

Samuel Rosenman Papers
Box 8
Correspondence re Efforts to Bring
People From Nazi Germany

October 19, 1939.

Hon. Adolph A. Berle
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Adolph:

I do not know whether our consular service in Warsaw, Poland, is yet equipped to give us any information as to relatives who lived in that city at the time of the German invasion.

If it is, I would appreciate it very much if some information could be obtained concerning the following, who are the wife and children of a first cousin of mine, whom I brought over from Poland in April of this year:

Mania Fajwer (wife)
W.L. Wielke
26 M. 16
Warsaw, Poland

Justins)
Saul) children
Szawcie)

Is it possible in any way that you know of to send any financial assistance to these people?

I would appreciate it very much if you would refer this letter to someone in your Department who handles these things with the request that he advise me.

I am sorry to bother you, but you can understand the anxiety of the father of this family, who is here alone.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1939

My dear Sam:

With further reference to your letter of October 19th, we are now having some of our men go once more to Warsaw. They are, however, under very strict limitation, since the city is administered by the German military. The German government likewise has indicated that it does not particularly wish to answer any questions about anyone not an American citizen. I have nevertheless asked our Embassy in Berlin to take up with the German government as a matter of special courtesy the securing of information about Mrs. Mania Jajwer and the children. I hope something will come of it.

As a personal matter, I should be obliged if you would keep this strictly confidential. We are being deluged with thousands of requests to find out what has happened to Polish relatives of American citizens. It is practically out of the question to take care of these requests, save perhaps in one or two instances, and then only by black favor.

Ultimately,

Honorable Samuel Rosenman,
60 Centre Street,
New York, N. Y.

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Ultimately, the German government will loosen up; but until it does, to encourage anyone to believe we can do the job is simply to encourage a lot of false hopes which we cannot satisfy.

With kind regards, I am, as always,

Faithfully yours,

Wolff

October 25, 1939.

Hon. Adolph Berle,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Adolph:

Thanks very much for your letter of
October 24th, which I deeply appreciate.

I am a little concerned by the spelling
of the name in your letter and am wondering whether
a letter which I sent to you contained a typographical
error relative thereto. The name is Mrs. Mania
Fajwer. Your letter speaks about Mania Jajwer.
If my letter misspelled this name, I hope there is still
time to correct it.

With kindest regards and with assurances
that I shall keep this strictly confidential, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

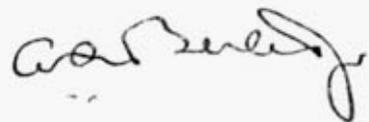
October 27, 1939

My dear Sam:

I am glad you wrote, because in your letter the name is spelled with a "J", instead of an "F".

We are arranging to correct it.

Sincerely yours,



Honorable Samuel I. Rosenman,
60 Centre Street,
New York, N. Y.

December 7, 1939

Hon. Adolph A. Berle
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Adolph:

I have just received a telegram from the State Department signed "Sumner Welles, Acting Secretary of State", with respect to the inquiry made about that family in Warsaw.

It is very favorable and I want you to know how appreciative I am. You can well imagine that the father is somewhat overjoyed.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1939

Permit

My dear Sam:

Thank you for your courteous letter
of December 7th.

I knew, of course, about the telegram --
all telegrams from this Department are signed
by the Secretary, or Acting Secretary -- and I
hope things are going along fairly well.
Getting information out of Poland is like pulling
teeth. There are a few cases that I want to
locate in the Russian occupied sections, where
there is nothing but dead and blank silence;
and little than I can do about it.

Best of luck to you.

Sincerely,

Adolf

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice,
Supreme Court of the State
of New York,
County Court House,
New York, N. Y.

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 811.11 - Stroheim, Georg
HLR/hg



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Berlin, Germany, January 11, 1939.

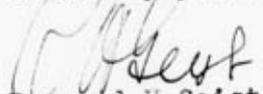
The Honorable
Samuel I. Roseman,
Justice,
Supreme Court of New York,
Albany, New York.

My dear Justice Roseman:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your recent cablegram with reference to the immigration visa application at this office of Mr. Georg Stroheim. I greatly regret that the Consulate General is unable to comply with your request that the case be expedited. Mr. Stroheim is entitled to priority under the German quota at this office as of December 3, 1938. Owing to the great number of people registered on the waiting list prior to Mr. Stroheim, his name will not be reached before at least three years. The issuance of an immigration visa out of turn is specifically forbidden by the immigration laws and regulations for the reason that such an action would be tantamount to the establishing of a preference class not provided for in the immigration laws.

Please be assured that every consideration consistent with the immigration laws and regulations has been and will continue to be given to the visa case of Mr. Stroheim.

I am,
My dear Justice Roseman,
Sincerely yours,


Raymond H. Geist
American Consul

October 1, 1940.

Hon. Adolph A. Berle,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Adolph:

Can I bother you again? I would like to get some information about the quota status of Richard Turnovsky, Kozi Nom #9, Prague, Bohemia.

When last heard of I believe he was in a concentration camp in Bohemia. His daughter is married to an American citizen and is residing here in New York.

I should be happy to pay for any cables or other expenses incurred in obtaining information about when his number would be reached and what the prospects of emigration to this country are.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary Leonard (Schmidt)

November 27, 1940.

Honorable Adolf A. Berle,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Adolph:

This is some more tragedy which I wish you could turn over to someone to see whether anything can be done.

I know this man only slightly and know nothing about the facts which he writes.

If nothing can be done, according to the existing rules, will you please return these letters and I will so notify him.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

(enclosures)

November 18, 1940.

