

Summer Welles Papers
Box 56 Folder 8
Office Correspondence
Thompson-TU 1939

January 30, 1939

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

I have your note of January 24 with which you transmit the appended letter from Mr. Pickett of the American Friends Service Committee in which he asks that Mrs. Roosevelt permit her name to be used as a member of the Committee sponsoring the establishment of student scholarships in this country for young people from abroad - this being a part of the movement to assist refugees seeking admission to this country. I note that Mrs. Roosevelt would like to have my opinion as to whether she should permit the use of her name in this connection.

The whole purpose of the Committee in sponsoring the establishment of these student scholarships seems to me so admirable and the project itself seems to be in the hands of public spirited persons of such high standing in this country that I can't see any reason why Mrs. Roosevelt should not agree to become a sponsor for the Committee. I believe Mrs. Roosevelt's cooperation would in fact be desirable from any point of view.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

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

SW:DMK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

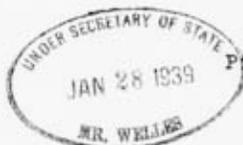
Expdunt

January 27, 1939

Mr. Welles:

Of the two sponsorships of which Mr. Pickett speaks in his letter to Mrs. Roosevelt I am not particularly concerned about the first. This is to sponsor a committee on student scholarships; the emphasis is on the scholarships rather than on the admission of refugee students and would not, in my opinion, give rise to misunderstanding.

On the other hand, I am ~~particularly~~ concerned over the invitation to Mrs. Roosevelt to sponsor a committee to aid the special group of children which it is hoped will be admitted by Act of Congress. Even though no connection will be announced unless and until a Bill is passed, I feel it will inevitably remain a controversial issue. However, I note, on re-reading Mrs. Thompson's letter, that her inquiry referred only to the first committee.



PM

Pierrepont Moffat

Eu:PM:ASD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDER SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

January 26, 1939.

See memo

Eu

Mr. Moffat:

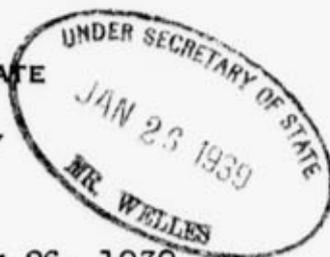
Before I send the suggested letter, which Mr. Messersmith has been good enough to draft for me, to Mrs. Thompson, for the information of Mrs. Roosevelt I should like to have your views and those of Mr. Achilles.

While I share emphatically the general views expressed by Mr. Messersmith, it would seem to me rather difficult for me to express the opinion to Mrs. Roosevelt that she should not permit the use of her name on this committee which is apparently composed of some of the outstanding people in this country and which, at the same time, is headed by an individual who is in such close touch with the Advisory Committee and with the Red Cross and who, I understand, is cooperating most effectively. I cannot see that a student scholarship project would be likely to create any particular ill will in this country - much less, in fact, than the proposal to admit a large number of children.

I should be glad to have your views.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
A-M



January 26, 1939.

Dear Mr. Welles:

I have prepared the appended reply which you may wish to send to Mrs. Thompson.

I am perhaps overly cautious but I have the very definite impression that before we are through with it we are going to have quite a bit of unfavorable criticism with regard to these movements tending to bring in refugee students and professors. There is already a good deal of feeling in some of our colleges and universities on the question of professors and I feel that this may extend in a measure to students. Then too, more and more attacks are being made on the ground that we are facilitating the admission of people in one way or another outside of the quotas. I think it would be just as well if Mrs. Roosevelt did not permit the use of her name in this connection.

G. S. M.

WJ
A-M:GSM:VNG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE UNDER SECRETARY

January 25, 1939

A-M
Mr. Messersmith:

PA/D
Mr. Dunn:

Please be kind enough to let me know what reply you think I should make to the letter attached herewith.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JW' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

U:SW:MW

COPY: VNG

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

29 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

January 16, 1939.

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

With regard to the two refugee committees that I mentioned to you, the first has to do with the Committee on Student Scholarships. This committee, having its origin with a group of students at Harvard, has now raised about \$10,000 and has secured about one hundred scholarships in various colleges and universities. President Hutchins, President McCracken and President Conant are among the sponsors. My understanding is that you are to consult the State Department and, if there is no complication there, you will be willing to become a sponsor.

