

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers  
102 Refugee Letters  
1940 K

One from Mrs. William Dieterle, Hollywood, Calif - about getting Friederich Wol  
out of Camp Duvernet Ariege, France to Mexico

One from Kurt Rosenfeld, 305 Broadway, NYC - asks that General Pershing be  
requested to cable Marechal Petain on behalf of the anti-Nazis in unoccupied  
France.

August 24, 1940  
Hyde Park, New York

102

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

at Mrs. Roosevelt's request I am  
enclosing two telegrams which she has received.  
She would be deeply grateful for whatever you  
could do to help in either case.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

The attached re: BOHOMIL Lustig appears  
to be only listing in files under name  
of Lustig.

S.

1-8-40

*I doubt any connection  
with above shall we  
send to state? <sup>see</sup> Marous Lustig <sup>state 1940</sup>  
Yes*

October 22, 1940

102  
✓

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Mrs. Roosevelt is sorry that this reply to ~~the~~ inquiry which she made on the case you sent to her on October 4 is not more encouraging. However, she knows of nothing else which might be done about it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

+ Bohumil Lustig

Dr. Frank Kingdon  
122 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York

DD

*Mrs Roosevelt  
For her information*

*Recd  
10-22-40*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

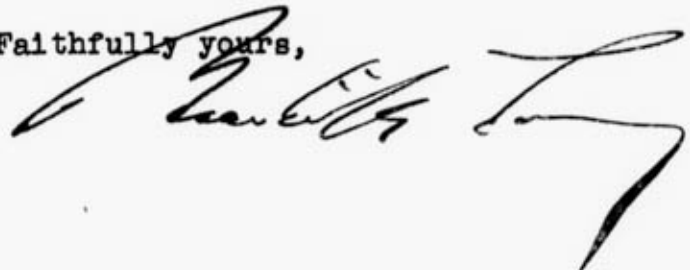
October 11, 1940.

My dear Mr. President:

Attached is a memorandum for Mrs. Roosevelt.

It is assumed that this is the form in which you wanted  
it.

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

Memorandum for  
Mrs. Roosevelt.  
Letter with enclosure from  
Frank Kingdon returned.

*Send Frank K. &  
copy of our copy*

The President,  
The White House.

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

OCT 5 - 1940

October 4, 1940

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

As a human document and a detailed account of one family's experience, this paper will, I am sure, be of interest to you.

The inevitable question is, what can we do about it? The answer to that I do not know. Perhaps, nothing, but I am sure that it will stir you.

Cordially yours,

*Frank Kingdon*

*YOP*

*Can't King be helped?*

*ERP*

MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT

These individual cases are distressing. One cannot read them without definite sentimental reaction.

It is particularly difficult in Washington to superimpose judgment upon that of the consul. Under the law the consul is vested with an authority of which the executive officers of the Department of State are unable to divest him.

General instructions have been sent consuls to regard generously the preference lists which have been submitted by the President's committee, Dr. Stephen Wise, Mr. William Green and several others. However, the instructions also contain injunctions to the consuls that they must be satisfied that the character, reputation and intentions of the applicants are such that their presence in the United States will not be detrimental to the interests of the United States. This is understood to be that their intentions are not subversive and that their characters and reputations are clean.

As to the instant case, while the officers of the State Department have no knowledge of the dossier in the files of the consulate, it is fairly to be assumed from the statement in the letter itself in 1.) that MGM may itself have communicated to the consul

some

-2-

some information which was not communicated to Bohumil Lustig and which may be the determinative factor in the formulation of the consul's judgment.

It is impractical and would be in violation of law to order the consul peremptorily to issue a visa. Furthermore, it would be quite impractical to centralise in the Department of State in Washington the power to pass upon each individual case. A certain amount of discretion must be vested in the consuls in the field who come in direct contact with the persons and who interview them and have an opportunity to form their respective judgments in these cases.

The Department of State on October 11, 1940 cabled to the American Consulate at Lisbon to inquire as to the circumstances of the applicant's case and asked that a cabled report be sent.

C O P Y

Lustig, Poste Restante  
Figueira da Foz, Portugal

September 13, 1940

Our great joy on receiving your cablegram reading "Washington informs visa granted, Lisbon consul will be authorized" was all too soon considerably dampened. By no means does the consulate take the view that it must give us the visa. We did not send you a cable because the facts are too complicated; besides, we have hardly any money at the moment. My dear C....., we beg you, please try to get us the visa by all means. Above all, speed is imperative, and unless someone again intervenes in our behalf, we shall not be able to leave here until November.

