

Henry Margenthau Jr. Papers
Box 129
Immigration Cases 1939

July 11, 1939.

Dear Dr. Leidler:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 4th, in which you ask the Secretary for his assistance in the matter of the petition to admit your mother to this country.

As you know, the matter of visas comes entirely under the jurisdiction of the State Department. It is our understanding that there is no possibility of changing the numbers given out to those who apply for visas, as the law directs that such applications must be taken in their order. We, therefore, are returning the petition which you asked the Secretary to sign.

We can well understand your desire to assist your mother to come to this country, and we hope that you may find some solution to your problem.

Sincerely, ✓

(Signed) H. S. Klotz

H. S. Klotz,
Private Secretary.

Dr. Frans Leidler,
Department of Pathology,
Mount Zion Hospital,
Post and Scott Streets,
San Francisco, California.

✓
Enclosure.

cc to HF

GEF:laf

Franz Leidler M. D.
Department of Pathology
Mount Zion Hospital
San Francisco, California.

July 4, 1939.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau jun.
Secretary of the Treasury
2211 Thirtieth St.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

Unless I do wishful thinking, Independence Day must be an auspicious date for an obscure refugee from dictatorial Germany to write to the highest officers of the great Democracy of the United States.

I hope you will be good enough to read the attached petition. In organizing the present efforts in behalf of my mother I am carrying out the last wish of my father. May I inform you that he did not intend to leave Vienna except upon a call from a learned institution in which case he and my mother would have qualified for non-quota immigration. Yet, for one thing, apparently he did not know sufficiently well how to obtain such a call; and, for another, he spent most of his time and energy after the annexation in an extensive correspondence with all quarters of the globe so that I, his only child, might be enabled to finish my studies. (Incidentally I obtained my diploma in the eleventh hour from the University of Vienna.)

At long last, my father, together with my mother, registered at the American Consulate in Vienna on August 2, 1938 for quota numbers. This was two days before my father's death; and as I understand it now, it was the curtain raiser for his suicide. My mother, in turn, would never have dreamt to interfere with my father's plans, let alone to register for herself at an earlier date. Thus it came about that my mother, who falls under the Slovakian quota, would have to wait an indeterminate length of time, until she could join me here. My father no doubt had all these conditions in mind, when in his farewell letter he implored me to "see to it that this.....wonderful woman should be near to you soon".

May I, in conclusion express my hope that this appeal of mine was, on the one hand, sufficiently persuasive while on the other not too lengthy.

I remain with my heartiest thanks in advance for your exceedingly valuable signature on the attached petition,

yours most respectfully

Franz Leidler

IMMIGRATION CASES

mother & sister of
Mrs. Gabriel Steiner

December 7, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Steiner:

On behalf of the Secretary I am acknowledging your letter of December 4th. Naturally we all have the greatest sympathy with the many pathetic and worthy cases of the type which you describe in your letter. I am sorry to say, however, that there is nothing that we can do to be of assistance to you. If your relatives in Germany have been given quota numbers, it would appear that the affidavits, etc., that you have sent have proven acceptable to the American Consulate in Hamburg.

Once the quota numbers are assigned, there is no way by which the order may be changed. This whole matter comes under the jurisdiction of the State Department, and Department officials are required by law to give out the numbers in the order of application. Therefore, intervention by an official of another Department is not possible. I know that if you wish to write to the Visa Division of the State Department here, they would be glad to give you any information they could. I am afraid, however, that your relatives will simply have to wait their turn, as many thousands are doing. We hope that conditions may not be too difficult for them during the period before their number is reached.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. S. Klotz

H. S. Klotz,
Private Secretary.

Mrs. Gabriel Steiner,
8100 East Jefferson Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

GW/dbs

Copy to Mrs. Farrell

2,000,000 Jews Sent to Ghetto

Vast Reservation Set Up in East Poland

BERLIN, Dec. 2—(A.P.)—Nearly 2,000,000 Jews in Greater Germany and Poland will be transferred to the Jewish reservation in Eastern Poland set apart by Adolf Hitler, authoritative sources said today.

