with immediate relatives remaining behind in German and Russian controlled territories.

On June 5 the Department sent a telegram to its agents abroad directing them to submit to the Department of State for final review the applications of any persons for an American visa if these persons had close relatives remaining behind in German or Russian controlled territory. "Close relatives" include; immediate relatives of the first degree of consanguinity (fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, wives, children). Since that time this practice has been followed. Persons have not been excluded from the United States simply because they had relatives in occupied territory. However, the telegram was sent after the Department had been thoroughly convinced that the German and Russian Governments were indulging in the practice of holding as hostages for the performance of services in the United States close relatives of persons to whom they gave

-2-

gave permission to leave occupied territory to proceed to the United States. This definite conclusion of the Department was arrived at after various communications from its representatives abroad.

However, persons in that category were not necessarily excluded. The instruction sent to the officers in the field was to bring the matter to their particular attention and put them on guard in order that they would make searching inquiry and would prevent the issue of visas to persons who after meticulous inquiry should develop would be undesirable in the United States because they had agreed to be agents for one of those governments or who might under circumstances existing and because of their mental philosophy serve as such agents. About half of the persons under the category (having near relatives in occupied territory) who have applied for admission to the United States were granted visas. The rest were not.

The instruction was sent at the time when there was pending before the Congress the bill which was signed by the President on June 21, 1941 authorizing the appropriate officers of the Government to exercise control over aliens coming into and going out from the United States in the interest of national defense and public safety. And indeed the Department's attitude has continuously been sympathetic to the refugee problem,

and

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

-3-

and the humanitarian questions involved, subject to the basic national defense and the public safety. The telegram was intended as a "hold" order until the pending legislation should become law.

Shortly after this legislation, known as the Bloom Bill, became law, a beginning was made for the drafting of the Executive proclamation and the regulations to be authorized thereunder. It was necessary for the Departments of State and Justice to confer and to agree in these matters. A number of minor differences of point of view as to procedure and on questions of law naturally arose. These matters have been under discussion by the appropriate officers of the two Departments ever since, and have just now come to fruition in that a thorough understanding and entire agreement has been arrived at by the representatives of the two Departments. So that the proclamation is nearly ready to be presented to the President and it will be accompanied by the regulations which will implement it. The proclamation and the regulations which will be presented to the President will, when signed and promulgated, render unnecessary the continuing validity of the Department's telegram of June 5th to its officers abroad. Section 11 of the regulations governs the entry of the aliens with relatives in occupied territory and will be worded as follows:

"Section 11.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

-4-

"Section 11. - Aliens leaving close relatives in certain foreign countries. In determining whether an alien's permit to enter should be denied for any reason, the fact that a relative of the first degree of consanguinity, with whom the applicant has maintained close family ties, remains abroad in any country or territory under the control of a country whose form of government is opposed to the form of government of the United States may be considered with other evidence that the ties between such relative and the applicant would make the entry of the applicant prejudicial to the public safety or inimical to the interests of the United States."

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

The language of this section has been agreed upon by representatives of the Departments of State and Justice.

Mr. McDonald and his committee, as is probably quite natural, and also with a number of other individuals and groups, have taken some exception to the procedure of the Department, as announced in its telegram of June 5th which is soon to be superseded. However, in the interest of public safety the Department has felt a considerable concern about the practices of these other governments, uncontrolled acquiescence in which might easily have resulted in the infiltration into the United States of a great number of foreign agents posing as refugees. Some such persons have already been apprehended in the United States and others have been apprehended after they left Europe but before they reached the United States. It is possible that others have penetrated the United States in spite of the strict supervision which the Department has exercised.

It

-5-

It may be interesting to note that the telegraphic instruction of June 5 excepted from its provisions those applicants for immigrant and visitors' visas living in unoccupied France, based on the Department's belief at that time that such persons were unlikely to be subjected to pressures unfriendly to the United States. Yet today in a confidential memorandum from the Director of the F.B.I. the Department has been informed that refugees proceeding from unoccupied France to the United States are now importuned to act in this country as intelligence agents of the Second Bureau of the French Intelligence which has offices, you may recall, both in Paris and in Vichy. Such refugees are required to submit four photographs for their permits to leave France instead of the usual three, the fourth to be added to the files of the Second Bureau and the permits to leave unoccupied France conditioned, according to the report coming to the Department, upon a promise to act as an intelligence agent of the Vichy Government after arrival in the United States.

Nevertheless Mr. McDonald's committee and the other persons and groups not members of his committee who have expressed views antagonistic to the Department's procedure were probably justified in their criticisms of the Department because they were not and of necessity could not be intimately advised of each action of the Department

and

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

-6-

and of all the information at its disposal, some of which it was quite obviously indelicate to disclose outside of a very restricted circle.

