

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers
102 Refugee Letters
1941 Ut-2

112

3/5/41

Sent to Miss Ingrid Warburg

Mr. Berle's let, March 3
on Franco Venturi

has cabled Embassy that President
is interested, as every other kind
of representation has been made.

Barcelona is so infiltrated with
German agents that Madrid cannot give
an order with any assurance that it
will be carried out.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
FC 352.6521 Venturi, Franco

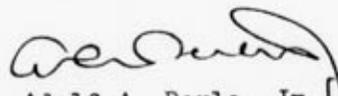
APR 1 1941

Handwritten notes:
See [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

With reference to the case of Franco Venturi, the young Italian in whom you are interested, may I say that a telegram has been received from Ambassador Phillips at Rome stating that our Consul General at Genoa was asked to investigate a rumor that Venturi was in Genoa and has now reported that no trace of him could be found in that city. The Ambassador also states that he is willing to take up the case with the competent authorities in Rome if it is so desired, but that such action, no matter how informal, might under present circumstances militate against Venturi rather than improve his position. In view of this statement by the Ambassador, I do not know of any other steps which can be taken at this time in behalf of this unfortunate individual.

Sincerely yours,


Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

April 7, 1941

My dear Miss Warburg:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter received from the Department of State in regard to the case of Franco Venturi.

Do you know of anything else we could do which would be helpful?

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Ingrid Warburg
Emergency Rescue Committee
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

db/cah
enc.

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Just file this. I
think Miss Harburg
told me he was
executed!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1941

My dear Miss Warburg:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed letter received from the Department of State in regard to the case of Franco Venturi.

Do you know of anything else we could do which would be helpful?

Very sincerely yours,

Maurice C. Thompson
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Miss Ingrid Warburg
Emergency Rescue Committee
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

WESTERN UNION

WASHINGTON DC 21 647P

1941 FEB 21 PM 6 52

CHARLES C BURLINGHAM
27 WILLIAM ST NYK

REFERENCE PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE VENTURI AND CAHN. I NOW
LEARN THEY WERE TRANSFERRED ON 15TH TO SEPARATE PRISONS
IN MADRID. BLANKETS? FOOD, AND MONEY WERE SUPPLIED THEM
THE SAME DAY FROM FUND KEPT BY OUR AMBASSADORS WIFE.
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES CAHN MAY PROCEED TO
UNITEDSTATES BUT VENTURI IS DETAINED AT REQUEST OF ITALIAN
AUTHORITIES FOR ALLEGED OFFENSES COMMITTED IN ITALY. I
UNDERSTAND THAT PAPAL NUNCIL? MADRID IS INTERESTED IN CASE.
SHALL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CORDELL HULL SECRETARY OF STATE.

File

X
PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON POLITICAL REFUGEES

122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

Hamilton Fish Armstrong
Paul Baerwald
Joseph P. Chamberlain
Basil Harris
Louis Kenedy
The Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel
James M. Speers
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Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, *Secretary*

JAN 24 1941

George L. Warren
Executive Secretary

GRAMERCY 5-1093

January 22, 1941.

102

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

To complete the information contained in my letter of January 14th, I am now pleased to be able to report to you that recommendations and the pertinent documents on behalf of

+ Petzschke, Erich and wife Mathilde

were submitted to the Departments of State and Justice on January 21, 1941, and for

+ Stein, Alfred, wife Liselotte and daughter Marion Stern

on January 20, 1941.

Yours very truly,

George L. Warren

George L. Warren.

GLW:J

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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George L. Warren
Executive Secretary
GRAMERCY 5-1093

January 14, 1941.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you for sending me the copy of the letter of Mr. Sumner Welles to you of January 2nd together with the list of cases submitted to you by the Emergency Rescue Committee, Buffalo Branch. I have checked the report of the State Department on the individual cases in our records and find that the cases fall into the following categories:

Those recommended by the President's Advisory Committee to the Department of Justice and State prior to your correspondence:

Pfister, Otto	sent November 27, 1940
Block, Nora	" December 3, "
Stoecker, Helene	" " 4, "
Augsburg, Anita	" " 6, "
Heymann, Lida Gustava	" " 6, "
Walter, Herta	" " 3, "

With respect to Herta Walter, we received the following reply from the Department of State, dated January 8th:

" In reply refer to VD 811.111 Walter, Herta
My dear Mr. Warren:

I refer to your interest in the case of Mrs. Herta Walter, serial no. 961. It has not been found possible to grant approval in this case and it has therefore not been forwarded to the Consul.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Eliot B. Coulter
Acting Chief, Visa Division. "

I have no knowledge of the reasons for the above rejection. I shall discuss the case with Mr. Coulter of the Visa Division when I am next in Washington. This is probably the case referred to in the first paragraph of Mr. Welles' letter in which the following sentence appears:

"I assume that all, with the possible exception of one, have received visas and I assume that that one will receive his in due course."

