

Sumner Welles Papers  
Box 71 Folder 3  
Office Correspondence  
McDonald, James G. 1941

August 26, 1941

My dear Mr. McDonald:

Many thanks for your letter of August 25. I am planning to leave on Friday for a vacation and I consequently will not be in Washington, I fear, when you next come to the city. I shall hope, however, to see you upon my return.

My kind regards, and believe me

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable  
James G. McDonald,  
Chairman, President's Advisory Committee,  
122 East 22nd Street,  
New York, New York.

MCDONALD, JAMES G.

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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  
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise  
James G. McDonald, *Chairman*  
Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, *Secretary*

George L. Warren  
*Executive Secretary*

GRAMERCY 5-1185

August 25, 1941

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

My dear Mr. Welles:

We are grateful to you for your letter of the 22nd and, of course, understand perfectly the reasons for the delay.

We are encouraged that the matter about which we wrote you has been the subject of further consideration by the two Departments of State and Justice, and appreciate your suggesting that the President receive us.

I hope to be able to be in Washington later this week or the first part of next. It would be helpful if I might then have an opportunity to talk with you further for a few minutes. I will telegraph your office when I know more about my own plans.

Sincerely yours,

  
James G. McDonald

August 22, 1941.

My dear Mr. McDonald:

I am more than sorry to have been so long delayed in replying to your letter to me of August 8. As you know, however, I had to be away from Washington for more than eight days and upon my return I found such an accumulation of urgent telegrams that I did not have a chance to get into the somewhat complicated question mentioned in your letter until the middle of this present week.

I have asked that the President receive you and your associates in his Advisory Committee and I feel sure he will do so in the near future.

I believe, however, that the point that has been troubling you has now to all intents and purposes been solved through an understanding recently arrived at between the Department of Justice and this Department. When you do come to Washington I hope you will let

Mr. James G. McDonald,  
President's Advisory Committee  
on Political Refugees,  
122 East Twenty-second Street,  
New York, New York.

McDonald, James G.

-2-

me know as I wish to have the opportunity of talking  
with you personally.

With my kindest regards, believe me

Yours most sincerely,

U:SW:GES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

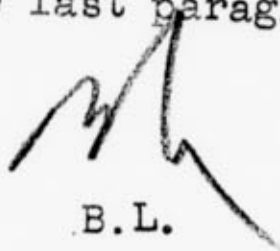
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

A-L

August 22, 1941.

U - Mr. Welles:

The President has not yet set a time to receive Mr. McDonald and his committee even if he has decided that he will receive them. Under the circumstances and considering the delay, I wondered whether you would not want to send the attached letter drafted for your signature which is a slight modification of the first letter and a new last paragraph.



B.L.

A-L:BL:SRW

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE UNDER SECRETARY

August 19, 1941

A-L  
Mr. Long: ✓



For reasons of expediency I would suggest that you personally advise the President of all of the facts relating to this situation which have occurred since last May and likewise of the agreement which has now been arrived at between the State and Justice Departments with regard to these regulations. I think it is owing to the President that he really know the background in some detail.

I would also suggest that the President agree to receive this committee in order that he may talk with them and indicate his approval of the policy pursued by the Department of State with regard to this question. I think it would be far easier for us to get a fully cooperative attitude from the committee if the President were to receive the members and talk to them as I have suggested.

Perhaps you will talk with General Watson so as to comply with the request contained in his memorandum to me of August 18.

If the President agrees with my recommendation, namely, to receive the committee, I shall appreciate it

-2-

if you will have the suggested letter to be sent by myself to Mr. McDonald redrafted so as to indicate in the concluding paragraph the willingness of the President to receive the committee and to talk with them.

  
L. S. W. DMK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE UNDER SECRETARY

August 16, 1941.

A-L - Mr. Long:

I am sending you for your information two letters I have received today from Mr. McDonald. I shall appreciate it if you will draft for my signature such replies as you consider wise.

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

U:SW:GES

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON POLITICAL REFUGEES

Hamilton Fish Armstrong  
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James G. McDonald, *Chairman*  
Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, *Secretary*

122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

August 8, 1941

George L. Warren  
*Executive Secretary*

GRAMERCY 5-1093

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

My dear Mr. Welles:

At a meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees held yesterday in New York, the members voted unanimously to send the following telegram to the president:

Your Advisory Committee on Political Refugees has been concerned over the recent State Department procedure on the basis of which refugees are denied admission because of close relatives left behind in German controlled areas. In fulfillment of our advisory function we venture to ask that before any proclamation or regulations are issued under the Act of Congress approved June 21, 1941, you will afford us an opportunity to discuss the problem involved with you directly.

SIGNED: James G. McDonald, Chairman, Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Paul Baerwald, Joseph P. Chamberlain, Louis Kenedy, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, The Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, George L. Warren.

