

President's Secretary's File
Departmental File
State April - Dec 1941
Box 71

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 24, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

I refer to your memorandum of April 10 which you forwarded with a note addressed to you by Secretary Ickes under date of April 8 and a letter to Secretary Ickes by Dr. Frank Kingdon concerning Mr. Franz Boegler.

Franz Boegler was one of four persons in whom Dr. Kingdon has been particularly interested and about whom the Secretary of the Interior has several times addressed you, and concerning whom you have communicated with me. The other three were named Lamm, Pfeffer and Tittel.

Upon the receipt of your memorandum under acknowledgment, we communicated again with Vichy and have now been informed by them that Pfeffer and Tittel departed from France on a French vessel for Martinique, and that Boegler and Lamm are still at Camp le Vernet and that there is no intention of transferring either Boegler or Lamm to Africa as was stated by Dr. Kingdon.

The President,

We

The White House.

We are also informed in response to the long inquiry we sent that Boegler was interned on suspicion of being an "active Communist". He was once in a position of importance in the Social Democratic Party in Germany and he denied having engaged in political activity in France, but he entered France from Czechoslovakia in 1938 as a political refugee and has been under suspicion on the part of the French Government.

No additional information has been received as yet by the Vichy Embassy, but it is expected to be received shortly. The Embassy also reports that a Foreign Office official has stated that he is hopeful of obtaining a solution of the cases of Boegler and Lamm identical with that reached in the cases of Pfeffer and Tittel. The Foreign Office official added "the sooner these undesirables leave France the happier we shall be".

Each of them is in possession of an American visa which was issued to them last September under specific instructions.

The evidence furnished by Dr. Kingdon is very persuasive and should be considered in connection with their admissibility, but the persistence of the French

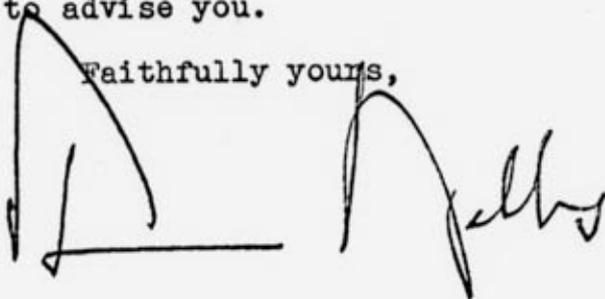
Government

- 3 -

Government in its attitude toward them and its statement in regard to their past activities should be given weight in the final determination as to their admissibility.

I shall keep Mr. Ickes informed of these developments and he will continue to keep Kingdon informed, and I will also continue to advise you.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Belts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Enclosures:
Original files.

Department of State

BUREAU | A-L
DIVISION |

ENCLOSURE

TO

23

Letter drafted 4/17/41

ADDRESSED TO

The President

The White House.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APR 10 1941
4-10-41
W. WALES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 10, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you do what you
can?

F. D. R.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1941.

THE WHITE HOUSE

APR 9 2 53 PM '41

RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

For your information I am enclosing a letter just received from Dr. Frank Kingdon.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Z. Parks

Secretary of the Interior.

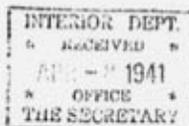
The President,
The White House.

Enc.

Emergency Rescue Committee
Incorporated

122 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-4590



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Frank Kingdon

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Dorothy Thompson

April 7, 1941

The Hon. Harold L. Ickes
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

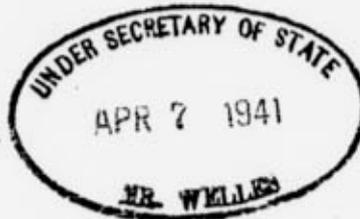
My dear Mr. Secretary:

We have just received word that Franz Boegler, one of the four men for whom you made personal intervention and one concerning whom no question was raised, is in danger of being transferred from the internment camp supposedly for construction work on the Sahara railway. We feel that this endangers his life. Every advice that I get about him guarantees his worthiness to be saved from this fate. Can you plead for him? I beg you to do what you can.

Cordially yours,

Frank Kingdon

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



April 5, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you speak to
Secretary Ickes about this?

F. D. R.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DIVISION OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON

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April 2, 1941

MEMORANDUM for Secretary Ickes.

One Paul Hagen (an anti-Hitler German operator and German citizen, with United States citizenship pending) whom I have known for some time, came to me unsolicited today and reported that you, at the instance of Frank Kingdon, Chairman of the American Rescue Committee, had sought unofficially through Admiral Leahy to secure the release of one Franz Bogler, a German, now held in Camp Duvernet in unoccupied France.

Hagen states that Bogler holds an emergency visitor's visa issued by the United States in July, but that he has not been able to get an exit visa from France. Such a visa has been sought unsuccessfully to date. Hagen says that unless Bogler is released by France, he (Hagen) is sure Bogler will be shipped to Germany shortly to be killed. Hagen wants you to renew unofficially your intervention via Leahy.

I made no commitment of any kind to Hagen. I gave as my opinion that such a renewed request for action by yourself should come from Frank Kingdon, who made the original request.

The above is for your information without recommendation.

MWS.
Michael W. Straus
Director of Information