So that Mr. McDonald's telegram to you requesting that he and the members of his committee be received by you to present this matter is probably a natural and wholesome development. But it has been felt that you should be advised intimately of the situation before you should receive Mr. McDonald and his group. The important thing is that the telegram of June 5th, though it might have been misunderstood and the procedure adopted by the Department might not have been fully comprehended by certain persons and groups, is about to be superseded and will not appear as a single and possibly irritating instance. The whole matter of dealing with aliens coming into the United States and leaving the United States is completely covered in the regulations to be presented to you and which will be the combined thought and which have received the entire agreement of the Department of Justice and the Department of State.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

(122 E. 22nd St, N.Y.C.)
Washington, D. C.
September 4, 1941.

Mr. President:-

Assuring you of our deep concern for the public interest and the National safety shared in common with you and the Departments of State and Justice, we beg leave to make the following recommendations with respect to current practices in the issuance of visas: X 420 - *mail*

(1) The so-called relative rule should be cancelled or substantially modified. Our experience with refugees has convinced us that it is unnecessary, illogical, ill adapted to the purposes claimed for it, and cruelly burdensome on the refugees affected by it.

(2) Existing procedures should be simplified. The information and advice of the War and Navy Intelligence Services and of the F.B.I. should be made available to the officers of the Departments of State and Justice, who alone should decide on visa cases as competent under the law and familiar with the problem.

(3) A Board of Review should be established immediately to consider cases brought to it on appeal from the reconstituted Inter-Departmental Committees.

(4) Sponsors of applicants for visas, or their representatives, should be given opportunity to be heard by the Board of Review.

Respectfully, #

The President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees,

James G. McDonald
James G. McDonald, Chairman.

JGMCD/n

Roberta - Aug 27

Please

arrange for
committee meeting
next Wed or Thursday

Ellen

8-27-77

TELEGRAM

29WUC 51 5:22PM

The White House
Washington

3186

Sept 4 -

11.15

7

NRH NEW YORK, N.Y., SEP'T. 2, 1941

GENERAL EDWIN M. WATSON.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL REFUGEES WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH., AT 11:30: JAMES G. McDONALD; PAUL BAERWALD; *
JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN; ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH F. RUMMEL; HAMILTON
FISH ARMSTRONG; RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE; MONSIGNOR MICHAEL J. READY,
*PP76011 *PP73292 *PP72406
AND GEORGE L. WARREN. KINDEST REGARDS.

JAMES G. McDONALD, CHAIRMAN.

TELEGRAM

12WUC 83 D.L. 1 EX

12:05PM

The White House
Washington

Sept 4
11 30

Breckwidge Long
will also attend

FJ BROOKLYN, N.Y., AUGUST 28, 1941

GENERAL EDWIN M. WATSON.

THANKS YOUR TELEGRAM NOTIFYING US THAT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAS FIXED THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER FOURTH, 11:30 A.M., AS TIME FOR CONFERENCE WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLITICAL REFUGEES. THIS TIME COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY. WILL NOTIFY YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NAMES OF MEMBERS WHO WILL BE PRESENT. MEANTIME, PLEASE TELL THE PRESIDENT WE ARE ALL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NOMINATION FRANCIS BIDDLE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC RECORD GIVE COMPLETE ASSURANCE THAT UNDER HIM IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION WILL BE HANDLED ACCORDING FINEST AMERICAN TRADITIONS.

JAMES G. McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL REFUGEES.

STANDARD FORM No. 14 A
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1925

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

FROM

The White House

Washington

Sept. 4

August 27, 1941

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 45763

James G. McDonald, Esq.
President's Advisory Committee
on Political Refugees
122 East 22nd Street
New York, New York

The President will be glad to see your committee at Executive Offices eleven-thirty a.m., Thursday, September fourth. Please confirm as soon as possible giving me names of those attending.

Regards.

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President
RB:rlk



*General Watson
Will you arrange
apppt?*

*Sept 4
Thurs.
11 30*

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1941.

7. 11

Memorandum for the President

Some days ago Breckinridge Long sent you a statement relative to certain phases of the refugee question. I earnestly concur in the view that you should invite James G. McDonald and his associates on the Committee which you appointed, to call. This, I think, would take care of a possible bad outcome a little later.

I am sending this to suggest the absolute importance of having Breck Long drop in fifteen minutes before the Committee calls and refresh your memory touching certain important phases which they will bring up.

CA x20

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON

My dear Pa:

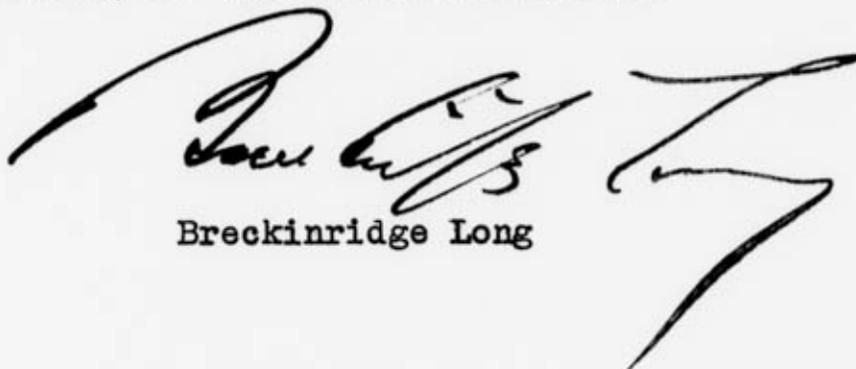
Following our conversation yesterday afternoon I talked to the Secretary and Mr. Welles on the subject of the telegram from Mr. McDonald and members of his committee requesting to see the President on the question of immigrants who leave close relatives in occupied territory. The Secretary and Mr. Welles feel that since Mr. McDonald's committee is the President's committee and since we try to work very closely with them that it would be very helpful if the President would receive them. The Secretary thinks the President should be advised before he does so. With that end in view the Secretary asked me to transmit to you for the information of the President the attached memorandum and to say that the whole story is too long to put in the form of a memorandum but that if the President would

Aug 27

Wed a Thursday

-2-

would like any additional background that I would be entirely at his disposal and could probably in the course of ten or fifteen minutes present a clear picture of the history of the entire situation.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Breckinridge Long', is written over the typed name. The signature is highly cursive and extends to the right of the typed name.

Breckinridge Long

Enclosures:

Telegram from Advisory Committee
on Political Refugees, August 8, 1941;

Memorandum.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Admission of aliens with immediate relatives remaining behind in German and Russian controlled territories.

x133

x198
x220

On June 5 the Department sent a telegram to its agents abroad directing them to submit to the Department of State for final review the applications of any persons for an American visa if these persons had close relatives remaining behind in German or Russian controlled territory. "Close relatives" include; immediate relatives of the first degree of consanguinity (fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, wives, children). Since that time this practice has been followed. Persons have not been excluded from the United States simply because they had relatives in occupied territory. However, the telegram was sent after the Department had been thoroughly convinced that the German and Russian Governments were indulging in the practice of holding as hostages for the performance of services in the United States close relatives of persons to whom they gave

-2-

gave permission to leave occupied territory to proceed to the United States. This definite conclusion of the Department was arrived at after various communications from its representatives abroad.

However, persons in that category were not necessarily excluded. The instruction sent to the officers in the field was to bring the matter to their particular attention and put them on guard in order that they would make searching inquiry and would prevent the issue of visas to persons who after meticulous inquiry should develop would be undesirable in the United States because they had agreed to be agents for one of those governments or who might under circumstances existing and because of their mental philosophy serve as such agents. About half of the persons under the category (having near relatives in occupied territory) who have applied for admission to the United States were granted visas. The rest were not.

The instruction was sent at the time when there was pending before the Congress the bill which was signed by the President on June 21, 1941 authorizing the appropriate officers of the Government to exercise control over aliens coming into and going out from the United States in the interest of national defense and public safety. And indeed the Department's attitude has continuously been sympathetic to the refugee problem,
and

-3-

and the humanitarian questions involved, subject to the basic national defense and the public safety. The telegram was intended as a "hold" order until the pending legislation should become law.

Shortly after this legislation, known as the Bloom Bill, became law, a beginning was made for the drafting of the Executive proclamation and the regulations to be authorized thereunder. It was necessary for the Departments of State and Justice to confer and to agree in these matters. A number of minor differences of point of view as to procedure and on questions of law naturally arose. These matters have been under discussion by the appropriate officers of the two Departments ever since, and have just now come to fruition in that a thorough understanding and entire agreement has been arrived at by the representatives of the two Departments. So that the proclamation is nearly ready to be presented to the President and it will be accompanied by the regulations which will implement it. The proclamation and the regulations which will be presented to the President will, when signed and promulgated, render unnecessary the continuing validity of the Department's telegram of June 5th to its officers abroad. Section 11 of the regulations governs the entry of the aliens with relatives in occupied territory and will be worded as follows:

"Section 11.

-4-

"Section 11. - Aliens leaving close relatives in certain foreign countries. In determining whether an alien's permit to enter should be denied for any reason, the fact that a relative of the first degree of consanguinity, with whom the applicant has maintained close family ties, remains abroad in any country or territory under the control of a country whose form of government is opposed to the form of government of the United States may be considered with other evidence that the ties between such relative and the applicant would make the entry of the applicant prejudicial to the public safety or inimical to the interests of the United States."

The language of this section has been agreed upon by representatives of the Departments of State and Justice.

Mr. McDonald and his committee, as is probably quite natural, and also a number of other individuals and groups, have taken some exception to the procedure of the Department, as announced in its telegram of June 5th which is soon to be superseded. However, in the interest of public safety the Department has felt a considerable concern about the practices of these other governments, uncontrolled acquiescence in which might easily have resulted in the infiltration into the United States of a great number of foreign agents posing as refugees. Some such persons have already been apprehended in the United States and others have been apprehended after they left Europe but before they reached the United States. It is possible that others have penetrated the United States in spite of the strict supervision which the Department has exercised.