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

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January 14, 1941.

Those recommended by the President's Advisory Committee to the Departments of Justice and State on January 13th and 14th: Most of these were received by the President's Advisory Committee from their sponsors in late December.

Amelung, Irmgard
Bertholet, Rene and wife Johanne
Goldenberg, Boris and wife Rosa
Kappius, Anne
Konopka, Erhard
Lange, Erna
Oppenheimer, Lise

Those still under consideration in the office of the President's Advisory Committee:

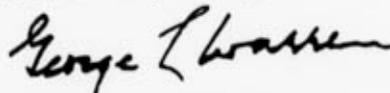
Diamant, Max and wife Annie
Petzschke, Erich and wife Mathilde
Stein, Alfred, wife Liselotte and
daughter Marion Stern.

I expect the documentation on these three cases will be completed by their sponsors within a few days. Thereupon they will be forwarded to Washington immediately.

We have no record of Hans Lehnert. According to the records of the State Department we are supposed to have submitted a recommendation. I shall communicate immediately with the Emergency Rescue Committee, Buffalo Branch, concerning Hans Lehnert and follow the matter through.

With sincere appreciation of your interest and constant helpfulness, I am,

Yours very truly,



George L. Warren.

GLW:J

EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE

BUFFALO BRANCH

100 WADSWORTH STREET

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MRS. JAMES McC. MITCHELL
AUSTIN PAROUX
JULIAN PARK
H. ELIHU RICHEL
ELOISE M. TANNER

✓ Pfister, Otto, born on April 8, 1900, at Munich. - Cabinet maker and interior decorator.

Has done in close relation with French, Belgium and Luxembourg trade-unionists underground work from different borders into Germany, especially during the war. Has been captured by German military authorities at Luxemburg's invasion, was prisoner in Germany for several months. Germans did not realize his identity. So he succeeded in coming back to France. He is now in the unoccupied part of France and must soon leave so that the Gestapo may not put their hands on him.

+ Block, Nora, born on January 14, 1895, at Bochum. Attorney. And her sister:

✓ Walter, Herta, born Block, about 48 years old, born at Bochum. N.B. has been a well-known Anti-Nazi attorney at Bochum, and had to flee when Nazis came to power. In Paris she has been a secretary of Leopold Schwarzschild, editor of the liberal magazine "Das Neue Tagebuch", and later on, for the last years, director of the social service of the biggest emigrants-relief-association. She is known in the emigrants' movement as a courageous fighter against nazism, who continued her activity in helping others even while in the concentration camp. Is now in the southern part of France.

✓ Amelung, Irmgard, born on October 8, 1911, at Bremen. Teacher. Has done underground work in Bremen and progressive educational work against the German war aims, until 1938. Had to leave Germany in 1938 because of danger of imminent arrest. In Paris she collaborated at an Anti-Nazi publishing house. Stays now in Southern France.

✓ Kozopka, Erhard, 35 years old, born in Hamburg. Metal worker. Is the type of fine skilled metal worker, who has never lost consciousness of what the Nazis did to all liberal people in Germany. Has done in his factory underground trade union work against the Nazi demagogical methods until 1937. Then several of his friends were arrested; they could get word to him out of the prison, telling him that his arrest was imminent. So he left Germany, went to Holland and then to France. Is now living in the unoccupied part of France and really in danger if turned over to the Gestapo.

✓ Oppenheimer, Lise, about 35 years old, born in Koeln. Miss Oppenheimer, a dietary assistant, had to leave Germany in 1934 because of being implicated in a trial against Anti-Nazi liberal people. She went to France and helped an Anti-Nazi publishing house. Her name certainly has been found by the German Gestapo when they took over Paris. She is now staying in Southern France.

EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE

BUFFALO BRANCH

100 WADSWORTH STREET

Page 2.

National Committee

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JULIAN PARK
H. ELIHU RICKEL
ELOSIE M. TANNER

✓ Bertholet, Rene, born April 29, 1907 at Geneva. Journalist.
✓ Bertholet, Johanna, born Grust, his wife, born January 24,
at Hanover, Secretary. 1901

Bertholet, a Swiss citizen, helped in 1933 to organize with the International Transport Workers Federation underground trade union work in Germany. Was imprisoned for two and a half years. After his release he collaborated at French trade union movement and as a journalist for "Le Peuple", the daily of the French Trade Unions, under the pen name of Pierre Robert. During the present war he continued propaganda against Nazi Germany at the Belgium, Luxembourg and Swiss border.