The transfer of these people to a segregated district around Nisko on the San River, a small Polish town on the new German-Soviet Russian demarcation line, is being carried out under Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS (elite guard) and chief of all German police.

Groups to Be Moved

The following groups of Jews are to be settled there just as rapidly as conditions permit: 150,000 from the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, 65,000 from Vienna, 30,000 from Posen and West Prussia, recently annexed from Poland, and 200,000 from the "Altreich"—the German realm as it was before expansion began with the *anschluss* of Austria.

Besides, approximately 1,500,000 Polish Jews are to be evicted forcibly from their homes in cities and villages which are to become parts of the new Polish state devised by Hitler.

The Gestapo, or secret police, has laid upon the Jewish community in each town or village the responsibility for organizing and financing the exodus.

Allowed to Take \$120

Each deported Jew may take along 300 marks (\$120), only such personal belongings as will go into a large suitcase and essential household goods.

Towns and villages of the region around Nisko are being abandoned as quickly as possible by Poles, Germans and Ukrainians, and the dwellings, many showing the effects of the German-Polish war, turned over to the Jews. The Jews are to be strictly segregated from the rest of the people under German jurisdiction.

Germany hopes to complete the resettlement movement by April 1, 1940. Regular transports have started from Vienna and Bohemia-Moravia but nothing apparently has been done yet to move Jews out of the German Reich proper.

Just how the Jews in the proposed reservation are to find a means of subsistence appears not yet to have been determined.

Mr. HENRY MORGENTHAU JUN.
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ALDEN PARK MANOR
8100 EAST JEFFERSON AVE
DETROIT, MICH.

December 4, 1939.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I was reading this morning this article which you will find enclosed here. This article upset me so that I decided to write to you. To introduce myself I have the following to say: I am Grete Steiner, wife of Dr. Gabriel Steiner, Professor of Neurology and Neuropathology at Wayne University, College of Medicine. We immigrated to this country in the fall of 1936. I am related to your cousin Mrs Lucy Heineman in New York, my mother Mrs. Emma Spanjer Herford, in Braunschweig -Germany was a first cousin to Lucy's mother ,Gigi Morgenthau. My husband and I were sending an affidavit for my mother and sister a year ago. They have registered at the American Consulate in Hamburg and their quota number is 10353 / 59. The situation in Germany has become unbearable for them and they are longing to come to this country as soon as possible. What can I do to quicken their immigration? My husband and I can give every support, the Dean Dr. Raymond B. Allen gave last year the statement that my husband has a sufficient salary, we were sending our Bank Statement, but till to-day we didnot hear from the Consul.

Could you give me an advice? I should highly appreciate it.
Your parents know us very well we met them first in May
1933 in Geneva, then in 1934 in New York when my husband
was invited for 6 months to the Medical Center, Columbia
University. At this time my husband was still Professor at
the University of Heidelberg. That is all I have to say
Please don't mind that I apply to you, but I don't know
to whom to write otherwise.

Very truly

Yours

Grete Heiner

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

1939 DEC 6 AM 11 28

OFFICE
SECRETARY OF TREASURY

12-28

✓
12/28

IMMIGRATION CASES 1939

Miss Ella Weiss

October 17, 1939.

Dear Alan:

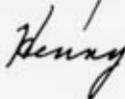
It was pleasant to hear from you, and I only wish that I might be of service to you in the case about which you told me. We hear of so many pathetic and distressing cases in these difficult times.