Hon. Adolph Berle,
State Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Adolph:

I have the enclosed letter from a man whom I do not know but who apparently has read my name in the newspaper and has to clutch at any straw.

Obviously I know nothing of the facts but wonder whether you could turn this over to some one in your department who might see whether an injustice has been done, and if so correct it.

I receive a great many letters from people whom I do not know but realize that nothing can be done about most of them. This letter is however particularly distressing, and I am sure that even in your crowded days you would be interested in reading it and doing something about it if the facts stated are true.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Enclosure.

November 18, 1940.

Mr. Max Brandriss,
102 Cardenas,
Habana, Cuba.

Dear Mr. Brandriss:

I have your letter of the 6th, and I am sending it to the State Department to see what can be done in the matter.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours,

September 28, 1939.

Hon. Adolf A. Berle, Jr.,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Adolf:

Would you please hand this to someone who can write me what the regulations and procedure of the department are with reference to the following rather complicated situation although it may be a not unusual one:

Mr. A is in the United States on a visitor's permit which has expired but which apparently has been extended by the recent proclamation of the President. His mother was an American born citizen, lost her citizenship by marriage to a German citizen and after her husband's death, became a repatriated American citizen. She still lives, however, in Germany. Mr. A is over twenty-one and is not permitted to be occupied in gainful employment under the conditions of his visitor's permit.

Are there any steps that he can take to be admitted under the quota with a preference because of his mother's citizenship, or apply for citizenship himself?

I suppose that the regulations are ^{clear} ~~fair~~ either one way or the other and I would appreciate it if you would have someone inform me of them so that I might inform Mr. A of the situation.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1940

PERSONAL

Dear Sam:

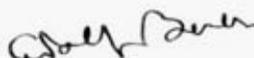
I will see what I can do about your friend,
Kalisch.

I hope it works out better than the Bandriss
case. In that case, Bandriss apparently was barred
because he had been convicted of fraudulent bank-
ruptcy and concealing assets--and our people seem to
think that the conviction was a real one.

There are so many thousands of cases that one
feels wholly frustrated. I am only too glad if I can
find any way of rescuing anyone.

With kind personal regards, I am, as always,

Faithfully yours,



The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
60 Centre Street,
New York, New York.

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1940

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Brandriss, Max

My dear Judge Rosenman:

I have your letter of November 18, 1940 with which you transmitted a communication addressed to you by Max Brandriss, an applicant for an immigration visa at the American Consulate General at Habana, Cuba.

Upon consulting the files of the Department I find that the case of Max Brandriss has been the subject of certain correspondence with the Department of Justice. I enclose for your information a copy of the Department's letter of September 19, 1940 to that Department regarding the case, which is self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:

Copy of letter.

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman, Justice,
Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
New York County Court House,
New York, New York.

Department of State

BUREAU } VD
DIVISION |-----

ENCLOSURE

TO

Letter drafted-----

ADDRESSED TO

Justice Samuel Rosenman

New York, New York.

(COPY: CEK)
(COMP: *MB*)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 19, 1940

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Brandriss, Max

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

I acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Schofield's letter of August 28, 1940 (file no. 56054/116) regarding the case of Mr. Max Brandriss, who is understood to be an applicant for an immigration visa at the American Consulate General at Habana, Cuba.

The records of the Department show that a report was received in December 1939 from the American Consul General at Zurich, Switzerland regarding the cases of Josef, Jakob, ^{and} Max Brandriss, who had been refused immigration visas at the Consulate General at Zurich because they had been found by the responsible consular officer to be inadmissible into the United States, particularly under the moral turpitude clause in Section 3 of the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917. It appears from a report submitted by the Consul General at Zurich in December 1939, that Mr. Josef Brandriss had, up to 1935, conducted a wholesale rubber business in Munich, Germany in which his brothers, Jakob and Max, were partners. It was stated in the report that the brothers had illegally and systematically withdrawn the assets of the firm thereby defrauding the creditors of a large sum of money, whereupon the brothers departed for Austria. At the trial of the persons concerned there was some question raised as to whether Jakob and Max Brandriss should be considered as members or partners of the firm but the court decided that the brothers had to be regarded as partners and that Josef and his brothers had defrauded the creditors.

The aliens were convicted by the court at Munich of fraudulent bankruptcy which is considered to be a crime involving moral turpitude, in the light of the decisions of the courts in the United States.

The case of Max Brandriss appears to be essentially different from that of the alien "A.R." which was the subject of the opinion of the Attorney General, dated December 31, 1938 (39 Op. Atty. Genl. 59). Whether or not the alien in the present case was convicted under the exchange laws prohibiting the exportation of funds from Germany, it appears that he was also convicted of fraudulent bankruptcy, which is considered to be a crime not only in Germany, but also in other countries.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

BRECKINRIDGE LONG
Assistant Secretary

December 3, 1940

Mr. Max Brandriss,
102 Cardenas,
Havana, Cuba.

Dear Sir:

I have communicated with the Department of State and they have sent me some correspondence between them and the Attorney General.

I am afraid that there is nothing that can be done in the matter.

Yours very truly,

Mar

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

November 25, 1940.

102 Cardenas
Habana / Cuba

Honorable Sir
Samuel T. Roseman
Justice
New York, N. Y.

Honorable Sir,

I received your letter of 18th of November and I thank you very sincerely that your estimate personality has taken good notice of my request.

Your personality may be convinced that I was very glad to hear that you - honorable Sir - put in consideration my question. I hope that it will be able to settle this matter in a favorable manner for me.

Allow me - honorable Sir - still once to thank you very heartily for your kindness.

I remain, honorable Sir
yours most respectfully,

Max Shandlin.

