September 18, 1942

Dear Miss Thompson:

Your note of September 12 in the case of the Viggo Povlsen arrived in Mr. Welles' absence. I took the matter up with the various officials in the Department and am informed that everything has been done for this family that we could do. It is now a matter of their obtaining transportation, which we unfortunately cannot supply them with at the present time. There is the bare possibility later on, if we are obliged to remove our own civilians from this area, that we can take care of these Danish people. This, however, unfortunately is so indefinite that it is felt we should not hold it out as a hope.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to Mr. Welles

Miss Malvina C. Thompson, Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt, The White House.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 28, 1942.

My dear Mr. Welles:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to thank you for your letter of September 22nd in which you advise her concerning the matter mentioned in the report sent to her by Mr. Varian Fry.

Very sincerely yours,

Malvina C. Thompson
Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Hon. Sumner Welles
Under Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.
October 16, 1942

VD - Mr. Travers:

I have let Mrs. Roosevelt know that Mr. Warren is no longer Chief of the Visa Division.

Please look into the cases mentioned in the attached papers and draft some letter for me to send Mrs. Roosevelt telling her what action has been taken.

Sincerely,

Lill, Lill-Fink, Lotte and Helene
Lill, Lill-Meyer, Alfred and Hedwig
October 14, 1942

Dear Eleanor:

I have received today your letter of October 14 enclosing copies of letters sent by your daughter to Mr. Avra Warren with regard to certain visa cases.

Mr. Warren was appointed Minister to the Dominican Republic last summer and has now been at his post for some two months. I have no doubt that is the reason your daughter has received no reply to these letters.

I am consequently having the cases submitted to the present Chief of the Visa Division, Mr. Howard K. Travers, with the request that he let me have an immediate reply to these inquiries. As soon as I have a report on the cases, I shall, of course, be glad to let you know.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Sumner Welles

Mrs. Roosevelt,
The White House.
October 27, 1942

Dear Eleanor:

In reply to your letter of October 19, with which you enclosed a memorandum covering the case of Mrs. Eliot Pratt's brother, I am sending you herewith a memorandum regarding the matter which covers the situation and which also, I think, makes some useful suggestions.

If there is anything further I can do in this case to be of help, please let me know.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Enc.

Mrs. Roosevelt,

The White House.
U--Mr. Welles:

The attached memorandum answers the two points which Mrs. Roosevelt raised regarding George Wenzel, the brother of Mrs. Eliot D. Pratt.

Laurence Duggan

PA/LD:DMZ
PA/LD - Mr. Duggan:

With regard to the attached case of Mr. George Wenzel, I have ascertained from the Visa Division that although the Review Committee and the Board of Appeals have turned down his request for an immigrant visa, the Department of Justice is not deporting such people and that they are being allowed to stay on under further extension of their visitors' visas. Mr. Travers of the Visa Division has been in touch with the Department of Justice and has received assurances that they will do everything possible to arrange for Mr. Wenzel to remain in this country without further difficulty in spite of the fact that his German passport has lapsed. In fact Mr. Travers just telephoned me again to say that he has been in touch with the headquarters of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Philadelphia and has been assured that the lack of renewal of the German passport has nothing to do with the extension of permission to stay in this country and that in case there is nothing adverse found in Mr. Wenzel's file they will have his extended permission to stay in this country authorized within twenty minutes. Unless I notify you to the contrary, I think we can consider this matter confirmed.

Mr. Wilson in U-L has informed me that enemy aliens such as Mr. Wenzel may not enlist in the United States Army, but that they may be "voluntarily inducted". This involves a rather complicated procedure which can be explained to Mr. Wenzel by his draft board or Selective Service headquarters. This procedure involves submitting various documentation and recommendations to the local draft board which in turn passes them on to the State Committees which refer them through the regular channels to the Army for final action. Therefore, if Mr. Wenzel has not yet registered for the draft, I suggest that he do so in order that these procedures may be initiated, since it seems the only way he can get into the Army.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE UNDER SECRETARY

October 21, 1942

PA/LD
Mr. Duggan:

On account of your personal interest in this case, will you take the matter up and let me know what reply to make.
October 19, 1942

Dear Sumner:

Can anything be done about this case? The boy cannot go back to Germany, as he has been an active anti-Nazi here and it is known.