The matter of arrangements for visas is entirely under the jurisdiction of the State Department, and the officials here depend upon their representatives abroad for all arrangements concerning details. I note that Miss Weiss has secured her quota number, and so her period of waiting must be at least partly over. I am afraid there is nothing she can do but wait for her turn to be reached. The State Department has a very strict rule that numbers are given out in the order of application, and that no changes in these numbers may be made. Indeed, this is a matter of law, and I am sure you will understand why such a provision had to be made. The State Department receives literally thousands of requests for special action, and must therefore abide very strictly by the ruling in question.

I can only suggest, therefore, that you urge the young man to be patient, for his fiancee has passed successfully through the first difficult steps, and in the course of time her number will be reached. I know that he must be under a great strain, and I am very sorry indeed not to be able to do anything to expedite a matter in which you have interested yourself.

With all good wishes from both of us to both of you,

Sincerely,



Mr. Alan W. Limburg,
61 Broadway,
New York, New York.

GWJ/dbs

Copy to Mrs. Farrell



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

October 10, 1939.

*held
of his
answer*

*Question sent to
Mrs M. Personal*

Dear Alan:

I was interested to read your letter of October 9th, and I am sorry that I cannot help you out in the matter of the immigration visa which Dr. Metz is so anxious to expedite.

If Miss Weiss has secured her quota number, there is nothing she can do but wait for her turn to be reached. I note that she has had it for some time, and the period of delay is therefore that much cut down now. The State Department is bound by law to take visa applications in the strict order in which they are made. It is not possible to change this order after the numbers are assigned, and I am sure you will understand why this provision has been made in the law. I can only suggest, therefore, that you urge the young man to be patient for in the course of time Miss Weiss' number should be reached.

With all good wishes to you both,

Sincerely,

Henry

P.S. Sorry, but in these difficult times I can not interfere except in cases of great emergency.

Mr. Alan M. Limburg,
61 Broadway,
New York, New York.

October 13, 1939.

Mrs. Morgenthau would like you to
handle this as you would similar cases and she suggested
a nice letter
that you write/to Mr. Limburg explaining why you cannot
take care of it.

P.W.

ALAN M. LIMBURG
61 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

e - Mrs M

October 9, 1939.

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,
United States Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Henry:

A friend of mine, Dr. Robert Metz of Lenox, Massachusetts, has asked whether I could possibly do him a favor and I said I would do the best that I could.

Miss Ella Weiss of Bregenz, Austria has had her application in for a visa with American Consul General Frost of Zurich, Switzerland since December 5th, 1938. This girl is engaged to Dr. Metz's superintendent, Paul Schmidinger and naturally they are frantic at not being able to get her over here. In fact, unless she can procure the visa, Schmidinger threatens to go back in order to marry her. He is a most valuable man to Dr. Metz and also Dr. Metz tells me that he will employ the girl as soon as she gets over here. She is twenty-six years old and I understand a fine character.

I would appreciate tremendously anything that you can do to persuade the State Department to grant her this visa.

Kindest regards to you and Ellie in which Kay joins me.

Fondly,

Alan

AML:BNL

IMMIGRATION CASES 1939

parents of Robert G. Neumann

September 27, 1939.

Dear Mr. Neumann:

The Secretary has asked me to thank you for your letter of September 8th. He read it with a great deal of interest, and appreciates your desire to assist your adopted country in any way that may open. He has asked me to thank you for your spirit of loyalty and to assure you that he will not forget your letter.

In the matter of your parents, however, I am afraid that there is no way in which he can help you. If your parents have received their quota numbers, they must wait until these numbers are reached. The State Department is required by law to give out the numbers in the order of application, and is forbidden by law to change the order after it has once been established.

We hear of so many distressing cases of elderly people, or others, who urgently need relief, but there is nothing that can be done to expedite their passage to this country.

I have communicated with the Visa Division of the State Department and find that the regulation concerning the limitation on immigration is only a temporary one. It has been applied because of the terrific pressure in returning American citizens to this country. So many are still abroad that the consulates are swamped by the necessary work in attending to repatriating our own citizens and the vessels coming from abroad are also overcrowded for the time being.