December 6, 1940.

Hon. Adolph A. Berle,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Adolph:

I hate to keep bothering you about these matters and wish that you would give me the name of some one in the department to whom I can write so that they would not have to take up your time.

The latest request I have is from a friend whose relative is an American citizen stranded at 65 Victoria Park Drive North, Glasgow W4, Scotland. He went to Scotland to obtain his medical education and is now a doctor. He has his passage engaged to return home on the Clipper but is unable to come over because of certain priorities. I certainly do not wish to ask that any rule as to priorities be waived. I am wondering whether there is any information available as to about when he would be reached in the regular order.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1940

Dear Sam:

I can't get excited about your friend who is stranded in Glasgow. I know about the case.

A group of Jewish students were unable to obtain admission to American medical schools and went to Scottish medical schools. When we ordered every one out of Europe these boys put up an urgent plea to be allowed to go back to finish their schooling. This permission we were not granting; but we made an exception in their cases on condition that they should come out as soon as it became evident that there might be danger to Americans staying in Great Britain.

That time arrived; we asked every one to come out; we sent a ship to bring them out. Some decided that they were in no real danger and preferred to stay. This violated the understanding on which they had gone; and on which they were to come back. I don't blame the boys for wanting

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice of the Supreme Court,
New York County Court House,
New York, New York.

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wanting their medical degrees very badly.

Quite aside from my feelings in the matter, we have recently had up with the British the possibility of getting some Americans out by air. The difficulty is not with the Pan American Clipper--though that is full too. The difficulty is that the British are insisting on the exclusive use of the London-Lisbon plane; and, having tried it in another case, I discovered that it is practically impossible to get a priority on that plane unless President Roosevelt is willing to ask for it personally. In this case I don't think he ought to be asked.

Very truly yours,

Act. S. C. C.

I'll look it

no can find

Hold until
a request
comes in!

Efforts to Bring People ...

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 811.11 JFI/RME.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Prague, May 19, 1939.

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justices Chambers,
New York County Court House,
New York, New York.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of recent date, written in favor of Mrs. Wilhelmine Klauber, Mr. Walter Klauber, and Mr. Max Winterstein and family, who desire to emigrate to the United States for permanent residence.

The records of this office indicate that Mr. Walter Klauber registered on December 28, 1938, Mrs. Wilhelmine Klauber and Mr. Max Winterstein on January 21, 1939, as intending immigrants. Their names were placed upon the waiting list of this office of persons chargeable to the Czecho-Slovak quota. They may expect to obtain visas, if found admissible as immigrants, when their turn on the foregoing waiting list has been reached, which however cannot be expected before two years or more, since the prior registered demand for Czecho-Slovak quota numbers is sufficient to exhaust the quota for a considerable time.

Your interest in this matter has been noted and you may be assured that when the turn of the foregoing aliens has been reached upon the quota, their cases will receive every consideration consistent with the law and regulations governing the entry of aliens into the United States.

Respectfully yours,
Irving N. Linnell
Irving N. Linnell,
American Consul General.

Efforts to Bring
People

April 10, 1940

Mr. Gerhard Kalisch
5635 University Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kalisch:

I have your letter of April 6th; but I am not sure that I understand exactly what you mean. As I gather, it will be necessary for your mother to be placed ahead of other quota numbers, and I do not think that is possible. At least, I do not feel that I can make such a request, because it would not be fair to those ahead.

Will you please explain whether that is the situation or whether it merely means expediting the number when reached?

Very truly yours,

Justice Samuel I. Rosenman
444 Central Park West
New York, New York

Gerhard Kalisch
5635 University Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
April 6, 1940

Dear Sir:

I have not written to you for quite a while, and the reason is that unfortunately no change has taken place in the situation of my sister: she is still held in jail, the only difference being that now they seem to have found my sister "guilty" of some "crime," and they sentenced her to three years ^{in the} of penitentiary. The reason she got "only" three years and not more is that they have not been able to prove anything (it was some kind of political charge). These three years will be over in June 1941, but my parents who are both still in Germany, will try to get a pardon for her this spring. How successful they will be no one can tell, but it would be very regrettable if they did not succeed in view of the fact that they are going to ^{be} forced to emigrate from Germany. In fact, my mother who is living in Breslau has been told to leave Germany during May of this year; my father who is living in Berlin (my parents are divorced) has not yet been forced to leave Germany within any definite period of time, but he, too, will have to leave soon. As you know, I have succeeded in procuring affidavits for my mother and sister, first, because I have been able to place the two of them with friends, secondly, because my mother has relatives in this country and the American Consulates in Germany now require people to produce affidavits signed by relatives. As my father, unfortunately, has no relatives in this country, as I have not been able to place him with any friends, He has at present no affidavit which would permit him to come to this country. I have written all this in order to acquaint

you again with the facts concerning my unfortunate family.

I have already indicated the emergency situation which has arisen recently: My mother is forced to leave Germany not later than sometime in May - and her quota number is due much later! She was born in Lodz, now Poland, or rather Germany, but her quota number belongs to the Polish quota. If she does not emigrate in time, she faces either the concentration camp or deportation to some God forsaken part of Poland. In order to prevent this, I should like you to help me! You have been very nice and generous to me when you got in touch with Sec'y of State Cordell Hull, on behalf of my mother and sister. And as far as the American authorities ^{are} as concerned your intervention has proved successful because my father wrote me that if my sister had been released by the German authorities, she would have gotten her American quota visa immediately although her number would have been due very much later; this was done because she had found herself in an emergency situation. Since however my mother did not find herself at that time in any such ~~and~~ emergency situation, she had to await her turn to get the visa. Now however, she finds herself ~~XXXXX~~ in a situation which seems extremely critical, and if I want to save her life, I will have to act and to help her. The only person who can help me in my present predicament is you; and therefore, I have taken the liberty of bothering you again. Since you have proved so very interested and helpful a year and a half ago, I do hope that you will again help. I realized that I am imposing on you and your time, and I am very sorry for it; I would never have bothered you if it had been for my own sake personally; but my mother and my sister are involved, and therefore I cannot remain inactive. I trust you understand my motives; if the persons who are closest to you

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are in a very great danger you do what is humanly possible in order to help them, even if you have to impose on others.