These are the facts:

At the Consulate in Lisbon, there is a dossier entitled "Bohumil or Hans Lustig." This dossier contains:

1.) A letter from MGM with reference to Bohumil Lustig. The Consul will not tell me what this letter contains; the contents of official documents are never disclosed. All I know is that this letter has been there for many weeks already; therefore, it must have been sent before the O.K. from Washington arrived.

2.) A copy of a cable from the State Department in Washington. This cable contains the names of some seven or eight persons, "outstanding intellectuals" - writers, etc. whose lives at present are endangered and who, as authorities in their fields, are of some value to America.

This cable gives the Consulate the permission and the recommendation to grant those people visae. This is what is known as a "preference cable". The name of Hans Lustig, or H.G. Lustig is mentioned in the first or second place.

It took great effort on my part to obtain this information, although I don't even know to what action this recommendation is due. It might have been the PEN Club which has taken the same action in behalf of other writers; but I am not a member of the PEN Club. Perhaps action was taken by some Hollywood people; or by a group around Thomas Mann. I have no idea.

Furthermore:

After endless efforts, I succeeded in obtaining permission for a twenty-four day stay in Lisbon. I even succeeded in getting a personal interview with Consul Gannett who was unusually unobliging and extraordinarily unnerved. (Only later did I hear that he had just been notified of his disciplinary transfer because Washington had received so many complaints about him.) Mr. Gannett gave me no hope whatsoever; at first he even maintained stubbornly that there was no such dossier as "Bohumil or Hans Lustig". Then he declared that even if such a dossier existed, it was of no interest to him at all. When I showed him your cable, he flushed and said excitedly, "Only the Consul may decide whether you will receive the visa. Washington can only suggest it, that is all. You are a Czech, and so you have no homeland. If we want to get rid of you after six months, we will not know where to send you."

The contract with MGM was of no interest to him at all, not even when I told him that, according to my information, this contract has been approved by Washington. "Washington has no right at all to interfere with us in these cases," was his answer.

With that, my wife and I were dismissed without another word.

Second chapter:

The next day we saw another Consul, a Mr. McArthur, a cultured, charming, young man. Suddenly, the dossier was there; the Consul read it carefully, also, unfortunately, the notes of his colleague made the day before. This was the result:

Our chance lies obviously in the "preference cable", for this cable

was almost the sole basis of our negotiations. As far as the MGM action is concerned, it appears there is only the one letter there, but not - as I had hoped - direct advice from Washington. The people in the consulate therefore, have had to take my word for it, which they can doubt if they wish to.

As for the cable about the outstanding intellectuals, Mr. McArthur admitted there might be a chance for me in that. We were able to meet Mr. Gannett's furious objections by telling Mr. McArthur that we have, in the meanwhile, secured visas for Costa Rica. He admitted that after six months in the U.S.A., the government, will now have the possibility of forcibly returning us to Costa Rica, if it should deem it necessary. (Despite the contract with MGM which runs for 40 weeks, there is still talk only of a visa for six months.) Mr. McArthur seemed to be willing to make things easier for us. Unfortunately, he later again consulted Mr. Gannett for his opinion. (Mr. Gannett remained a few more days in his office in Lisbon.) The result of his interview with Gannett was that I had to give them a thorough account of my journalistic and film career, and everything was put down on paper. I stressed the fact that as a democratic journalist, and author of anti-nazi sketches for Radio Mondial (which were broadcast to America every Saturday in an English translation) and finally, as the author of an anti-nazi motion picture, I am particularly endangered. I stated further, that I would never become a public charge because I have a legitimate studio contract. All this seemed to have a favorable reaction. Nevertheless my case - as well as the cases of the other six or seven intellectuals whose names appear in that cable - will be submitted to a council composed of all four consuls at Lisbon. This council will decide on either an "avis favorable" or - thanks to Mr. Gannett - a refusal. Then, we are told, the whole report must go by Clipper to Washington on the pretext that Washington is supposed to check on our statements from the information they have there on us. This procedure appears unusual to me, and certainly not in keeping with the intentions of Washington. At any rate, it is a most protracted procedure and I don't see any possibility of getting away from here in time. The negotiations with Brazil did not

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work out, and the visae for Costa Rica are only a concession on the part of the consul and by no means permit us an immediate entry into that probably romantic country. We had to pay for these visae with the last of our money.

How Can you help us?

Perhaps so:

1.) With an official cablegram from MGM - or if it is possible, a cable directly from Washington - in which I am earnestly requested for MGM, stating that I am valuable for the American film industry. At the same time, it should be made clear that MGM has received approval from Washington for its action.

