

President's Secretary's File Box 70
Departmental File
State - June - Dec 1940

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 19, 1940.

~~Confidential~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

UNDER SECRETARY WELLES:

In view of the continued "residence" i.e. imprisonment, of Polish Foreign Minister Jozef Beck, don't you think there is something we can or ought to do to try to get the dear man out before the Germans (or the Russians), do to him what the Germans did to the unfortunate Jew who shot the German at the German Embassy in Paris, and was subsequently delivered, body and soul, by the French Government to the German Gestapo a few weeks ago?

F. D. R.

7-57-57

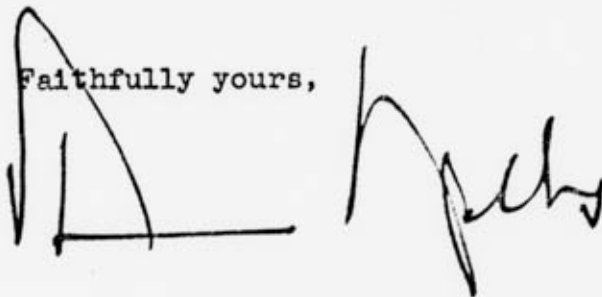
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1940.

My dear Mr. President:

With regard to my note of September 14, 1940
Minister Gunther at Bucharest telegraphs that he has
been assured by the Polish Ambassador there that the
former Polish Foreign Minister, Jozef Beck, is still
at the Villa which he occupies at Snagoz near Bucharest
and is very well.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. H. Hays', written over the typed phrase 'Faithfully yours,'.

The President,
The White House.

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Personal
Confidential*

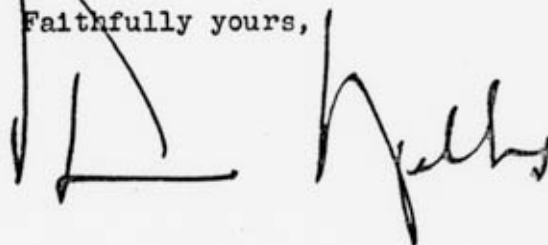
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

With regard to your communication of September 5, 1940 and its enclosure relating to the present position of the former Polish Minister, Jozef Beck, a report has reached the Department to the effect that Beck has been able to leave Rumania. A telegram has been sent to the Legation in Bucharest requesting information regarding this report. As soon as a reply can be received I shall immediately inform you.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:
Letter from Ambassador
Biddle, August 20, 1940.

The President,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

B

September 5, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

What can you do about this?

I think we should not let the whole thing remain in cold storage where it is at the present time.

F. D. R.

Butcher?

Letter from "Tony", Dept. of State, Washington, D. C., 8/20/40 to the President, stating that "I regret that when I had the honor and pleasure of dining with you the other night, I did not have the occasion to speak to you of the plight of former Polish Minister Jozef Beck, now living in a state of internment in Bucharest". The writer asks if it would be possible for Mr. Beck to come to the U.S.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

August 20, 1940.

My dear Mr. President:

I regret that when I had the honor and pleasure of dining with you the other night, I did not have the occasion to speak to you of the plight of former Polish Minister Jozef Beck, now living in a state of internment in Bucharest.

There was a period, during the past year when the present Polish Government harbored ill feeling towards the interned former Government. By the end of May, however, this antagonism had given way to a serious concern for their welfare.

Prime Minister General Sikorski, as well as Foreign Minister Zaleski, informed me that due to their worry over the security of the members of the former regime, they had instructed their Special Representative on Refugee Problems in Rumania, former Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Minister Arciszewski, to make, in their behalf, a formal request of the Rumanian Government, to release Minister Beck and his associates; Minister Arciszewski was furthermore instructed to provide means for their evacuation.

Minister Arciszewski in turn told me that in receiving the foregoing instructions he had been told that the French Government was willing that certain of the former regime might evacuate into Algeria; others were to go to Egypt and Turkey. Beck was to go to Turkey.

Foreign Minister Zaleski subsequently informed me that in response to Arciszewski's formal request, Rumanian Foreign Minister, Gafencu had told him that while due to German pressure, it would be difficult to release the members of the former regime at that moment, he would

The President

The White House

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would give his solemn assurances that he personally would see to it that Beck and his associates would be free to evacuate when and as a real threat to their security became imminent. General Sikorski and Foreign Minister Zaleski were disappointed in the Rumanian Government's reply, since reports at that time indicated an imminent threat to Rumanian territory both by Germany and Bulgaria, as well as Russia.

Since giving his assurances to Minister Arciszewski, Gafencu was replaced as Foreign Minister, and as the already unhappy situation in Rumania becomes more endangered, so the position of Beck becomes more precarious. Just before my departure from Lisbon, the former Counselor of the British Embassy in Rome imparted to me that he had received information through confidential channels, that Beck's position was growing rapidly worse.

Having in mind the State Department's cable of inquiry to me as of the latter part of April, confidentially indicating your humanitarian interest in Beck's welfare, I have taken this occasion to write you the above information.

Should it be possible for any formula to be worked out whereby Beck could be brought to the United States, I personally would be glad to contribute my financial support and efforts towards precluding the possibility of his becoming a burden on the community. I have in mind creating a chair of Contemporary History in some University for which I sincerely believe he is well qualified.

I cannot tell you how much Margaret and I enjoyed your delightful hospitality. It was wonderful to be with you again and we enjoyed every minute of our time with you.

With every good wish, I am

Yours faithfully,

Tony