Thus my request is simply this: it is necessary that my mother get her visa before her registration number (with the American Consulate in Berlin since there is not any in Breslau) is due; and that she get it as soon as possible since she has to emigrate sometime during May (although I daresay that if she can produce some kind of evidence of her forthcoming emigration, they may allow her to stay until June; but ^{this} that is merely a supposition of my own for which I have no factual basis). The way you got this favor last time for my sister was by getting in touch with Sec'y of State, Cordell Hull, perhaps ^{he} ~~MY~~ will again be kind enough to help in this very grave situation. I am very much upset by this new development of my family's calvaire, and I am very anxiously awaiting your answer. You may be sure that whatever this answer may be, I am always going to be very grateful for your kind interest and humane generosity which makes it easier for me to bear the heavy burden of my responsibility, both materially and spiritually, for if I know that in this horrible world of ours - I am referring mainly to the old world - there is some hope for my mother and sister - then I can carry on.

In order to explain to you why you are getting this letter not from the Phi Epsilon Pi House at Iowa City, but from Chicago, ~~IS~~ I have to say that I have been lucky enough to obtain a refugee fellowship to the University of Chicago, and that I am expecting to get my Ph.D. in Mathematics in June 1941. I got my B.A. in 1938, and my M.S. in 1939, both from the University of Iowa.

I hope my English is not quite as bad as my typing - and I ask you to excuse the mistakes I have made. Anxiously awaiting an answer, I remain,

gratefully and sincerely yours, *Shoel Kalin*

Efforts to Bring
People...

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 1



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Schenker, Gertrude T. April 19, 1939

My dear Judge Rosenman:

I refer to your letter of April 17, 1939 concerning the difficulties Mrs. Gertrude Turnovsky Schenker is experiencing in obtaining authorization to leave Prague.

The Consul General at Prague has been requested by cablegram to submit a prompt telegraphic report about Mrs. Schenker's situation and immediately after its receipt I shall write you again.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice, Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
New York.

April 17, 1939.

VD811.111 Schenker, Gertrude T.

Hon. Sumner Welles,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

May I refer you to the above file. Mr. Schenker has spoken with his wife by telephone several times and it seems that she is having difficulty in getting the necessary authorization to leave Prague.

I note from your kind letter of April 4th that the Department has notified the United States Consul General at Prague by cablegram of the approval of Mr. Schenker's petition for non-quota status for Mrs. Schenker.

In view of her marriage to Mr. Schenker (an American citizen), I am wondering whether anything further can be done. Any necessary expenses of cablegrams, etc. will be gladly borne by Mr. Schenker, who is naturally quite anxious about the matter.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Schenker, Gertrude T.

April 4, 1939

My dear Judge Rosenman:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of March 30, 1939 the Department is notifying the Consul General at Prague by cablegram of the approval of Mr. Schenker's petition for nonquota status for Mrs. Schenker. You are assured that the Consul General will act upon Mrs. Schenker's application as promptly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice, Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
New York.

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Schenker, Gertrude T.

March 31, 1939

My dear Judge Rosenman:

I refer to my letter to you of March 27, 1939 concerning the petition filed with the Department of Labor by Mr. Harry Schenker to accord nonquota status to his wife, a native of Czechoslovakia.

The Secretary of Labor has approved Mr. Schenker's petition and forwarded the approval today to the Department of State. A notification of the approved status has been forwarded today to the Consul General at Prague.

As I mentioned in my letter to you of March 27th, the Department will be glad to notify the Consul General at Prague by telegraph that the petition has been approved in order that immediate action may be taken on Mrs. Schenker's immigration visa if Mr. Schenker will indicate he desires a cablegram sent at his expense.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice, Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
New York.

March 30, 1939.

Hon. Sumner Wells,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thanks very much for your kind letter of March 27th relative to the petition of Mr. Harry Schenker for a "non quota" status to his wife, a native of Czecho Slovakia.

I have been informed that Mr. Schenker has forwarded the affidavit missing from the jurat of one of the witnesses to the Department of Labor.

Mr. Schenker will of course pay the cost of any cablegrams and I would suggest that they be sent pursuant to the last paragraph of your letter.

I assure you of my very deep appreciation for your action in this matter, and of course of the deep appreciation of Mr. Schenker.

With kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Sp. Def.

March 23, 1939.

Hon. Sumner Welles,
Undersecretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A friend of mine, Harry Schenker, 550 Fifth Avenue, was recently married to a young lady in Prague, Czecho-Slovakia, whose name now is Gertrude Turnovsky Schenker, Prague 1, Kozi 9. He informs me that they were married in Prague on February 2nd of this year. He is an American citizen. He informs me that he has filled out and filed the necessary immigration papers to bring his present wife to the United States as a preferred case under the quota, and that these papers were duly forwarded to the State Department.

I am writing to inquire whether you could have some one send me some information as to the present status of the application.