It

-5-

It may be interesting to note that the telegraphic instruction of June 5 excepted from its provisions those applicants for immigrant and visitors' visas living in unoccupied France, based on the Department's belief at that time that such persons were unlikely to be subjected to pressures unfriendly to the United States. Yet today in a confidential memorandum from the Director of the F.B.I. the Department has been informed that refugees proceeding from unoccupied France to the United States are now importuned to act in this country as intelligence agents of the Second Bureau of the French Intelligence which has offices, you may recall, both in Paris and in Vichy. Such refugees are required to submit four photographs for their permits to leave France instead of the usual three, the fourth to be added to the files of the Second Bureau and the permits to leave unoccupied France conditioned, according to the report coming to the Department, upon a promise to act as an intelligence agent of the Vichy Government after arrival in the United States. x 203

Nevertheless Mr. McDonald's committee and the other persons and groups not members of his committee who have expressed views antagonistic to the Department's procedure were probably justified in their criticisms of the Department because they were not and of necessity could not be intimately advised of each action of the Department and

-6-

and of all the information at its disposal, some of which it was quite obviously indelicate to disclose outside of a very restricted circle.

So that Mr. McDonald's telegram to you requesting that he and the members of his committee be received by you to present this matter is probably a natural and wholesome development. But it has been felt that you should be advised intimately of the situation before you should receive Mr. McDonald and his group. The important thing is that the telegram of June 5th, though it might have been misunderstood and the procedure adopted by the Department might not have been fully comprehended by certain persons and groups, is about to be superseded and will not appear as a single and possibly irritating instance. The whole matter of dealing with aliens coming into the United States and leaving the United States is completely covered in the regulations to be presented to you and which will be the combined thought and which have received the entire agreement of the Department of Justice and the Department of State.

3186

"S. W.
O. K.
F. D. R."

October 15, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

I am transmitting herewith a letter which former Prime Minister Camille Chautemps, who is still living in Washington, ^{x seen.} has asked me to transmit to you. ^{x PP 7 50 42}

In this letter to you, Monsieur Chautemps is asking your intervention on behalf of political prisoners in France, in particular, ^{Edouard} Monsieur Daladier and members of his group. He feels that your personal influence with Marshal Pétain is such that any intervention on your part through Ambassador Leahy would serve to alleviate the lot of these prisoners. ^{x 4189}

Monsieur Chautemps has also expressed the hope that you would receive him.

If you approve, I shall tell Monsieur Chautemps that you have received his letter and that we have suggested to Ambassador Leahy that in a private conversation with Marshal Pétain he express your personal

x203
x203-A
x463-6

The President,
The White House.

Original of this letter, with enclosure, returned to Hon. Sumner Welles, as per President's notation, 10/17/41.

-2-

interest in behalf of these political prisoners.

I see no reason why you should receive Monsieur Chautemps at this time, and if you approve, I shall tell him that the pressure of your engagements is such as to make it impossible for you to make an appointment for the time being.

Will you let me know if these suggestions are satisfactory to you.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Sumner Welles

X²⁰

Enclosure:
From Monsieur Chautemps.

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 21, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS THOMPSON:

The President suggests that
you take this up with the State ^{x 20}
Department.

G.G.T.

x

Letter from Ethel M. de Senneap(?), Chateau de
Bilhère, Paris, B.P., France, to Mrs. Roosevelt,
dated 9/12/41. States she is the sister of
Forbes Morgan, asking that authorities at the Port
of New York permit her to land when she arrives
probably in January.

x 117 754

x 1172

x 203-A

mpk

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
January 7, 1941

Mr. Hassett said: "The accompanying letter from Harry Grayer, Grandmaster of the Order of Sons of Zion, 230 Fifth Avenue, New York City, is respectfully referred to Sec. of State for appropriate handling." Quotes President's letter of Feb. 12, 1938, to Dr. Harris J. Levine, NYC, to which Mr. Grayer refers. He forwarded (as per brief): Let. to Pres., 12-27-40 from Harry Grayer, Grandmaster, Order Sons of Zion, 230 Fifth Ave., NYC. In 1938 they inaugurated a project to raise \$100,000 to acquire land in Palestine to settle Jewish refugees. Pres. sent them a message. In view of need for additional settlements, now launching a second drive. New effort to be inaugurated at dinner at Hotel Astor, Mar. 23. Asks for another message.

SHE - P.P.F. 5198

3186

PIZZE, Isadore, Pres.,
United Jewish Appeal,
Birmingham, Ala.
Jan. 9, 1941.

The Jews of Birmingham begin their annual campaign for the United Jewish Appeal with a dinner at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel Monday evening Jan. 13th. Money raised by this drive goes in aiding the sick and needy Jews in this country, aiding the refugees in this country from other lands and aiding the oppressed people.