At present the ruling stands for the months of September and October. If the pressure has been relieved by then it will probably be lifted, but if the situation has not changed greatly, it will probably be extended for another brief period.

C. G. H. G.

The State Department expects the usual flow of immigration to be resumed, however, within a reasonably short time. As you say your parent's numbers are far down the list, I doubt if they would be reached before the expiration of this temporary ruling.

We do hope that things may work out for you in this country, and that in some way your parents may be enabled to weather the difficult conditions they are experiencing.

Mr. Morgenthau has asked me to extend his best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. S. Klotz

H. S. Klotz,
Private Secretary.

Mr. Robert G. Neumann,
174 North Highland Avenue,
Memphis, Tennessee.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

September 26, 1939.

TO Mrs. Klotz
FROM Mrs. Forbush

In regard to Robert Neumann's letter, I am afraid there is nothing that can be done.

As you know, the State Department is very strict about the question of changing quota numbers -- in fact they are not allowed to do so by law. These poor people will have to wait until their number is reached, no matter what country they are in, or how great their need may be.

The young man speaks of the fact that German nationals cannot leave the other side at the present time. This has nothing to do with the war, according to the Visa Division of the State Department, but is a temporary regulation because of the great pressure in returning American citizens to this country. At present the ruling stands for the months of September and October. If there is no great pressure then in the matter of Americans stranded abroad, it will probably be lifted. If the consulates are still very busy with our own citizens, it will probably be extended another month or two.

If the number is so far down the list that it will not be reached for a long time, this prohibition will not affect the Neumann family.

Would you like me to prepare a letter for the Secretary's signature ~~of~~ of yours, breaking the bad news to him?

J.F.

*Please prepare
for my signature*

174 NORTH HIGHLAND AVENUE
MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

September 8th, 1939.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please forgive my impudence to bother you in a moment when I know you to be extremely busy with matters of the utmost importance. I shall however endeavour to make this letter as short as possible and am optimistic enough to hope that you will pardon my trespassing on your kindness.

The first item regards my parents. You may remember, Mr. Secretary, that I once told you that my father was in a Concentration Camp too and that my mother's health has suffered considerably in the time of hardship. Their present residence is London and I have secured for them all the respective documents to get them into this country. They were informed however, that they would have to wait, possibly years, until their quota number would come up. My mother is German quota, my father Czechoslovakian one. Since I knew the restrictions which the Immigration Act puts on even the highest state-officials I thought it useless to approach you. Since the war has broken out in Europe however, there is a change in the situation because persons with residence in Germany or Czechoslovakia cannot leave and there may be a chance for others as it seems unpredictable how long

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MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

this war is going to last. My parents are old and comparatively helpless without sufficient knowledge of the English language. The chief point however is that I fear they ~~will~~ not be able to survive these shocks of war and disaster. After all they have gone through I am afraid that their nervous system is too much weakened to offer sufficient resistance to what is in store for them. I hesitate to approach you again, Mr. Secretary, after all you have done for me. But under the prevailing circumstances and being full of anxiety for the sake of these fine old people, I take the great liberty of asking you whether you could consider some sort of intervention which was so successful in my case. Of course I do not know in how far or if at all such action would be in your power. If that were the case however it would make me exceedingly happy.

The second item of this letter is less urgent. You know Mr. Secretary, under which circumstances I have come to this country. It can not surprise anybody therefore, that I am most eager to be of some service in this struggle for the reestablishment of law and moral in this world. Such desires do not conflict with neutrality, true neutrality as the President said, and they are, I think, in the interest of the United States such as they are in the interest of every civilized nation. Unfortunately I am not accepted for military service as the United States are not at war and

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MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

aliens therefore are not taken. (I have taken out my first papers). If however, you Mr. Secretary think at any time in the future that there was some place where I could serve, I would be the happiest man in the world for I would know that I was not in Camp in vain and that I could keep on fighting for freedom and democracy for which I had gone in. I wish to emphasize that I seek neither position nor money. I only want the moral satisfaction of being able to help in a critical time and put all my energy into work for ideas I have stood for since I began to think independently. I enclose a short curriculum vitae which shows my training and knowledge.