With kindest regards and with deep appreciation of your courtesy, I am

Very sincerely yours,

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1939

My dear Judge Rosenman:

I refer to your letter of March 23, 1939 written on behalf of your friend, Mr. Harry Schenker, who has filed a petition with the Department of Labor to accord nonquota status to his wife, a native of Czechoslovakia.

As the result of an inquiry directed to the Department of Labor I have been informed that the petition of Mr. Schenker was ready for approval but a final examination revealed that one of the witnesses failed to state in her jurat how long she has known the petitioner. This statement is required by law.

The Department of Labor is telegraphing the interested attorney requesting that this information be telegraphed immediately in order to facilitate

prompt

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice, Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
New York.

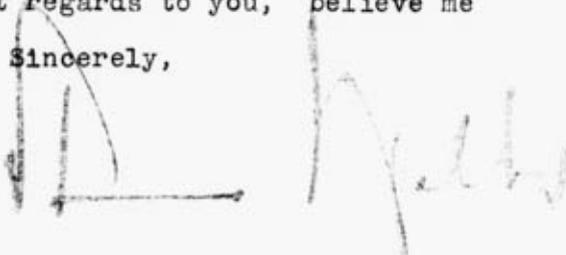
-2-

prompt approval of the petition.

If Mr. Schenker is prepared to pay the cost of a cablegram the Department will be glad to notify the Consul General at Praha by telegraph that the petition has been approved in order that immediate action may be taken on Mrs. Schenker's immigration visa.

With my kindest regards to you, believe me

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. H. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Efforts to Bring
People...

January 26, 1939

Hon. Sumner Welles
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Would you please refer this inquiry to someone in your Department who could give me the necessary information?

A friend of mine has some relatives, consisting of a man, wife and daughter, all now in Germany. Sufficient affidavits have been obtained as a basis for procuring an immigration quota visa for all three.

I am informed that the difficulty is that the daughter has a slightly subnormal development and cannot read and write as well as a person of her years should, but that otherwise there are no signs of a really defective mentality. I am informed that she is healthy, strong, socially well adjusted and able to do household work for herself and neighbors.

Of course, I have no actual knowledge of any of these characteristics, but that is the representation which is made to me about her. The mother and father obviously do not wish to leave their daughter behind when they come to the United States. I am informed that a sufficient bond can be furnished to take care of the three of them so that they will never become a public charge in this country.

The information which I wish is whether or not the law and the regulations would permit the entry of the daughter accompanied by her parents under the circumstances herein disclosed.

Hon. Sumner Welles--2

1/16/39

I would appreciate it very much if you could
let me have this information.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Kuttner, Julius

April 25, 1939

My dear Mr. Justice:

I refer to my letter of April 10, 1939 concerning your interest in the visa cases of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kuttner and their daughter, Martha.

A report has now been received from the Consul General at Stuttgart, Germany, stating that Miss Kuttner appeared at the Consulate on March 27, 1939, accompanied by her parents and was examined by the senior officer of the United States Public Health Service. As a result of the examination, Miss Kuttner was certified by the medical officer to be mentally defective and feeble minded. This condition renders her inadmissible into the United States under section 3 of the Immigration Act of 1917 and she is not, therefore, qualified to receive a visa under the law.

I regret the unfavorable nature of the Consul

General's

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Supreme Court of the State of New York,
New York.

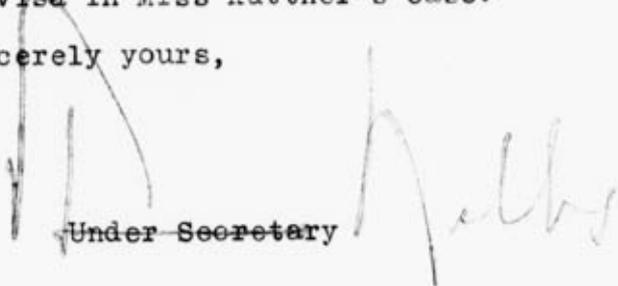
*Efforts to Bring
People ...*

Chas. Rosenberg

-2-

General's report. In view of the findings as a result of the examination, he had no alternative under the law but to withhold a visa in Miss Kuttner's case.

Sincerely yours,


Under Secretary

Efforts to Bring
People...

February 10, 1939.

Honorable Sumner Wells,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wells:

File No. V D 811.11102

Thank you for your letter of February 1st in the above matter. The father and mother in the family about which I wrote in this matter are Julius Kuttner and Emma Kuttner and the consul in charge is at Stuttgart. The mother and father are on a preference quota because their daughters are American citizens and are sending for them. However, they have with them in Germany a daughter Martha who is the one about whose mental deficiency there is some question. Could these prospective emigrants be examined promptly on the grounds that the father and mother are on preference and are trying to discover whether, if the father would come over he could have the others follow him? Otherwise if the daughter would have to wait until her regular quota number is reached before examination could be had the parents would not know whether the daughter ultimately would be permitted to come over. Obviously they would not come if the daughter would have to remain behind. If you could obtain the report which you mention in your letter and if the rules and regulations would permit a prompt examination of the daughter to determine the question it would be very helpful in permitting the father and mother to determine whether they will be able to come to the United States.

As I stated to you I think that any necessary guarantees may be obtained from the children now in the United States to insure the support of these emigrants when they come to America.

Yours sincerely,

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

*Efforts to Bring
People ...*



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Kuttner, Julius

April 10, 1939

My dear Mr. Justice:

In Mr. Welles' absence I refer to his letter of February 15, 1939 concerning your interest in the visa cases of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kuttner and their daughter, Martha.