The other committee is a public sponsoring committee for the special group of children which it is hoped will be admitted by act of Congress. The suggested committee is: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Cardinal Mundelein, Governor Lehman, Mrs. Grace Coolidge, Bishop Freeman and Clarence E. Pickett. I understand that, while you would be happy to join this sponsoring group, it is not permissible to announce your connection with it until the bill is passed.

I need hardly say how much we appreciate your interest in both of these matters; and, also, I wish to say that I feel you made about the most pertinent presentation at Philadelphia today that I have ever known you to do. It hit exactly the note that was needed here, and I wish to thank you for coming.

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE E. PICKETT

Executive Secretary.

April 14, 1939

My dear Miss Thompson:

With reference to your memorandum of April 6 and to the letter attached thereto addressed to Mrs. Roosevelt by Miss Eva L. Frohlich, if Miss Frohlich will give the name and the German address of her fiance it will be possible to obtain from the Consul General at Berlin a report on the present status of his application as well as an indication of the probable waiting period before he may expect a visa.

Plans that may be made to enable him to await his turn on the German quota list in some country of intermediate refuge may be affected by the probable length of the waiting period. Before I could make any specific suggestions it would really be necessary to have these facts.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

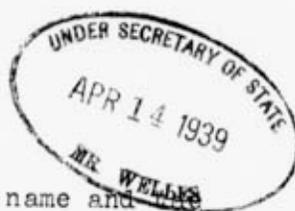
Miss Malvina C. Thompson,
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.

*Malvina C. Thompson
re: Miss Eva L. Frohlich*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
—
VISA DIVISION

April 13, 1939

To: U - Mr. Welles
From: VD - Mr. Warren



If Miss Frohlich will give the name and German address of her fiancé it will be possible to obtain from the Consulate General at Berlin a report on the present status of his application as well as an indication of the probable waiting period before he may expect a visa.

Plans that may be made to enable him to await his turn on the German quota list in some country of intermediate refuge may be affected by the probable length of the waiting period and before any specific suggestions may be made it will be desirable to have these facts.

C. D. Brown

A. M. Warren

VD:AMW:es

870

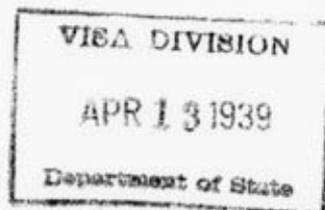
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE UNDERSECRETARY

April 12, 1939

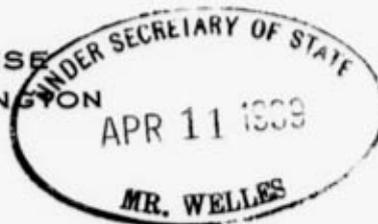
VD - Mr. Warren:

Please let me have a memorandum making the suggestions desired by Mrs. Roosevelt and have such action taken in accordance with her request as may be possible.



U:SW:IJ

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



April 6, 1939

My dear Mr. Welles:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks whether the young man mentioned in the enclosed letter could be advised to go to some other country through our Consulate and if there is any way in which he could be helped.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt

Honorable Sumner Welles
Under Secretary of State
Washington
D.C.

COPY

5006 7th Ave., N.E.
Seattle, Wash.
April 2, 1939

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

....

My parents had to leave Germany on account of their race, we four children are Protestants. The large factory my father owned - he employed 1800 men - had to be given away at incredible terms. We all have to work here and we do it willingly, conscious of being in a free and better country.

The only trouble I have is about my fiance's fate. He still lives in Germany and up till now all his efforts to get out were without results, though there is an affidavit given by a cousin. He was released from concentration camp only two days before our departure so that there was no time left to get married. His waiting number for the immigration quota at the American Consulate in Berlin is incredibly high. It would last more than four years until he is due.

Could you perhaps kindly show me a way to help him out of a country where he is pursued and in constant danger. I would be most grateful if with your help this deep sorrow would be taken from me.

We are all very glad to be in this wonderful country and admire you and the President deeply

Yours very sincerely,

EVA L. FROHLICH

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