See P.P.F.2906

3186

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mpk

LOMB, Hon. Breckinridge
Department of State
January 17, 1941

Wrote to the President stating that there is no reason why the arrangements for the Sferna children cannot be expedited. Says it is not very simple because in Canada they are considered enemy aliens and special arrangements have to be made with authorities. Also, the immigration authorities have to cooperate for purposes of pre-examination. Says he has been in touch by telephone with Pierrepont Haffat, and is sure it will all be straightened out. -- Referred to Secretary Ickes for his information by President's memo of Jan. 21, 1941.

SEE - P.P.F. 6741

3186

mpk

WELLES, Hon. Sumner
Under Secretary of State
January 23, 1941

Wrote to the President stating that it occurred to him that the arrangements President has made for them to have a chief of mission in London accredited to all of the refugee governments located in London would leave the Luxembourg Government the only refugee government near which we have no accredited representative. Suggests accrediting Pierrepont Moffat as our Minister near Luxembourg Government, which is officially located in Ottawa. -- Pencil notation: "SW - OK - FDR - 1/24/41."

SEE - 2547

3186

FVS

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT,
1-24-41

3186

The President said "This is not a matter of the Congress but an international obligation on the part of the United States which is a party to the International Red Cross Convention. A mere Act of Congress does not change that." The President forwarded (as per brief): Letter from Hon. Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, 12/17/41 (?), to Mrs. Roosevelt, stating he gone very thoroughly into questions raised in "your letter of January 13 and in our telephone conversation the other day". States that Norman Davis tells him that the President has informed him that Red Cross ships under the American flag which are taking food to Spain and to unoccupied France should not bring back refugees to this country. Existing law would make such a step impossible and he feels that the President does not consider it expedient at this time to ask the Congress for specific legislation to authorize such action on the part of the Red Cross. Attached are letter from Mrs. Jay Allen, 1/12/41 to Mrs. Roosevelt, with attached cable from Jay Allen, Berne, 1/10/41, in re his plan in connection with above, and memorandum from Mrs. Roosevelt for the President "Is this true? Can't we try to get Congress to give permission?"

SKE 124

mpk

SUMNERLIN, Hon. George F.
Chief of Protocol
Department of State
January 24, 1941

Wrote to Miss LeHand re the anniversary of the signing of the agreement for the settlement of refugees in the Dominican Republic, which is to be celebrated on Jan. 30, 1941, by a meeting of Inter-governmental Committee at Ciudad Trujillo. Dominican Republic Settlement Association wishes on that occasion to present President Troncoso some token of its esteem and has selected six volumes of the "Public Papers And Address of President Roosevelt" and asks that the President autograph Volume I. -- Miss LeHand replied on Jan. 29, 1941, returning Volume I for transmittal, which has been inscribed by the President.

SEE - P.P.F. 7320

3186

mpk

LOOM, Breckinridge
Assistant Secretary of State
January 30, 1941

Wrote to Gen. Watson re the children of Count and Countess Eninski, Piotr and Joanna Eninski, now in Switzerland, and the difficulties Piotr may be encountering in securing a visa. Submits information received from the U.S. Public Health authorities, which was also sent to Count and Countess Eninski. This information was withheld from Mr. Justice Frankfurter and Mrs. Eliot Dudley, both of whom expressed an interest in the case, as it was felt that it was more properly information that should be submitted only to the parents. Will advise the President as soon as further information is received.

SEE - 4304

3186

HULL, Sec.

Jan. 30, 1941.

The President, by memo., asked him to reply to the following:
Telegram from Mrs. Harold Lehman, Sherry Netherland, N.Y., 1/28/41, to the
President, asking aid to save King Carol and his companion, who are now in Lisbon
and who are to be returned to Germany.

SEE 428

3186

VMB -

STATE, The Under Secretary of - Hon. Sumner Welles,
Feb. 3, 1941

The President referred for draft of reply, letter from Ambassador Claude G. Bowers, Valparaiso, Chile, Jan. 23, expressing hope that representatives of 7 leading Chilean newspapers will be permitted to attend a White House press conference. Reports on Chilean political situation. Encloses memo from Jay Allen, now in France, in re Spanish refugees.-- Mr. Welles supplied draft Feb. 14. Also encloses copy of letter he is sending Amb. Bowers directly re refugee matter. -- Feb. 15, the President wrote Amb. Bowers thanking for his letter and says he shall be looking forward to seeing the Chilean newspapermen at his press conference Feb. 14. Re memo from Jay Allen says he is asking Mr. Welles to send latest information re transfer of Spanish refugees from France to Mexico. Says Mrs. Roosevelt recently took up matter with Mr. Welles who indicated that State Dept. is doing everything that it feels it is possible to do under the circumstances. Says he finds his comments on Chilean political situation very interesting.

SEE - 303

3186

RVS

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT,
2-11-41

3186

The President sent memo to Mrs. Roosevelt re status of Mrs. Leon Trotsky in this country, and suggesting haven for her and her grandson in a small town or village in Mexico. -- The President returned (as per brief): Letter from Hon. Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, 2/6/41, to Mrs. Roosevelt, returning letter which Mrs. Roosevelt received from David Dubinsky, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 3 West 16th St., NYC, 2/1/41, in re case of Mrs. Trotsky and her grandson, who desire to come to the U.S., and on which is notation: "FDR - Dubinsky is such a good leader and so loyal I feel like trying, but would like your opinion. E.R."