His wife is one of the best collaborators for the cause of freedom and justice. They are now living in Zurich.

✗ Lehnert, Hans, born October 23, 1899 in Bavaria. Attorney.

Has been a well known attorney in Bochum and Munich. Was dismissed after the Nazis' rise to power but stayed in Munich in order to do underground work against the Nazi barbarism with a group of friends. Was arrested in 1937. Gestapo tried getting from him names of his friends and avowal of his activities. He remained silent, so that finally they dismissed him. Friends brought him over the Swiss border. In a trial which took place after his flight he was publicly denounced by the German authorities and the Nazi papers, as the instigator of the Munich underground work. He is now living in Switzerland and would be in serious danger if the Nazis could get hold of him. Has registered for immigration to the United States but Zurich Consulate does not give him visa.

✓ Kappius, Aenne, about 33 years old, born in Bochum, Westphalia. Secretary.

Mr. & Mrs. Kappius have done underground trade union work in Berlin until 1937. Then several of their friends were arrested; they learned that a search had been made of their house where leaflets and other Anti-Nazi documents were to be found. So they could not return and had to flee immediately. Flight was successful but they had to separate. Mrs. Kappius reached the Swiss border and was recognized by the Swiss authorities as a political refugee. Mr. Kappius went to France and later got a visa to England, where he is now supposed to fight as a pioneer against Germany. Mrs. Kappius would be in danger if turned over to the Gestapo by the fact of her and her husband's Anti-Nazi activities and by the fact of her husband's actual fight against Nazi-Germany.

Page 3.

EMERGENCY RESCUE COMMITTEE

BUFFALO BRANCH

100 Wadsworth Street.

* Layke, Erna, born January 14, 1912, at Hamburg-Altona. Secretary. Has done active underground work after Hitler's rise to power, distributed leaflets, made contacts, tried to work against the Nazis' war preparation. Was arrested by the Gestapo in 1937, but did not give any name of her collaborators or any indication of their work. After her release she left Germany and went to Switzerland, where she is living now as a political refugee. Would be in great danger if Switzerland could no longer protect the refugees to whom she gave asylum.

✓ Diamant, Max, born August 5, 1908 in Lodz, Poland and his wife.

For many years Diamant was very active in leading positions in socialist and trade union movements and was editor of the newspaper "Volksstimme" in Dresden. After 1933 he continued his work, but in an underground way. To avoid imprisonment, he fled to France where he worked against the Nazis in Strasbourg. But after having been involved in an important trial against Anti-Nazi people in Germany, he went to Paris, where he stayed until the outbreak of this war. Now he is in Southern France, very much in danger.

✓ Petzschke, Erich, born August 14, 1902 in Volkstedt, Germany and his wife Erpa.

For twenty years was very active in leading position of trade union movement. As brother-in-law of the attorney, Ernest Eckstein, who was murdered by the Nazis in 1933 in Breslau, he was persecuted by the Nazis. He escaped to France where he continued to do Anti-Nazi work in the refugee movements. He is a very highly qualified skilled worker. Lives in Southern France.

✓ Goldenberg, Boris, born August 7, 1905 in Petersburg, Russia and his wife Rosa.

Goldenberg obtained notoriety in the students' movement. He fought against the Nazi ideology in the literary area as well as in public meetings. In 1933 the Nazis arrested him, took him away and tortured him in an awful way. Finally he succeeded in escaping and was then living in Paris, where he did journalistic and scientific Anti-Nazi work. Is now living in Southern France.

✓ Stein, Alfred, about 33 years old, born in Dresden, and wife and child.

Has had public activity in socialist youth and students' movements. Later on he was an attorney, until Hitler's rise to power and at different trials was the defender of Anti-Nazi people. Had to flee in 1933 in order to avoid his arrest. Was then living in Paris and is now staying in Southern France.

Submitted to Washington
on Dec. 6, 1940.

✓ Stoecker, Helene
living at Stockholm

✓ Aufsberg, Anita
living at Zuerich

✓ Gustava - Heymann, Lydia
living at Zuerich

Bx. 1809

102

May 28, 1941

My dear Mr. Warren:

X After receiving your letter of April 10, Mrs. Roosevelt made further inquiry of the State Department about the cases of Nora Block, Herta Walter, and Boris Goldenberg.

A reply has now been received wherein it is stated a very careful investigation has been made in each case, and that the supplemental information submitted in the cases of Nora Block and Herta Walter is not considered sufficient by the Interdepartmental Committee to remove the adverse implications of the original cases.