2.) The group which was able to include Hans Lustic on "the preference ~~call~~<sup>card</sup>" in the list of "outstanding intellectuals" - (I am sorry not to know who they are) - should again intervene in Washington. I know that Washington is already quite annoyed that the consulate in Lisbon is using the most incredible subterfuges to counteract this action wherever possible.

My dear C..... could you please do something in this matter? Perhaps with the assistance of Manfred Georg, Mr. Dieterle, Curt Riess, or any other group which might have intervened in our behalf. And please, let me have a copy of any cablegram which might be sent in this connection to the consulate, so that I at least have something in hand, for the consulate volunteers no information. It is always due only to mere chance that one learns something has arrived there regarding one's case.

The whole affair is a war of nerves with the consulate, and we who are living here all have to suffer from it. By no means do we want to remain here through the winter. And, incidentally, we are in no position to do so. The government has, for the last time, extended our stay here for one month and we are given to understand quite emphatically that their patience has reached an end. There are many other weighty reasons also for our wish to sail soon. You can guess what they are. To top it all, we have had no news from our brother-in-law in Canada for weeks.

The thing you might be able to arrange in the quickest and simplest manner would probably be the cablegram from MGM to the consulate, with a copy to me. That would at least force the dossier pertaining to my case to be taken up again and the affair would not disappear entirely into oblivion. (For that is the method of the consulate.) The consulate must be made to realize that my coming to America is considered really important and valuable, and that my case is being followed up.

If it is possible to speed up action at Washington with reference to the case of "Bohumil or Hans Lustig", then my case is as good as won.

November 19, 1940

102

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you this enclosed copy of a letter she has received as she thought you would be interested in seeing it.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1940

*Handwritten signature/initials*

*Handwritten initials*

*Lower Valley  
Larkin  
Huntley  
Karl Hartman  
Frank Kingdon +  
the letters to me*

My dear Mr. President:

I desire to refer to your memorandum of October 26, 1940 regarding the nature of the reply that might be made to the attached telegram addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt on October 25 by Mrs. Howard M. Morse of New York City.

As you will perhaps recall, the reported action of the Spanish authorities in sentencing to death a number of prominent leaders in the former Republican Government in Spain, and the action that it might be possible for us to take under the circumstances, was discussed in my letter to you of October 30, 1940. In accordance with the decision which was thereafter taken the Spanish Ambassador, who is thoroughly familiar with American public opinion on questions of this kind, was asked to call at the Department and was received by me. I informed him that public opinion in the United States was deeply concerned by the reports of political executions in Spain and with the possibility that distinguished

Spaniards

The President,

The White House.

-2-

Spaniards who had held office in the former Spanish Government and who had been refugees in France might be turned over to the Spanish Government and then be executed. I made it clear to the Ambassador that we recognized that the treatment of Spanish nationals by the Spanish Government was a matter of domestic concern to Spain in which this Government could not officially intervene. However, acting upon the broader grounds of humanity, I expressed the hope that the Ambassador would let it be known to his Government immediately that the American people earnestly hoped that political executions would not be undertaken and that mercy would be shown in the disposition of political cases of this kind. A telegram has been sent to our Ambassador in Madrid, acquainting him with the approach which we have made through the Spanish Ambassador here and requesting him informally to express the hope that our message might receive favorable consideration on the part of the Spanish Government.

With reference to the nature of the reply that might be made to Mrs. Morse's telegram to Mrs. Roosevelt, I may say that we have been replying to communications of this kind along the following lines:

The Department has received a considerable number of appeals from persons in various walks of life on behalf of leaders of the former Spanish Republican Government who are reported to be in danger of execution in Spain. In as much

as

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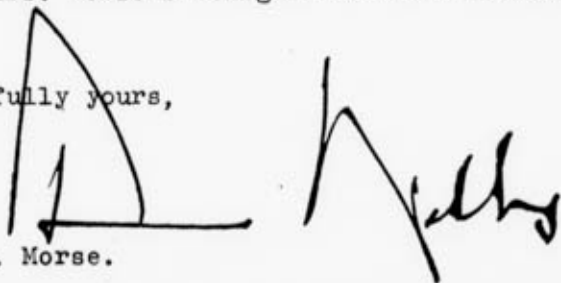
as these cases involve the treatment of Spanish nationals by the Spanish Government and consequently the matter is one of domestic concern to Spain, this Government cannot, of course, claim to have a direct interest nor can it present any legal justification for action on its part. For your information I may say, however, that acting upon the broader grounds of humanity we have approached the Spanish Government with our views on this matter and have informally expressed the hope that clemency may be exercised in political cases of this kind.

