

President's Secretary's File  
Departmental File  
State: Welles, Summer May-Dec 1938  
Box 76

TELEGRAM

The White House

Washington

1 SD JM 171 Government

4 pm

Washington, D.C., Nov. 23, 1938.

The President,  
Warm Springs, Ga.

I am informed by Rabbi Wise, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, that he has to-day received information from London leading him to hope that the Prime Minister or the Minister for Colonies will tomorrow announce in the House of Commons that irrespective of the Arab-Jewish conference in January, Great Britain will grant admission into Palestine immediately to five thousand children up to ten or twelve years of age; to eight thousand young persons and ten thousand relatives of Jews already in Palestine, and perhaps additional refugees from Germany up to a total of one hundred thousand. Rabbi Wise stated that if such permission were granted, the United Palestine Appeal and Jews already in Palestine would be in a position to finance the settlement of the persons to whom admission was granted,

In view of this information it would seem to me that it would be premature for you to make any statement to the press until after the British Government has officially confirmed the information received by Rabbi Wise.

Sumner Welles.

The White House  
Washington

11-23-38

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

Memo. for the President:

Sumner told me over the phone that he had talked with  
Cordell and that the Secretary felt as he does/

MHM

## TELEGRAM

### The White House

Washington WX 11-23-38

The President,  
Warm Springs.

I understand the statement you want to make to the press is along these lines:

"I have learned that the United Palestine Committee is informed that the number of refugees to be permitted entry into Palestine will be materially increased and in particular that children and young people ought to be given refuge there. I have learned of this with great satisfaction and I trust the report may be correct."

I feel that I should let you know that I doubt if the reports received by Rabbi Wise are accurate in view of existing situation in Palestine. I hope very much that you will be willing to postpone making any comment to the press until the British Government makes some official statement which would show whether the reports are accurate or not. We have no indication from our Embassy in London that the British are contemplating any step of this kind until after the Arab-Jewish conference.

Sumner Welles.

725pm

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*See  
Personal  
Staff*

Warm Springs, Ga.,  
November 26, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Will you send me by return  
pouch any information the State  
Department has in regard to possible  
places for Jewish colonization in  
any part of the world? I do not  
want any extensive memorandum --  
just what you happen to have on hand.  
I will return it to you at once  
after looking at it.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1933.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Will you please have the marked part of this carefully checked? I should like to have some verification. If there is any truth in it, the time will come when we can bring it out for the benefit of humanity.

F. D. R.

State Department dispatch No. 1414, from London, in re conversation between Ribbentrop and Bonnet about the refugees.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*57  
Visits  
State*

December 12, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

TO READ AND RETURN

F. D. R.

Letter from Minister Gonzalez  
in re Regulations governing  
the operations of the technical  
Institute of Immigration and  
Colonization.

*file*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

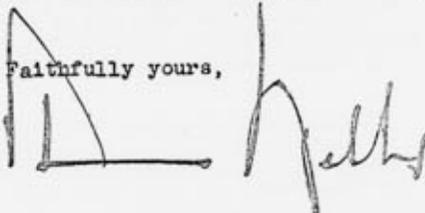
December 12, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum of December 12, I have read the letter sent to you by Minister Gonzalez under date of November 28 and I am returning it to you herewith. I have had a copy made for my own files so that I may give further thought to some of the points mentioned by Mr. Gonzalez.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

From Minister Gonzalez,  
November 28, 1938.

The President,  
The White House.

Caracas, November 28, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

I wish to confirm my letter of you of August 13 in reply to your kind letter of July 3, in which I outlined the possibilities of the territory in Venezuela referred to in your said letter. I also confirm my letter of September 15, in relation to which I now take pleasure in enclosing a summary of the regulations governing the operation of the Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization, adopted pursuant to Decree of August 26, 1938, but which has just been published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to said Decree are long and lengthy, but I have extracted therefrom what I consider to be the high points in matters of immigration and with particular reference to the subject matter of your letter of July 3.

In connection with the coming meeting to be held in London the middle of next month by the Inter-Governmental Committee on Political Refugees, I was informed the other day that the Government of Venezuela will have its London representative attend that meeting and be ready at that time to make a public announcement as to the number of political refugees it will be able to accommodate. Taking advantage, however, of the opportunity to make any further confidential statement as to what the Government of Venezuela is prepared to do or with reference to the type of political immigrant which Venezuela will decide to accept, the Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that, in addition to the public announcement to be made, his Government will also furnish to that Committee its confidential memorandum.

You

The Honorable  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt,  
The White House.