SEE 4295

mog

LESINSKI, Hon. John
House of Representatives
Feb. 19, 1941

3186

Letter to the President advising that it has come to his attention that when Russia occupied Poland, she had shipped about a half a million of Poles into deep Siberia, and apparently so far no one has been able to get in touch with these refugees. Asks if it would be possible for the President to request a report from the Russian Govt., or have the American Red Cross investigate the conditions of these refugees in Siberia. - Gen. Watson, Feb. 20, 1941, referred the above letter to the Secretary of State for preparation of reply - Pencil notation - Other corrs. on this subject is filed - 465-A - E.B. - -Another pencil notation - No reply received on this - 7/27/45.

See 465-A

MEMO

2-21-41.

Miss LeHand transmitted to Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman, New York, N.Y., a table of contents of a report of the question of refugees - the report submitted by the Sec. of State for use in the preparation of additional volumes of the President's statements and papers.

See P.P.F.64

3186

br

LODGE, Jr., Sen. H.C.
Feb. 21, 1941.

Letter to the President with enclosed communication which he received from Marek Rzonca, Pres., Stephen Trypir, Vice-Pres., Marion Ryciewicz, Sec. and John S. Wilk, Treas., Julius Slowaski Society, Group 1365, Polish National Alliance, Adams, Mass., 2/17/41, asking Red Cross aid for Polish refugees in Soviet Russia.
Referred to Dept. of State 2-24-41.

See 463-A

3186

br

mpk

BURKE, A. A., Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
February 27, 1941

Sent a memo to the President re the request of G. G. Darlington of NYC for the President to personally intervene in favor of young Mr. Venturi, the son of a famous Spanish artist, of Italian extraction, who is being pursued by Generalissimo Franco. Asks if President will authorize him to use his name in a cable to Portugal to try to stop the Portuguese Government from putting him over the border. Would like to do it. Pencil notation: "A.A.B. Jr. - Y es, do - FER."

SEE - 4336

3186

EPSTEIN, Hon. Henry
Albany, N.Y.,
March 4, 1941.

Writes the President re a dream he had about the President. It seems he and his wife were on shipboard and as they came into the harbor at New York City, with many other refugees that the statue of Liberty turned into the President. Thinks it is very symbolic of the times.----The President, on March 10th, wrote the Solicitor General thanking him for his letter and saying it was a joy to hear from him.

SEE P.P.F. 500

3186

FVS

To
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
2-17-41

3186

President wrote to the Secretary saying that in accordance with provisions of Section 40 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, he hereby allocates from the appropriation of \$50,000,000 contained in Section 40 of said Emergency Relief Appropriation Act the sum of \$10,000,000 to the Treasury Department. This allocation is to be expended for the purchase, exclusively in the United States, of supplies other than agricultural supplies, transportation, and incidental expenses, including warehousing prior to embarkation, and not to exceed \$50,000 for administrative expenses. Asked Secretary to arrange for the necessary transfer of funds. --- Attached is copy of memo for the President from the Director of the Budget, March 15, 1941, forwarding above letter for President's signature and explaining that the funds are for the purchase of relief supplies to be distributed by the American Red Cross to refugees made destitute by hostilities or invasion.

SEE 79-Authorization, Treasury, Red Cross

MEMORANDUM FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT

3-19-41

3186

On the above date the President sent a memo. for the State Department with instructions "to take up" and referred to them a telegram from James G. McDonald, Chairman and George L. Warren, Secretary, President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, NYC, 3-18-41 to the President, asking U.S. Maritime Commission to reconsider its decision of denying permits for the steamships Washington and Manhattan to call at Lisbon. Attached is a letter to General Watson dated Apr. 4, in response to the President's memo., from Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, enclosing copy of the Department's letter to Mr. McDonald, same date, re the results of a discussion of this matter with Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission. Mr. McDonald was informed that the steamship Manhattan will be in dry dock until about the end of June and that the Washington has been chartered to the Army and that although these vessels will not be available, the Maritime commission was giving consideration to the matter of chartering the Siboney for the purpose of evacuating refugees.

See 1705 Misc

mp

WELLES, Sumner
ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

Washington, D. C.

3-21-41

3186

Wrote a letter to the President urging that all alien visa control be centralized in the Department of State and enclosed copy of a Departmental Order to accomplish this purpose, which Mr. Welles proposes to issue if the President approves. Says that this proposal has been made in view of information received from our officers abroad re the activities of German and Soviet governments in endeavoring to get agents into the U.S. in the guise of visitors, immigrants, etc. Mr. Welles says it is contemplated that the Visa Division of the Dept. of State shall be expanded with a staff to handle those cases, which are to be considered by a committee composed of representatives of the Dept. of State, Dept. of Justice, Military Intelligence Division and the Office of Naval Intelligence. Says the Dept. of Justice, the Army and Navy Depts. and the President's Advisory Committee are heartily in support of the proposal. Asks that if proposal meets with his approval, that the President direct allocation of approximately 45,000 feet of office space and also direct the Director of the Budget to approve request for a deficiency appropriation. -- Mr. Welles letter and copy of proposed Departmental Order were referred to the Director of the Budget for preparation of reply on April 1. Copy of Mr. Welles letter retained for our files.