As the application of the relatives provision in the issuance of visas was one of the subjects covered in our recent conference, it seems fitting that I should advise you of this action.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding, I should like to emphasize that neither George Warren nor I took the initiative in this appeal directed to the president. We both have been deeply troubled by the Visa Division's procedure but it was our colleagues who, because of their own personal experiences with the administration of the relatives clause, insisted that our Committee could not in good conscience refrain from asking the president for an opportunity to explain to him why we all feel that this unfair practice should not receive his sanction.

Sincerely yours,

  
James G. McDonald

August 7, 1941.

My dear Mr. McDonald:

It is singularly gratifying to have a letter such as yours of August 6. I am most grateful to you for your thought in sending it to me for it has given me a very real satisfaction. Thank you.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

James G. McDonald, Esq.,

The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences,

30 Lafayette Avenue,

Brooklyn, New York.

U:SW:GES

McDonald, James G.

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 6, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Welles:

During my recent absence from New York, which gave me an opportunity to meet a good many people from other sections of the country, I gained one central impression about the reaction of the average citizen to questions of foreign policy. It is that he wants and will support action which is incisive and unequivocal. He admires forthright leadership and is predisposed to approve each of the Administration's actions.

One of the most important reasons for this general willingness to follow the Administration's leadership is the widespread faith of the people in the soundness of the preparatory work done by the Department of State. As I wrote to the Secretary the other day, it is my conviction that at no time in our history has the Department been a more efficient instrument in the formulation and carrying through of our foreign policy. Despite the tremendous burdens you have been bearing, you must find solace in the general appreciation of the large role which you have played in making the Department what it is.

Sincerely yours,

  
James G. McDonald

**TELEGRAM RECEIVED**

FROM



76WU X 52 DL 4 Ex

PJ-Brooklyn, N. Y., 3:37 P.M., June 26, 1941.

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

In view new visa set-up Department of State, I believe it would serve useful purpose if representatives Department of Justice, Francis Biddle and Mr. Pritchard and of the President's Advisory Committee Mr. Warren and I might confer with you your convenience Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

James G. McDonald, Chairman  
President Advisory Committee.

10:33 p.m.

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 3, 1941

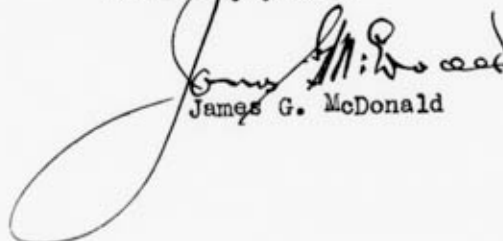
Honorable Sumner Welles  
Under Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Welles:

I should be very appreciative if I might come in to see you for a few minutes sometime during next Monday, June 9, when I must be in Washington in connection with the meeting of individuals and of organizations interested in the refugees in this country.

I would not ask to take any of your time during the current crisis were it not that I wish to ask your further advice about the radio suggestion which you and I talked about when I was last in your office.

Sincerely yours,



James G. McDonald

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

TO BE TRANSMITTED  
CONFIDENTIAL CODE  
NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE  
PART AIR  
PLAIN

Collect  Full rate  
 Day letter  
 Night letter

Department of State

Charge Department: XX

Washington,

Full rate  
Day letter  
Night letter

May 6, 1941.

Charge to  
\$

*48 gont*

The Honorable

James G. McDonald,

30 Lafayette Avenue,

Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. Skouros of the Greek Relief Committee will ask to see you today or tomorrow in order to discuss certain problems affecting Greek refugees. I will be most obliged if you can arrange to receive him and to give him such assistance as the Committee may consider possible.

McDONALD, James G.

SUMNER WELLES,  
Under Secretary of State.

*S.W.*  
*edg 55*  
*754P*  
SUMNER WELLES  
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

U:SW:GES

1941 MAY 6 PM 6 05

ART. AIR DEPT. STATE

Enciphered by \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by operator ..... M., ..... 19.....



April 21, 1941

T-321 B<sub>2</sub>

My dear Mr. McDonald:

I have now received a message from Ambassador Caffery in reply to the message I had sent him in accordance with our conversation of April 3 and to which we referred in my talk with you of last week. The Brazilian Government feels that, for the time being at least, it would be unwise to send European refugees to the Amazon region. It is the view of the Brazilian Government that such refugees would not remain in the Amazon region and that in these unsettled times, the Brazilian Government would, consequently, have "endless difficulties" with them.

I am sorry to say that I had anticipated that this would probably be the view of the Brazilian Government, but by this I by no means imply that the matter could not again be taken up more profitably at a moment when the world situation seems somewhat more hopeful.

I spoke with Mr. Bennett on the telephone this morning. I sincerely hope that the matter concerning which

James G. McDonald, Esq.,  
Chairman, President's Advisory Committee  
On Political Refugees,  
122 East 22nd Street,  
New York, New York.

-2-

you and he have spoken may be worked out in a satisfactory manner.

With my kindest regards, believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Sumner Welles

U:SW:DMK

A true copy of  
the signed original.  
at.

April 3, 1941

My dear Mr. McDonald:

Thank you for your letter of April 1.

As soon as I get word from our Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, I shall of course let you know. I shall be happy to discuss on the telephone the further question we spoke of when you were last in Washington.