A report by mail has now been received from the Consul General at Stuttgart, Germany from which it appears that Mr. and Mrs. Kuttner were registered on September 13, 1938 on the waiting list under number 24,556 and that in view of the large prior demand against the quota their turns are not likely to be reached for considerable time for consideration as nonpreference immigrants. The Consul General points out, however, that if Mr. and Mrs. Kuttner have a daughter in the United States who is an American citizen twenty-one years of age or over, she would be entitled under the law to
file

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Supreme Court of the State of New York,
New York.

-2-

file a petition with the Department of Labor to obtain preference status for them within the quota. The necessary petition forms are enclosed. When completed, they should be sent to the Department of Labor for consideration. Upon approval of the petitions, authorization will be sent to the Consul General to grant Mr. and Mrs. Kuttner preference status within the quota and this will permit the Consul General to accord their applications prompt consideration.

The Consul General also states that Martha Kuttner, who is twenty-seven years of age, was registered under number 24,555 on September 13, 1938 and that her turn is not likely to be reached for several years. As the law does not accord the sister of an American citizen preference status and as Miss Kuttner does not appear to come within any of the categories of persons for whom the law provides nonquota status or preference status within the quota, there is no way to expedite the issuance of a visa to her. However, the Consul General has informed Miss Kuttner that she may call at the Consulate at her early convenience for a preliminary medical examination.

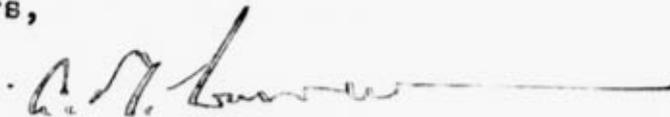
You are assured that the Consul General will accord

the

-3-

the cases of Mr. and Mrs. Kuttner and their daughter
every possible consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. M. Warren", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

A. M. Warren
Chief, Visa Division

Enclosures:

1. Two forms no. 633.
2. VD-General.

Efforts to Bring
People...

THIRTEEN SIXTY-ONE MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

My dear Judge Rosenman:--

I cannot tell you
how much I appreciate
the effort you have made
in my behalf, in trying
to contact my people
in Paris.

Anxiety about them gives
me no peace - and
your message to Mr. Biele
gives me hope for some
word in the near
future.

Thank you again

Very sincerely yours
Dorothy B. Coakley

June 28th 40

THIRTEEN SIXTY - ONE MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

June 17, 1940

Hon. Samuel I. Rosenman
Supreme Court Building
Foley Square
New York City

My dear Judge Rosenman,

When I telephoned the cable companies this afternoon, they informed me that messages were being accepted only at the sender's risk. This must mean that there is uncertainty, to say the least, about delivery. Consequently I believe that a letter to the State Department, as you suggested, would be the best procedure.

I hate to impose on your generosity, but I am asking that you write to the proper authorities for some news of Dorothy's family, who, when last heard of on May 29th, were in Paris. They are French citizens, two of whom were in the French Army. Inquiry should be made as to the whereabouts and safety of

Dr. Jacques Valles
Hopital Paturle
De le Cateau (Nord)
Paris

If he can be reached and asked to communicate with us, we would then learn the fate of the six members of Dorothy's family.

I need not add how much I appreciate your quick response to my request. It is another manifestation of your unfailing courtesy and consideration.

Sincerely,

Saxe

Efforts to Bring People ...

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 18, 1940

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Knopf, Anna M.

Dear Sam:

The Visa Division has given careful attention to the letters of Mr. Kalisch enclosed with your letter of November 27. It appears that he is anxious to have immediate action on the visa application of his fiancée, Anna M. Knopf, who has only recently registered at an American consulate.

Applications for immigration visas must be considered in accordance with their priority as established by the dates of registration. Unfortunately the law provides no priority for fiancées of persons already in the United States. While the Department is unable to estimate the length of the waiting period under the quota, there are indications that it may be brief owing to the difficulties being experienced by many applicants in obtaining exit permits and in making travel arrangements.

Mr. Kalisch

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
60 Centre Street,
New York, New York.

-2-

Mr. Kalisch may be assured that the case of his fiancée will be accorded every consideration consistent with the immigration law. He may wish to forward for her use the evidence of support described in paragraph 2 (b) of the enclosed information sheet. Such evidence may be forwarded by official pouch if it reaches the Department in an unsealed envelope addressed to the consular office concerned and bearing the necessary postage for ocean mail.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

1. Two letters from Mr. Kalisch.
2. VD General.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION (A-B
BUREAU (.....

ENCLOSURE

TO

LETTER DRAFTED

ADDRESSED TO

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman
.....

GERHARD K. KALISCH
5635 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

September 30, 1940

Justice Samuel I. Rosenman
444 Central Park West
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

First of all I must apologize for my troubling you time and again, and I do wish to assure you that I appreciate your generosity and the interest you have shown me so far. ~~and~~ I do hope that you will understand my position.

This time it is a new situation which requires your help if you deem it just and worthy of your interest. - As I have mentioned in some of my earlier letters, I have a fiancée in France. She is, like I, of German-Jewish origin; ~~and~~ she was studying medicine in France just before I came here in 1937 (she was enrolled at the University of Strasbourg). Both her parents were physicians in Germany and they both have come to this country where they are now living (Dr. Edward Knopf, 682 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, N.Y., tel. Maine 2-1545). Her father succeeded in passing his State Board examination, an extraordinary feat for a man of his age and he is now struggling desperately to build up a practice. He first started in Jersey City, but he had to interrupt ~~his~~ his practice on account of a very serious stomach operation. After the operation he did not succeed in reviving the practice and he decided to start all over again in Brooklyn at the address indicated. I am writing you this in detail in order to acquaint you a little with her parents and thus with her excellent background. As her parents have almost no money they decided to leave their daughter in France in order to enable her to finish her medical studies which are very inexpensive in France. They figured that they and I would bring her over after her studies ~~XXXX~~ and ~~which~~ ~~she~~ would have been in a couple of years hence. So, naturally, she did not register with the American Consul which fact turned out to be very dangerous and fateful. I hope I have succeeded ~~it~~ in presenting the story so far: my fiancée, Anna Margot Knopf, student of Medicine at the University of Strasbourg, France; I, her fiancé, and her parents, are in this country. Now, when the war broke out, she was evacuated from Strasbourg into the South of France. Then the French interned her as they did all "enemy aliens". Finally she was released by the French and then she was invited by some friends who live in Clermont-Ferrand.