STATE, The Under Sec. of
April 8, 1941.

The President, by memo., asked him to speak to Sec. Ickes re the following: Memo. for Sec. Ickes from Michael W. Struss, Dir. of Information, Dept. of the Interior, 4/2/41, in further reference to the case of Franz Beugler, a German, now held in Camp Duvernay in unoccupied France. Unless Beugler is released by France, Beugler will be shipped to Germany shortly to be killed. Mr. Paul Hagen (an anti-Nazi German operator and German citizen) with United States citizenship pending, asks that the Secretary renew unofficially intervention via Admiral Leahy. Mr. Struss states that he gave his opinion that such a renewed request for action by the Secretary should come from Frank Kingdon, who made the original request.

SEE 4073

3186

SUMNERLIN, Hon. George T.
April 17, 1941.

The President asked him to do the necessary and to return for the President's personal collection a letter from Hon. William D. Leahy, Embassy of the U.S.A., Vichy, France, 3/21/41, to the President, with attached letter, in French, from Camille Schlumberger, 3/8/41, to Admiral Leahy, which was delivered . two illuminated sheets prepared for the President in accordance with the desire of some of the exiled inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine. *to the Admiral by Mrs. Sousa-Dantas, wife of the Ambassador from Brazil, transmitting

SXE 203-A

3186

JUREWICZ, Jerome W.
President,
International Refugee Fund, Inc.,
1800 N. Ashland Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
4/22/41.

Wrote to Mr. Early requesting him to do organization honor in accepting the position of sponsor of worthy cause of aiding European war orphans and refugees, states in doing so, there will be no financial obligations on his part, but merely to grant use of his name as a fellow humanitarian.

See 253

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3186

BIDDLE, Hon. Anthony J. Drexel, Jr.,
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO POLAND
London, England
Apr. 22, 1941

3186

Wrote to the President forwarding a copy and translation of the text of a letter which came to him through confidential channels from Alexander Bobkowski, Son-in-law of the former President of Poland, Ignace Moscicki. The letter describes the whereabouts and critical position of the members of the former Polish Government and asks the assistance of Ambassador Biddle. He mentions the assistance given by Minister Franklin Mott Gunther, to his father-in-law, at Bucharest in 1939 and his gratitude to the United States. He states the following Ministers have remained in Rumania: Joseph Beck, Eugene Kwiatkowski, Jules Ulrych, Emil Kalinski, Antoine Roman, and the Undersecretaries Argasinski, Chelmonski, who are, for the most part, with their families. He also mentions Antoine Roman, lived at Brassof. Ambassador Biddle states the information contained in Mr. Bobkowski's letter checks in substance with that which he has received from other confidential sources in London. - - - The President wrote to Ambassador Biddle May 22 and said he was glad it was possible to maintain some of his contacts with prominent Poles on the continent. He said, in part "The condition under which members of the former Government of Poland are living in Rumania is, as you know, a matter in which we have sympathetic interest. I note from Mr. Bobkowski's letter that a copy of his message to you was sent by him to Minister Gunther in Bucharest. Mr. Gunther, I am sure, can be relied upon to assist these unfortunate persons to such an extent as the difficult conditions under which he is working will permit." (The President's letter is as per draft supplied by the Hon. Sumner Welles on May 22, 1941.)

vah.

ROSENMAN, Hon. Samuel I.,
New York, N.Y.
May 5, 1941

3186

On above date Miss LeHand wrote to Mr. Rosenman stating that the President says it is OK to use in the Public Papers his message to Chamberlain concerning the re-fugee problem. Miss LeHand enclosed a copy of same and called attention to the fact that it was not a letter but a message to be verbally transmitted by Ambassador Kennedy to Mr. Chamberlain.

See P.P.F. 64

WPK

WELLES, Hon. Sumner
Under Secretary of State
June 5, 1941

Wrote to the President stating that the Mexican Ambassador communicated to him the contents of a telegram he had received from his government asking that he ascertain whether the President would be willing to receive the widow of former President Don Manuel Azana of Spain, who desires to visit Washington to express her gratitude to the President personally for the interest the President took in trying to obtain permission for her late husband to leave France, and also in order to inform the President "with regard to the current situation in Spain". Mexican ambassador does not know whether Senora de Azana is in Mexico or not, but is evident that his Government is in touch with her. Under Sec. Welles doubts whether the information Senora de Azana can give the President concerning the situation in Spain is of any urgent value at this time, so suggests that he let the Ambassador know that the President will be glad to see Senora de Azana some time later in the summer, but that at this moment the number of urgent engagements is such that President would prefer to have her postpone her visit to Washington for the time being. -- Pencil notation: "S.W.-OK-F.D.R.-6/5/41."