With respect to the reported shipment of foodstuffs to Spain mentioned in Mrs. Morse's telegram, we have merely stated that the Department is informed that in reply to inquiries on this subject the American Red Cross has indicated that it has made no such commitments.

It is noted that Mrs. Morse is under the impression that both Señor de Rivas Cherif and his wife are in danger of execution in Spain. The information which we have received indicates that Señor de Rivas Cherif is one of a number of former Spanish Republican leaders reported to have been sentenced to death in Spain. His wife, however, is understood to be residing in France and we have had no information to indicate that she might be in any danger of execution by the Spanish authorities.

I am returning Mrs. Morse's telegram to Mrs. Roosevelt herewith.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. H. Kelly'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Enclosure:  
Telegram from Mrs. Morse.

Department of State

BUREAU  
DIVISION

Eu

ENCLOSURE

TO

RETURN LETTER TO MRS. ROOSEVELT

Letter drafted.....

ADDRESSED TO

The President.....

TELEGRAM

*Handwritten:* n-1  
2102

The White House  
Washington

56wuh 59DL, 4ex.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1940

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:

As citizen may I urge you to plead immediately for clemency to avoid execution in Spain of two celebrated directors of former Republican Spanish National Theatre, Cipriano Rivas Cherif and Wellesley graduate wife. Why do we send wheat and give credit of one hundred million dollars to Spain when internationally great artists are executed?

MRS. HOWARD M. MORSE, 140 West 11 Street.

12:24 p. m.

*Handwritten:* The President  
Advise as indicated and  
give inf. re how

Letter from Mrs. Abbott Simon, Apt. 5C - 965 Fifth Ave., NYC about Erich Jungmann who is in concentration camp and wants to get to the U.S.

August 7, 1940  
Hyde Park, New York

102

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Will you please let Mrs. Roosevelt know whether your Committee will be able to do anything in this case? It is one in which she is particularly interested.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

6501004

6501004

Dr. Frank Kingdon  
~~Emergency Rescue Committee~~  
122 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York

Simon -

Will send Dr Frank  
Keigdon's Com tasks  
what they can do

I will be glad to keep you  
anyway I can. I don't  
if any ships can be sent

I hope you & Abbott  
will come up here for a  
Sunday

ER

---

Send Dr Keigdon

August 7, 1940  
Hyde Park, New York

My dear Mrs. Simon:

I am sending your letter to the Emergency Rescue Committee, headed by Dr. Frank Kingdon, as that organization is doing a great deal to help people get to this country. I doubt if any ships can be sent but I will be glad to help in any way I can.

I hope you and Abbott will come up here for a Sunday.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Abbott Simon  
Apt. 5C  
965 Fifth Avenue  
NYC

Emergency Rescue Committee

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

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 5-4813

August 12, 1940

*Chairman*  
FRANK KINGDON

*Treasurer*  
JAMES H. CAUSEY

*Secretary*  
MILDRED ADAMS

*free*

Miss Malvina Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park, New York.

*10/2/40*

Re: ERICH JUNGSMANN

Dear Miss Thompson:

In regard to your note of August 5th and the enclosed letter concerning Erich Jungsmann, who is in the Camp du Vernet, we shall see if it is possible to get a visitor's visa for him.

Of course, you understand that we shall have to search for affidavits of support and sponsorship, but it may be that Mrs. Simon would be willing to supply these. We are taking the liberty of writing direct to Mrs. Simon to find out whether she is in a position to give these or to get them.

In the same mail we received from you a letter from Mr. David Wallach concerning the case of Mr. Bachrach. The matter is complicated by the fact that Mr. Wallach forgot to give us more than the last name and present address of the man about whom he is worried, as well as by this matter of the conviction.

We shall try, however, to get complete information and an authoritative opinion as to whether anything can be done. We are taking the liberty of writing direct to Mr. Wallach for certain essential data and will let you know what we eventually find.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mildred Adams*

MILDRED ADAMS,  
Executive Secretary.

MA/b

*Emergency Rescue Committee*  
122 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.  
TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 5-4813

*Chairman*  
FRANK KINGDON  
*Treasurer*  
JAMES H. CAUSEY  
*Secretary*  
MILDRED ADAMS

August 7, 1940

*JK*

102  
6.3

Miss Malvina C. Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
Hyde Park, New York.