Her parents, in the mean time, have procured her the necessary affidavits and they also have been able to get the money for her transportation (through Spain and Portugal to this country). They have sent her the affidavits and ~~XXXX~~ she has registered in the mean ~~XXXX~~ time with the American Consul in Marseilles. I must add that the correspondence between my fiancée and me and her parents is not very satisfactory these last months since many letters have been lost and since it is ~~now~~ now impossible to discuss freely one's situation as the French are being very severe with "enemy aliens", particularly with German Jews. Now it seems that

GERHARD K. KALISCH
5635 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

she will have to wait a long time before she can get her visa. However, ~~in a recent letter~~ to one of her uncles who is also living in this country, she has written a very desperate letter. I and her parents have not received mail from her for quite a while so this letter is the most recent news we have had from her. In this letter she tells in veiled language that she is about to be extradited to the Germans! And that would ~~mean~~ ^{mean} execution. So, of course, my request is now the following one: Please do use your influence with the appropriate authorities in order that my fiancée may receive a visa before it is too late. Now in order to justify this request, I should like to mention that in the first place the logical place for her to be ~~in~~ is in this country because her parents and I are living here. But I think that the second argument is a better one. The many German ~~XW~~ Jews who have applied for a visa are now stuck - they cannot leave Germany because they are not allowed to go through France, Spain and Portugal. In some rare cases they have been able to go through Russian territory - but very many of them were not able to use their ~~XXXX~~ visas. I think that it would therefore be justified ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ allowing Jews that at present are able to come to this country to get their visas immediately. I wish you would be able to help us in this ~~EB~~ critical situation. And I hope that I have made my request clear. The proper authorities are the Consuls, of course, and the Department of State, I think.

Please let me know whether you can do anything for ~~EME~~ her. In case you want to get in touch with her parents - you may be able to get some information I have not gotten yet.

Please believe me if I assure you that I am very sorry to bother you as I did - but I hope that you'll understand me.

Gratefully and sincerely yours,

Gerhard K. Kalisch
Gerhard K. Kalisch

*Please excuse my "lousy" typing -
I guess I am a bit upset. -*

Gerhard K. Kalisch
5635 University Ave,
Chicago, Ill
November 18, 1940

Justice Samuel I. Rosenman
444 Central Park West
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

as Will you please forgive me if I keep calling on you for help ~~IM~~ the only living person who can help me to-day? Some time ago I wrote you a letter concerning my fiancée who is at present in the non-occupied part of France but who, being a Jewish German refugee, is in very great danger since the French are extraditing German Jewish refugees to the Nazis. I realize that due to the elections you probably were busy and therefore had no time to answer my letter and I apologize for having bothered you at such unopportune a moment. Also the uncertainty before the elections may have made any request or a inquiry awkward. I am therefore now renewing my plea and I hope that now since the outcome of the election is known it will be possible for you to try and help me if you are so inclined and if you think it worth your while.

I shall now summarize the facts concerning my fiancée. She is a German Jewish refugee and went to France in 1933 or 1934 in order to complete her High School education and in order to study medicine. She lived in ~~FRANCE~~ Strasbourg, France until the outbreak of the war last year and then she went to the South of France. ~~XXXX~~ For a short time last year and at the beginning of this year she has been interned by the French as German alien. She is now free - she is living in Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome) in non-occupied France. She has been writing desperate letters ~~XXXX~~ telling me in veiled language that she expects to be extradited to the Germans unless she can ~~XXXX~~ come to this country. She was told ~~at~~ at the American Consulate of Lyons that she will have to wait 8 or 10 years before she will be able to come to this country. You realize ~~XXXX~~ that such a delay would probably mean that she won't leave Europe alive. It is true that she is not the only person in such a desperate situation - but in the first place the Jews in Germany proper are not in such immediate a danger as those in France if they are extradited (which would mean execution) and secondly only a few have the money to pay for their ticket so that ~~W~~ even if they do get the visa they can't use it. Also ~~many~~ many Jews in Europe if they had the money couldn't leave (e.g., from Germany unless through Russia) - but she could leave through Spain and Portugal. And the final point is that her ~~XXXXXX~~ parents are both living here in this ~~XXXXXX~~ country - in fact her father, Dr. Edward Knopf, is practicing medicine in Brooklyn, N.Y. (address, 682 St. Johns Place, Brooklyn, N.Y.) - well, her father is practicing medicine and I, her fiancée, am in this country, so this is really the logical place for her to live in. ~~She~~ She got into this present mess, because she didn't register in time with the American Consulate. The reason is that ~~she~~ ~~XXXX~~ wanted to

finish her medical studies in France because it was so very much ~~KXX~~ less expensive ~~KXXKX~~ than it would have been in this country and her parents are now very very poor. So you see that at present her situation is quite desperate and I should like to ask you again to help her - even if ~~the~~ ~~my~~ reasons ~~KXX~~ that I have just advanced are ~~XZKXX~~ not so very good. The simple fact is : Please do help my fiancée! We've got to get her out of the European mess before it is too late. There isn't much I can say to defend my stand, except ~~KXXaE~~ that I would like to save the life of the person I love most ~~KXXKXZ~~ in this world (outside of my mother) and I think you'll understand me. And as long as you can save a life: why not this one? There are so many people to be saved that one cannot tell where to begin: so why not begin with her? I very much ask you to do it.