In the case of Boris Goldenberg, he has been identified as a recent European agent of the Bureau of the International Communist Opposition, and in view of the close associations of these three aliens with definitely subversive groups or individuals, the Interdepartmental Committee on Political Refugees is reluctant to approve their admission into the United States under the present critical conditions.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. George L. Warren

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

DD

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

MAY 10 1941

70
Miss Block to Mrs. Warren
list
May 9, 1941

Dear Eleanor:

I have now received a report from the Visa Division for your personal and confidential information, regarding the three aliens mentioned in Mr. George Warren's letter of April 10th to Miss Thompson, and referred to in your note of April 18th.

It appears from this report that the first two aliens named, Nora Block and Herta Walter, are sisters residing at present in unoccupied France and seeking visas on the recommendation of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees. Their cases were carefully examined in February by the Interdepartmental Committee established to facilitate the handling of these special cases, but it was found impossible to approve them because their brother-in-law, Mr. Leo Gallagher of Los Angeles, who assumes responsibility for their financial support, is an active and well-known American Communist. An argument has now been submitted by Miss Eva Lewinski, a recent refugee immigrant,

Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.

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immigrant, to the effect that these aliens are not themselves Communist agitators and that they will have nothing to do with their brother-in-law if admitted, but the Interdepartmental Committee does not consider this sufficient to remove the adverse implications of the original cases.

The report of the Visa Division also indicates that the case of Boris Goldenberg was recommended by the President's Advisory Committee, but was disapproved when this alien was identified as a recent European agent of the Bureau of the International Communist Opposition, a dissident offshoot of the Communist International and a parallel of the Lovestone group in the United States. On March 19, Mr. Norman Thomas wrote to Mr. Berle on behalf of one Jacob Walcher, a former associate of Goldenberg now in this country on a visitor's visa, requesting a reconsideration of the Goldenberg case. Several days later, however, Mr. Thomas again wrote Mr. Berle, enclosing a "cryptic communication" indicating that Walcher desired him to suspend any intervention because "new facts have turned up since he last wrote which made it necessary to change our plans". Preliminary investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates that Walcher himself was in 1940 connected with the Bureau of the International Communist
Opposition

- 3 -

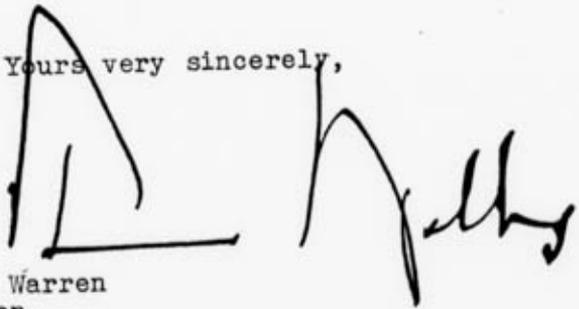
Opposition in Paris and is admittedly a former high official of the German Communist Party, which may render him subject to deportation proceedings.

In view of the close associations of these three aliens with definitely subversive groups or individuals, the Interdepartmental Committee on Political Refugees is reluctant to approve their admission into the United States under the present critical conditions.

I may add that the action taken in these cases is exceptional, since more than 2,100 of the 2,500 refugee cases submitted to date by the President's Advisory Committee have been given immediate approval and less than one hundred have been disapproved. I believe that these figures will assure you that every effort is being made to assist these unfortunate people, except in instances where it appears that their admission might prove inimical to the interests of the United States.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. L. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

Enclosure:

From George L. Warren
to Miss Thompson,
April 10, 1941.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON POLITICAL REFUGEES

Hamilton Fish Armstrong
Paul Baerwald
Joseph P. Chamberlain
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122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

George L. Warren
Executive Secretary

GRAMERCY 5-1093

*Called
5-22-41*
April 10, 1941.

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

Dear Miss Thompson:

Thank you most kindly for your letter of April 8th
with its enclosures from Mr. Welles.

With respect to Nora Block and Herta Walter, sisters,
disapproved by the Interdepartmental Committee, will
you kindly advise Mrs. Roosevelt that we have recently
submitted supplementary information to the Departments
of State and Justice? I sincerely hope that we may
eventually overcome the unfavorable decision. The
difficulty arises out of the fact that the brother,
Leo Gallagher in the United States, who offered affi-
davits of support for his sisters, is considered to
be a Communist. We have substituted the affidavits of
other persons and submitted statements by Eva Lewinski
and others that the two sisters have had no contact with
their brother in this country and that they are in any
event completely out of sympathy with his political
views. I shall be glad to advise you of the final
outcome.

With respect to Boris Goldenberg we have only recently
been advised of the disapproval and I shall follow the
matter further to determine whether any helpful action
can now be taken.

With appreciation of your interest in the matter, I am,

Yours very truly,

George L. Warren

George L. Warren.

GLW:J