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You will note, if you have the opportunity to read the resume which I have prepared of the rules and regulations pertaining to immigration and colonization, that the matter of allocation of colonists is not specifically taken care of in the regulations but the basic Law of Immigration and Colonization gives to the President the right to make the distribution of land as may be found convenient. As to the distribution of colonists, under Article 35 of the Law of Immigration and Colonization, the following paragraph appears:

"In the colonies established in the Republic, there should be installed a number of immigrants of different nationalities, and if possible a group of Venezuelans in a number and in circumstances which will permit the assimilation of the foreigners."

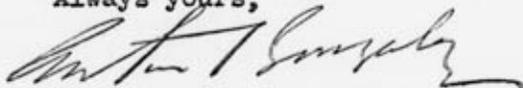
This specifically answers your question of July 3 as to the distribution of colonists.

Another point which I would like to bring forth is that the Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization of Venezuela will permit colonists to acquire lands under a "Promise of Sale", which promise must be complied with within an agreed upon time, and which certificate will be exchanged for a "Provisional Title", which cannot thereafter be transferred without the consent of the Institute. This provision will create an interest of such a character that colonists will not be likely to abandon the land and thereby create other problems.

I hope, Mr. President, that the foregoing and the enclosure is responsive to your letter of July 3 and that it may be of some use.

With very kind and fondest regards to you and Mrs. Roosevelt from Mrs. Gonzalez and myself, I am

Always yours,



P.S. Enclosed please find a stamp just issued, with change of color only, by the Government of Venezuela.

RESUME OF THE REGULATIONS  
GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF  
THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF  
IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

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On August 26, 1938, a Decree was signed establishing a Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization, pursuant to the "Law of Immigration and Colonization" of July 22, 1936. On October 10, 1938, the Law was implemented by regulations setting forth in great detail the administrative procedure and functions of the Institute. These regulations and the Law to which they refer were written by an expert of the League of Nations and represent a new approach to the question. They provide that the Institute shall be under the administration of a Board of Directors which shall meet three times a week and shall have the authority to call on other suitable branches of the Government for assistance. This Board is responsible directly to the President, who appoints and removes its members.

The Institute is given extensive faculties for pushing projects. It may establish colonies of individual landowners or of share holders, school colonies, and other types as experience may dictate. It may also incorporate existing colonies. The Law provides for both the donation of state lands to the Institute and the acquisition of private lands. The latter case will be accomplished through bids or by public auction, or, if not possible by these means, through a petition for expropriation.

The matter of the allocation of colonists is not specifically taken up in the regulations but is provided for in the basic "Law of Immigration and Colonization", which gives the Federal Executive complete power to reserve suitable lands

and

and to make such distribution as is desired of the colonists according to different nationalities, et cetera.

Among specific functions of the Institute, the regulations set forth the following:

- (a) Lend technical and administrative aid
- (b) Furnish credit and essential tools
- (c) Establish colonization schools
- (d) Study and foment the organization of rural extension projects such as education and emancipation centers for agricultural workers
- (e) Make contracts for concessions and control their application
- (f) Finance private colonization, including the entry of immigrants for agricultural purposes

The regulations also make provisions for the Institute to set up industrial plants, warehousing and transportation facilities, and for the sale of products by the Institute without charge to the colonists except for an amount sufficiently large to cover general administrative expenses.

The Law gives broad powers to the Institute for assisting colonists financially in the acquisition of their land and in the marketing of their products. The method of permitting the colonist to acquire land seeks to encourage continuous occupancy and the obtaining of ownership while protecting the rights of the Institute. As soon as the colonist is installed in his lot the Institute will give him a "promise of sale". This fixes a certain time during which the colonist must comply with his obligations. When he has done so the "promise of sale" is exchanged for a "provisional title" and this, once the price of the lot is paid, is exchanged for a registered deed. Neither the "promise of sale" nor the "provisional title" confers ownership of the property, and these are not transferable without the consent of the Institute. Where the experiment is abandoned, the colonist may be indemnified.

Throughout the regulations and in the previous basic laws establishing them stress is laid on the type of suitable immigrant desired. He must be of the white race, less than 60 years old, and must have some training and aptitude for agriculture or allied pursuits. It should be noted that Article 2 of the Decree is careful to state that "The Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization is the only official organism competent in matters of immigration and colonization excepting that established in the current laws with respect to the admission of foreigners...".

In short, while encouraging agricultural immigration, the establishment of this Institute does not in itself liberalize existing immigration laws nor open the gates to an indiscriminate flood of immigrants.