At the present moment I am engaged in a series of lectures (16 until now) which program I shall resume in Fall. Talking about Germany in particular and European politics in General I try to explain that the present strife is not a decision between two blocks of powers but between two worlds and that the decision resulting therefrom does not effect politicians and statesmen only but my own personal experiences show only too clear that this decision effects every single feature of our individual private lives. I am glad to say that I have been quite successful and may have helped some people not to think in slogans but in logical terms. I am very happy about the Presidents lead in

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MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

the struggle for a true neutrality, a neutrality which does not aid the aggressor. I do hope and pray that should he decide to seek modification of the present Neutrality Act, he will be successful. I wish to conclude that I know that most refugees feel that way and I am sure that in the present crisis and danger America's newly adopted sons will prove her most loyal ones.

Dear Mr. Secretary, I again express my hope that you will forgive my boldness and I shall not expect word from you too soon knowing how busy you must be.

Please Mr. Secretary, will you give my most respectful regards to Mrs. Morgenthau.

Your obedient servant

Robert G. Neumann

Robert G. Neumann
Phi Delta Theta
Amherst, Mass.

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MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

Short Curriculum Vitae.

I was born in Vienna, Austria, now Germany, on January 2nd 1916 as the only son of a middle class family. I am a Roman Catholic and unmarried. At present I am a quota immigrant under the law of the United States and have taken out my first Citizenship papers.

After graduating from the "Realgymnasium" in Vienna I went to the University of Vienna to study Law and Political Science. Under the continental system which gives the hard working student a chance to go to several schools at the same time I graduated from the Diplomatic University (Konsularakademie) and the Vienna Commercial School (Handelsakademie) and taught English after having passed the State Teacher Examination. I obtained the "Diplôme supérieur de français" of the University of Rennes, France. Moreover I studied other languages and so I know English, French, German, Spanish and a fair amount of Italian. I won a scholarship for the "Geneva School of International Studies" and have frequently spoken and written on International Problems. I was trained for the diplomatic career and soon became member of the Executive Committee of the Austrian League of Nations Association and its affiliation the Austrian Foreign Policy Association. Moreover I was vice-president of the Austrian section of the International University Federation. After the Austrian conquest however I was arrested and put into a Concentration Camp (Dachau and

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MEMPHIS
TENNESSEE

Buchenwald) for eight months. At that time I was only within 6 months of getting my doctor of law degree. After my arrest however, I was expelled from the University as an "enemy of the state".

Having come to the United States in March 1939 I was given a fellowship for graduate work in Political Science at Amherst College.

Robert G. Neumann
Phi Delta Theta
Amherst College
Amherst,
Massachusetts.

2EB 5a 1030

IMMIGRATION CASE -
Frieda Bythiner
Lili Bythiner

THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

FIFTH AVENUE AND ONE HUNDREDETH STREET.

NEW YORK January 7, 1939

Mr. N. M. Chauncey
Treasury Department
Washington
D. C.

My dear Mr. Chauncey:

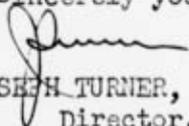
Thank you for your letter of January 6th, in the absence of Secretary Morgenthau.

Since writing to Mr. Morgenthau, I have talked about the plight of these particular German refugees with some members of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital, who have had some experience with such matters in the past, and I am told that while the immigration phase of this problem will come under the Treasury Department in due time, in its present status it comes more properly under the jurisdiction of the State Department which controls the various consulates.

While I was sure of Mr. Morgenthau's sympathetic interest in the matter, perhaps time would be saved, in view of its relative urgency, if the matter were brought directly to the notice of an appropriate officer of the State Department.