SHE - 422

3186

WOODWARD, Hon. Stanley
7/25/41

Writes to President enclosing letter from Countess Mariel Scherr-Thoss, Schloss Dobrau, Post Burgwasser, O. S. Germany, 5/19/41, to the President. Asks aid in leaving Germany. -- The President, by memo., of Aug. 2nd, referred the matter to the Under Secretary of State asking him to reply if he thought advisable.

SEE P.P.F. 4502

3186

EINSTEIN, Professor Albert
Knollwood,
Saranac Lake, N. Y.
July 26, 1941.

Wrote to Mrs. Roosevelt re policy now being pursued in the State Department which makes it all but impossible to give refuge in America to many worthy persons who are victims of Fascist cruelty in Europe. Suggests that Mrs. Roosevelt talk about this question to some well-informed and right-minded person such as Mr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong—and if she is then convinced that a grave injustice is under way, bring the matter to the attention of the President. Mrs. Roosevelt sent the letter over to the President with pencil notation.

See PPF-7177

ewr

3186

mpk

DAVIS, Henrietta S.
Frankfort, Kentucky
July 31, 1941

Wrote stating that on March 8, 1941, she sent affidavits of support for her aunt, Mrs. Helen Coetz and her sister, Miss Fannie Pappenheimer, Paul Heyenstr, 18/11 - R, Munich, Germany, together with supporting affidavits to consul at Stuttgart, Germany, who advised papers were acceptable. Passages for these women have been reserved on American Export Lines for Jan. 2, 1941, on SS Kralibay from Lisbon, Portugal. Says since that time consulate has been closed at Stuttgart and has been unable to get information which would lead to passport visas through State Dept. at Washington. Asks to get passports visaed. -- Mrs Nettie S. Davis wrote again on August 1, 1941, re this. -- On August 27, 1941, Mr. McIntyre sent a memo to Secretary Long of the State Dept. advising that Mrs. Davis, who is the daughter of a former Jewish merchant, is in comfortable financial shape and is working both with the Red Cross and Bundles for Britain. Asks what he can advise Mrs. Davis. -- Sec. Long replied on August 30, 1941, that there is nothing that can be done at this time with a view to providing these women with visas. Suggests a way by which the visas might be obtained. -- Mr. McIntyre wrote to Mrs. David P. Davis on Sept. 3, 1941, enclosing a copy of Sec. Long's letter for her information.

SEE - 4000

3186

McDONALD, James G.,
President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees,
New York, N.Y.
8-14-41.

- 122 E 22nd
St.

Commends the President's and Mr. Churchill's meeting at sea.

See 463-C Confernce at Sea folder

3186

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TO
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
9-20-41

3186

The President allocated \$25,000 to the Treasury Department for administrative expenses in connection with the purchase of relief supplies to be distributed by the American Red Cross to refugees made destitute by hostilities or invasion. - - - Attached is memo for the President Sept, 19 from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget which was accompanied by draft of letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury for the President's signature. Allocation No. left blank.

See 79 Authorization, Treasury, Numbered Letters

mp

WARREN, GEORGE. L.
Secretary President's
Advisory Committee on Political Refugees,
New York, N. Y.
10/14/41.

Sent telegram to the President urging that he approve H.R. 5511, passed 10/13/41 by the Senate and thus preserve without loss the citizenship of many Naturalized American now abroad who have been prevented by war from returning to this country. (Bill was approved by the President)

See 320

61

3186

Spk

**HULL, Hon. Cordell
Secretary of State
November 7, 1941**

Wrote to the President in connection with the centralization of alien visa control in the Department of State on July 1, 1941. Gives the President information regarding the results accomplished up to Oct. 31. States the procedure. Gives a summary of visas issued and rejected, and discusses refugees. -- The President sent a memo to the Sec. of State on Nov. 8, 1941, expressing thanks for the report. Says he thinks they are really getting on top of this difficult problem.

SEE - 20

3186

mpk

McDONALD, Hon. James G.
President
The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences
Brooklyn, New York
November 24, 1941

Wrote to Gen. Watson in regard to the desire of Mr. Jose Antonio de Aguirre , who has recently arrived in the United States, to be received by the President. Says Professor de Aguirre is a leader of the Basque people and one of the most prominent of Spanish Catholics. — Gen. Watson replied on Dec. 1, 1941, that in view of the great pressure of official business and various commitments in connection with national defense, the President has felt compelled to refrain from making any future definite engagements for the time being. Regrets that it will not be possible to arrange an appointment for Mr. de Aguirre at the present time. — (Gen. Watson's letter is as per draft supplied by Hon. George T. Summerlin, Chief of Protocol, State Department, Nov. 26, 1941, in response to Gen. Watson's request of Nov. 25, 1941.)

SEE - 4670

3186