My kindest regards, and believe me

Yours very sincerely,

McDonald, James G.

James G. McDonald, Esq.,  
Chairman, President's Advisory Committee  
On Political Refugees,  
122 East 22nd Street,  
New York, New York.

A  
March  
1941

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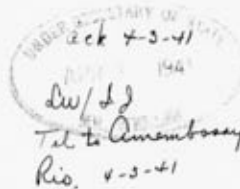
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Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, *Secretary*

122 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

George L. Warren  
*Executive Secretary*

GRAMERCY 5-1185



April 1, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Welles:

The enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Long summarizes my talk with him the other day. ( I expect to see Mrs. Roosevelt at dinner here Thursday night and intend then to give her also a copy of my letter to Mr. Long for her information.)

It was very good of you to see me last Friday and to say that you would inquire so promptly the attitude of the Brazilian Government in reference to Mr. Henry Ford's refugee suggestion which I reported to you.

I am particularly grateful for your expressed willingness, should your views be solicited, to talk on the phone about the radio project which we discussed. I expect to be in Detroit on Wednesday of this week. It may be that following my conference there your judgment may be asked by phone. If this is done, I hope that you will not feel it to be an imposition.

Sincerely yours,

  
James G. McDonald

COPY

March 29, 1941

Honorable Breckinridge Long  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Long:

I am very glad to have had the opportunity to discuss with you yesterday the important problem of the renewal or rather continuation of the unspent portion of the appropriation for our government's participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee. As you were quick to agree, unless the unexpended balance, approximately \$27,000, is reauthorized in the pending Deficiency Appropriation Bill, the President's hands will be completely tied. He would in that event have no choice except to discontinue our government's cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee. This, I know, he does not want to do. It was encouraging, therefore, to have your assurances that in the Department's draft budget being presented on the Hill this amount is included and to know that you are giving instructions that the matter be pressed to a successful conclusion.

It was especially thoughtful of you to be so helpful to Mrs. Guest. It looks now as though the last difficulty has been cleared up at Casablanca. She is most grateful.

Sincerely yours,

James G. McDonald

m:c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

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THE UNDER SECRETARY

March 27, 1941

Mr. Welles:

Mr. James G. McDonald telephoned this morning to say that last Monday he talked for 3 1/2 hours with Henry Ford and his colleagues in Detroit on a matter concerning Brazil. If at all possible he would like to come to Washington tomorrow to see you for a few minutes about the political aspects of this matter and also about the personal aspect. He would like a reply by wire.

10:45 A.M.

(30 Lafayette Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY.)

U:IJ



THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 24, 1941

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

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

I understand that before Mr. James N. Rosenberg sailed for Santo Domingo to take part in the celebration of the first anniversary of the establishment of the refugee colony at Sosua, he had raised through the Secretary the possibility of the President sending a telegram to Sosua to be read there as a part of the ceremony on Wednesday, January 29.

I promised Mr. Rosenberg that I would drop you this note to tell you that personally I feel it would be a fine thing for the President to do because it would give, as nothing else could, manifest proof throughout the Americas of our government's support of the Sosua project. Those of us who have watched the development of this refugee enterprise from the beginning feel that it holds out great promise not only in itself but also as an example of what might be done elsewhere in the American republics. A word of commendation from the President, therefore, would help towards the achievement of the larger refugee aims which he has repeatedly set forth.

Very sincerely yours,

  
James G. McDonald

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
THE UNDER SECRETARY  
January 25, 1941

Eu  
Mr. Atherton:

I question the wisdom  
of the President's taking  
the step proposed. What  
is your judgment?


UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
JAN 25 1941  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

17

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Wheeler.

Ev agreed that  
Mr. Bell advised the  
Sao Domingo  
anniversary & show  
U.S. continuing  
interest - I do not  
feel it necessary  
to go further into  
any gesture with P.A.

  
U:SW:FMB

January 28, 1941

My dear Mr. McDonald:

I have been thinking about the suggestion contained in your letter of January 24. It would seem to me that the continuing interest of the United States Government is demonstrated by our having sent Mr. Pell to attend the anniversary on January 29 as a representative of the United States. Under these circumstances it seems to me that a special message from the President might possibly appear to be more than was required to indicate our abiding interest in the project. I am anxious to save personal messages from the President for events of outstanding significance, and I am sure that he will be glad to send such a message expressing renewed interest in the refugee problem whenever some exceptional circumstance warrants it.

If you still feel that some personal word from the President is desirable because of the circumstances mentioned in your letter, might it not be possible for the President to send a letter to your committee expressing his gratification with the progress Sosua has made after the return of Mr. Pell and when the latter has been able to render his report? If you approve of this suggestion I shall be very glad to submit it to the President at the appropriate moment.

My kindest regards, and believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Sumner Welles

James G. McDonald, Esq.,  
President, The Brooklyn Institute  
of Arts and Sciences,  
30 Lafayette Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York.

A true copy of  
the signed original.