He would like to enlist in the army, but does not know how to go about it. He is in the draft age.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Theodore Roosevelt
George Wenzel was born in St. Georgen, Germany, February 10, 1917, and is now 25 years of age. His father is dead; his mother, two brothers and a sister are, so far as he knows, still living and living in Germany. Both his brothers are, he believes, serving in the German Army. He has one sister living in the United States, Trude Wenzel Pratt (Mrs. Eliot D. Pratt) 8 West 9th Street, New York, N. Y.

After graduating from school, he came to the United States to visit his sister; he arrived July 31, 1936, S. S. Bremen. Because of aversion to conditions in Germany at that time, he returned to the United States on December 13, 1938, S. S. Bremen, and has remained here ever since.

George Wenzel is in the United States with visitor's status. The period for which he was admitted has been extended twice by the Immigration authorities. An application for further extension filed in January 1941, has not as yet been approved; the difficulty is that his German passport has lapsed and he has to date been unable to get it revalidated. In the Spring of 1941 he tried to go to Cuba to secure an immigration visa enabling him to return to the United States for permanent residence but because his legal stay here had expired and his application for extension of stay had not yet been granted, he was unable, because of the Cuban regulations in force at that time, to secure entry to that country.

Since his return in 1938 George Wenzel has been studying at the University of Connecticut and at Massachusetts State College. He is greatly interested in scientific farming methods and expects to get a doctor's degree in agronomy.

Though he was not forced to leave Germany, George Wenzel has reason to believe that his return to that country would be dangerous. His sister Mrs. Eliot D. Pratt and he have both been active in Anti-Nazi
organizations and activities in this country and this is known to the German authorities. It is also known that before he left Germany he helped Jewish friends to escape from Germany. When in June 1941 he asked the German Consulate General in New York to renew his passport, it was very evident that he is persona non grata.

October 9, 1942.
Copied October 19, 1942.
SUMMARY OF VISA PETITION CASE OF

GEORGE WENZEL

In June 1941 George Wenzel asked the Common Council for American Unity to help him file application for Canadian pre-examination.

His brother-in-law, Eliot D. Pratt, and the latter's brother, George D. Pratt, agreed to serve as sponsors and filled out the State Department forms (Forms B and C) used for such purpose. Eliot D. Pratt submitted in connection with his sponsor affidavit letters of reference from Justice Felix Frankfurter and from Dr. Alvin S. Johnson, Director of the New School for Social Research; George D. Pratt's references were Professor Charles A. Beard and Congressman Joseph Clark Baldwin.

The sponsor affidavits and accompanying documents and letters were completed sometime in September; on the advice of the Visa Division they were, however, not submitted till November 11, 1941 as the Interdepartmental Committees were not ready to give consideration to petitions for advisory opinion filed in behalf of alien enemies. About the same time the other documents required in connection with an application for immigration visa were forwarded to the American Consulate General in Montreal, and application for pre-examination was submitted to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

In May 1942 the Chief of the Visa Division notified the Common Council for American Unity that the Interdepartmental Committee had decided it could not make a favorable recommendation to the American Consul General in Montreal for the issuance of an immigration visa to George Wenzel. As is customary, he and/or his sponsors were, however, afforded an opportunity to argue against this decision before a Visa Review Committee and on July 17, 1942 George Wenzel and his brother-in-law did so. However, the Visa Review Committee and the Board of Appeals confirmed the adverse decision of the Interdepartmental Committee and notice to that effect was sent George Wenzel and the Common Council for American Unity on September 2, 1942.