Dear Miss Thompson:

Dr. Kingdon has not yet returned from the West, but in answer to your letter of August 3rd and the enclosure, may I say we will be glad to take up the case of Dr. Willi Wolf and put it through as rapidly as possible. It sounds like a simple case and the newly established visa routine should make it easy.

I am delighted to know that we can use Mrs. Roosevelt's name in these cases. I take it you mean in the particular cases with which the letter is concerned. Her backing helps a great deal.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mildred Adams*

MILDRED ADAMS,  
Executive Secretary.

August 3, 1940

102

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Mrs. Roosevelt is interested in this and would like to have you take the proper steps through your Committee to help these people. She has no objection to your saying that she is interested in these cases if you think it would help in any way.

Will you let me know if you will be able to do anything?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

DD

Charles Fawcett, American Consulate, Marseille, France - about  
Dr. Willi Wolf, Mme. Kathe Wolf, Mme. Lili Dunmann

102

August 20, 1940

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

In connection with the letter from  
+ Mrs. Lillie Panick, c/o The Jewish Aid Committee,  
Wicombury, London, England, which was sent  
you on August 13, the enclosed papers have  
been received by Mrs. Roosevelt and are being  
forwarded to you for your information and record.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Frank Kingdon  
Emergency Rescue Committee  
122 East 42d Street  
New York, New York

*See memo. folder  
attached letter 8/13.*

d.

Dr. Frank Kingdon,  
Emergency Rescue Committee,  
122 East 42nd Street,  
New York, N. Y.

102  
1/2-13

I have no idea  
what this belongs to -  
perhaps files will show

EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE  
122 East 42nd Street, New York

Telephone: MUrray Hill 5-4813

*File*

CHAIRMAN  
Frank Kingdon

TREASURER  
James H. Causey

SECRETARY  
Mildred Adams

*K 100 20*  
August 23rd, 1940.

Mr. Thomas J. Doyle,  
The White House,  
Washington.

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for forwarding us the papers  
concerning Mrs. Lillie Panick, in London.

I have forwarded these documents to  
Miss Cecilia Razovsky of the National Refugee  
Service to whom I referred the original letter  
from Mrs. Panick.

Sincerely yours,

*Mildred Adams*

MILDRED ADAMS  
Executive Secretary

AC/A

W. Salvadori, 12 Main St., Canton, N.Y. - about the plight of the Italian exiles in France.

September 27, 1940

102  
✓

My dear Dr. Kingdon:

Is there anything the Emergency Rescue Committee could do about this? Will you let Mrs. Roosevelt have any suggestions you might be able to make?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

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

10/21 Copy  
Salvador  
10-4

*Emergency Rescue Committee*  
122 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 3-4590

October 1, 1940

**Chairman**  
Frank Kingdon

**Vice Chairman**  
L. Hollingsworth Wood

**Treasurer**  
James H. Causey

**Secretary**  
Mildred Adams

**National Committee**  
Elmer Davis  
Mrs. Emmons Blaine  
Dr. Robert Hutchins  
Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach  
Dr. William Allen Neilson  
Dr. Charles Seymour  
Dr. George Shuster  
Raymond Gram Swing  
Dorothy Thompson

Miss Malvina C. Thompson  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Thompson:

Dr. Kingdon has asked me to reply to your letter of September 27 enclosing a letter about the plight of the Italians.

Dr. Lionello Venturi, of whom this letter speaks, is closely cooperating with us. The fact is that the Italians for whom visas were secured in August, have not yet reached the comparative safety of Lisbon. We have assumed that if this is the case, being anti-Fascist, they could not get permission to cross Spain. Even the most experienced, to whom disguise is almost second nature, have not reached safety.

We have conferred with Dr. Max Ascoli on the matter and we have also asked our man in Marseille to see what he can do, but so far, without result. Recently, however, we have had a cable which gives us some hope that our man is in contact with these courageous anti-Fascists. We have cabled specifically with reference to their relief and are expecting a report before long on their situation.

We will be very glad to send Mrs. Roosevelt word as soon as we get it.

Very sincerely yours,



Mildred Adams  
Executive Secretary

102 ✓

December 12, 1940

Dear Dr. Kingdon:

I am enclosing a letter from Mrs. Joseph W. Cohen, Boulder, Colorado, describing the case of Dr. Hans von Hentig and his wife.

Mrs. Roosevelt asks if you know of any way in which Dr. von Hentig can be helped.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Dr. Frank Kingdon  
Emergency Rescue Committee  
122 East 42d Street  
New York, N.Y.