I can appreciate how busy everyone must be in Washington with his own affairs. My only excuse for troubling Mr. Morgenthau at all is the urgency of this matter and my lack of experience in these affairs.

Sincerely yours,


JOSEPH H. TURNER, M. D.
Director.

January 6, 1939.

Dear Dr. Turner:

On behalf of the Secretary, I am acknowledging your letter of January 4th, telling of the situation in which your relatives in Berlin now find themselves.

Mr. Morgenthau is away from Washington and will not return for another week. I do not know whether there is anything he can do in the matter, but you may be sure that he will have your letter as soon as he is back at his desk. I know that he will want to be helpful, and he may have some suggestion to make.

Sincerely yours,

✓
N. M. Chauncey.

(per GKF)

Dr. Joseph Turner, Director,
The Mount Sinai Hospital,
Fifth Avenue and One Hundredth Street,
New York, New York.

GKF/edg

Mr. Forbush:

I have a feeling
they would be
interested in this
case, perhaps to the
extent of having
Miss Switzer send
a cable to the Public
Health examining
doctor as he did in
the case of Mr. Blumenthal.

However, it would
not do, I presume,

to take that
initiative. Might
we not ask in
Harry's absence &
pay it will be
brought to his
personal attention
upon his return.

In the meantime
he might contact
State as they may
be able to offer
a helpful suggestion,

—c.

MISS CHAUNCEY

1/5/39

This case seems to me the sort in which we can write in all good faith that there is nothing we can do. The American Consul does make the appointments for the examinations, although I believe our Public Health Doctors stationed abroad are in charge of the actual medical work. I suppose it is simply the extreme pressure that has made it impossible to keep up with the schedule as announced. If we take the very last sentence of Dr. Turner's letter at its face value, I think we can simply tell him to write to the State Dept. as it is just possible there might be some suggestion that would help him.

G.E.F.

MRS. FORBUSH
ROOM 470

THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

FIFTH AVENUE AND ONE HUNDRETH STREET.

NEW YORK January 4, 1939

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

My dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I am taking the liberty of bringing to your notice the following matter which, while dealing with immigration, seems to me to belong in some other department. If my supposition is right, may I ask you to refer this to the proper agency?

I have given the necessary support affidavit to relatives of mine in Berlin, who are listed with the American Consulate there as follows:

Ell.11 registriert Juni
Frieda Bythiner 2470
Lili Bythiner Tochter

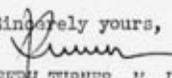
My affidavit was prepared last spring, and after the usual but apparently unavoidable heart-rending delays, these relatives were given an examination date for October 13, 1938. Shortly before this time they received a note, postponing the medical examination to January 9, 1939, accompanied by the following comment, which is an exact translation:

"It is specially stated that by this procedure the waiting time is not prolonged; moreover the interval between the medical examination and the distribution of the visa number is eliminated."

I have just learned that Frieda Bythiner received, about ten days ago, a further postponement of this appointment to April 3rd. Ordinarily a postponement of this sort would mean only inconvenience and delay, but in this case it presents a problem which is more difficult of solution, for counting upon the assurance in the previous note of an appointment on January 9th, Mrs. Bythiner liquidated all of her possessions, sent away her furniture, and purchased steamer transportation for herself and daughter for the middle of January, in the belief and expectation that she would be able to emigrate in January. As the matter stands now, they will be entirely without any means of living after the middle of January, because of their preparations, now irrevocable, to leave.

Does this, as an immigration matter, come within the purview of your Department, and is there anything that can be done with propriety to have the postponed appointment for January 9th carried out without further postponements? If this does not come within your Department, will you please tell me to whom application should be made for a sympathetic consideration of Mrs. Bythiner's needs?

Sincerely yours,


JOSEPH TURNER, M. D.
Director.

774 T 1026