Please do answer me if and when you have ~~KXXZ~~ the time. Please excuse my horrible typing: I guess I am a bit upset - I hope you will forgive me.

Gratefully and hopefully(?) yours,

Gerhard Kalisch

Gerhard Kalisch

Efforts to Bring
People...

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 811.11 Berman, Babette
HEMT/WL Samuel, Max
Sender, Max



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Stuttgart, Germany, December 29, 1938.

The Honorable
Samuel I. Rosenman,
Justice of the Supreme Court of New York,
New York County Court House,
New York, New York.

Sir:

I have your letter of December 5, 1938, with reference to your interest in the immigration visa cases of a number of aliens whose names will follow.

The Consulate's records show that Babette Berman, of Bergzabern, Germany, has been registered on the waiting list of intending immigrants of the nonpreference class under the number 25554 since September 16, 1938, and due to the large number of persons who registered before that date and whose cases will be entitled to prior consideration it is not anticipated that her turn will be reached until after July 1943. In the event that Mrs. Berman is the mother of a citizen of the United States, the citizen son or daughter should execute and file with the Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., a relative petition (form 633) in her behalf. This petition, when approved, would entitle her to preference status within the quota of the country of her birth and would enable the Consulate to expedite action upon her application.

Lena and Ilse Samuel, likewise of Bergzabern, Germany, have been registered under the number 25555 since September 16, 1938, and their turns will not be reached before July 1943.

The records indicate further that Max, Johanna,

Julius

- 2 -

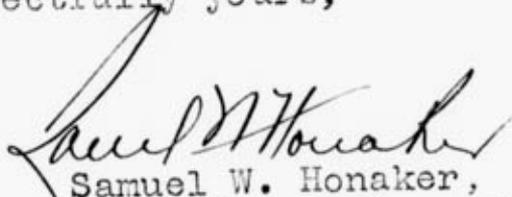
Julius, Herta and Leone Samuel, all residing at Erlenbach, Germany, have been registered under the number 18545 since August 31, 1938, and it is not likely that their cases will be in turn before 1942.

Max, Helene, Sally and Gretel Sender, of Konken, Germany, have been registered under the numbers 22716 and 22879, respectively, since September 9, 1938, and their cases will not come up for consideration until after July 1942.

It has been impossible to furnish you the foregoing information by telegram as you requested, since collect messages are not accepted in Germany.

You may be sure that these cases will be given every consideration possible consistent with the immigration laws and regulations.

Respectfully yours,


Samuel W. Honaker,
American Consul General.

Look up
this matter
& send this
copy

C O P Y

Efforts to Bring
People...

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
VD 811.111 Kalisch, Sophie M.

December 2, 1938.

My dear Judge Rosenman:

In the Secretary's absence I refer to his communication to you of August 12, 1938 regarding the cases of Mr. Gerhard Kalisch's sister, Miss Sophie M. Kalisch, and his mother, Mrs. Margarete Bertha Kalisch, who are desirous of coming to the United States from Germany.

A report on the cases of the applicants in question has now been received from the American Consul at Berlin, the pertinent paragraphs of which are quoted below:

"I greatly regret that owing to certain difficulties which were encountered in communicating with these applicants, the Department's instruction under reference was not complied with at an earlier date.

"The cases of Miss Kalisch and her mother are separate in the files of the Consulate General. Miss Sophie Kalisch's evidence of support was some time ago found to be sufficient to establish that she would not become a public charge, should she be admitted into the United States. She was, therefore, invited to call at the Consulate General on September 9, 1938 to make formal application for an immigration visa. For the reason that Miss Kalisch did not appear on this date and on subsequent dates, her invitation date was changed to October 5th, October 19th, and October 21st. Her father called at the Consulate General and informed this office that his daughter had been arrested on June 16, 1938. The charge upon which Miss Kalisch was taken into custody is not known to the Consulate General. A letter which has just been received from Mrs. Margarete

-2-

Kalisch states that on September 24, 1938 the Secret Police in Berlin refused to release Miss Kalisch from custody but that there is a possibility that she may be released in the future. The Consulate General will, therefore, keep in touch with the family and arrange for a formal application date for Miss Kalisch immediately that the authorities will agree to release her for this purpose.

"Mrs. Margarete Kalisch, who was born in Poland, was registered at this office on the waiting list for non-preference visa applicants under the Polish quota as of September 8, 1938, the first date on which she took steps to make application for a visa. Owing to the extreme pressure against the Polish quota and the great number of registrations made previously to Mrs. Kalisch's, there will be an estimated waiting time of at least two years before the Consulate General may take up her case . . .

"The Consulate General will keep the Department informed in regard to any subsequent developments in the Kalisch cases."

Sincerely yours,

ELIOT B. COULTER
Acting Chief, Visa Division.

The Honorable

Samuel I. Rosenman,

Blue Mountain Lake, New York.

Efforts to Bring People ...

SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22

January 22, 1962

MEMORANDUM TO FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

The attached correspondence is typical of the desperate effort made by many Americans through whatever channels they could to obtain the release of relatives trapped in the Hitler regime throughout Europe.