

Summer Weller Papers  
Box 164 Folder 6  
Europe Files  
Great Britain, Nov-Dec 1942

**BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

October 27th, 1942.

My dear Welles,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 23rd in which you informed me that the United States Government would be willing to allow the Polish refugees from Iran, whom it is hoped to settle in Mexico, to travel through this country en route to Mexico, provided that certain conditions were fulfilled.

I am informing the Foreign Office of the decision of the United States Government and am explaining to them the various conditions set out in your letter. The British Government will, I am sure, be most appreciative of the attitude taken by the United States Government in this matter.

Yours very sincerely,



The Honourable

Sumner Welles,

Under Secretary of State of the United States,

British Ambassador 10-27-42

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: October 14, 1942

SUBJECT: Transit visas for Polish refugees en route to Mexico.

PARTICIPANTS: The Right Honorable the Viscount Halifax,  
British Ambassador;  
Mr. Welles, Acting Secretary.

COPIES TO: S, A-L, Eu

\*\*\* 1-1003

The British Ambassador called to see me this afternoon at his request. The Ambassador once again inquired whether this Government would interpose any objections to the granting of transit visas to Polish refugees from Iran whom the British Government might arrange to settle in Mexico.

I told him that I had already stated in principle to Sir Ronald Campbell that the facilities requested would be granted by this Government and that I would give him a definite reply in writing. I indicated to the Ambassador, as I had to Sir Ronald Campbell, that it was clear that the Mexican Government would not be willing to bear any part of the financial burdens resulting from the sending to Mexico of these Polish refugees.

U:SW:IJ

October 14, 1942

A-L - Mr. Long:

Please have drafted for my signature some personal letter I can send to the Ambassador telling him definitely what our position is with regard to this question.

U:SW:IJ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: October 9, 1942

SUBJECT: Proposed immigration to Mexico of Polish civilians  
evacuated from the Soviet Union

PARTICIPANTS: British Minister, Sir Ronald Campbell;  
Acting Secretary, Mr. Welles

COPIES TO: S, A-L, PA/D, Eu, PA/LD, RA

10-9-42

\*\*\* 1-1403

Sir Ronald Campbell called to see me in the absence of Lord Halifax at his own request.

Sir Ronald left with me an aide mémoire attached herewith covering the reply made by the Mexican Government to the British Government in connection with the suggestion of the latter that Mexico permit the immigration of Polish civilians evacuated from the Soviet Union recently through Persia. I replied that I saw no reason why the transit facilities requested should not be granted by this Government but that I thought it would be well for the British Government to bear in mind the fact that the Mexican Government, from the position previously taken by Mexico in analogous cases, would not be disposed to bear any part of the financial burdens involved.

COPY

On September 18th the British Ambassador informed the Secretary of State that in reply to representations which had been made to them by the British Government the Mexican Government had expressed their willingness, subject to certain conditions, to receive an unlimited number of the Polish civilians who recently arrived in Persia with the Polish troops evacuated from Russia. The Foreign Office have now informed Lord Halifax that, for technical reasons, it would not in any case be possible to arrange for the transport of these Polish refugees direct by ship to Mexico. The Foreign Office have therefore enquired whether, in the event of it being decided to pursue the idea of accommodating some of these refugees in Mexico and of it being found possible to transport them from the Near East to New York, the United States authorities would be prepared to facilitate their onward journey to Mexico. The British Ambassador has been instructed to make enquiries as to the attitude of the United States Government on this point, and to express the hope that they will be prepared to give the matter their sympathetic consideration.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

October 6th, 1942.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

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THE UNDER SECRETARY

October 13, 1942

PA/M - Mr. Murray:

For your information.

~~Mr. Tolson~~  
~~Mr. E.A. Tamm~~  
~~Mr. Clegg~~  
~~Mr. Glavin~~  
~~Mr. Ladd~~  
~~Mr. Nichols~~  
~~Mr. Rosen~~  
~~Mr. Tracy~~  
~~Mr. Carson~~  
~~Mr. Egan~~  
~~Mr. Gurnea~~  
~~Mr. Harbo~~  
~~Mr. Hendon~~  
~~Mr. Pennington~~  
~~Mr. Quinn~~  
~~Mr. Nease~~  
~~Miss Gandy~~  
Mr. Keller  
Shankles  
hg

*du*

U:SW:GES



BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 9th, 1942

*My dear Mr. Under Secretary,*

You will remember discussing with Lord Halifax the other day the question of visas for Jewish children passing through Iraq on their way from Persia to Palestine. The Ambassador duly telegraphed to London on the subject and I enclose a copy of the reply which we received from the Foreign Office a few days ago. I meant to have given you this when I called on you this morning.

*Believe me,*

*Yours very sincerely,*

*R. I. Campbell.*

The Honourable  
Sumner Welles,  
Under Secretary of State  
of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COPY:                   Telegram No.5972 from London to Lord Halifax.  
October 2nd, 1942.

Question of transit across Iraqi territory of Jewish immigrants to Palestine has come up constantly in last few years and on various occasions His Majesty's Ambassador at Bagdad has asked Iraqi government to grant transit visas to limited numbers of persons who could not conveniently travel by any other route. Iraqi government have always refused and have made it clear that their action is due not only to their own dislike of Jewish immigration into Palestine but also to their fear of criticism from extreme nationalists in Iraq. Presence of large Jewish community at Bagdad whose relations with Arabs have already suffered from Zionist policy in Palestine makes it particularly desirable to avoid arousing racial controversy in Iraq and in circumstances we have not felt able to press them strongly but we had already decided in present case as Jews in question are all children to take matter up again with Iraqi government on compassionate grounds.

Please inform United States government accordingly and add that instructions are being sent to His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Bagdad to concert action with his American colleague.

You may also inform Rabbi Wise of position.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE:

October 2, 1942

SUBJECT: Uruguay's reply to British request regarding  
entrance of Polish refugees into Uruguay

PARTICIPANTS: British Ambassador, Viscount Halifax;  
Acting Secretary, Mr. Welles

COPIES TO: S, Eu, PA/LD, RA

\*\*\* 1-1401

SECRET

The British Ambassador called to see me today at his request.

The Ambassador handed me a memorandum which is attached herewith giving the reply of the Government of Uruguay to representations made by the British Government asking the Government of Uruguay to permit the entrance into that country of the Polish refugees now in Iran.

U:SW:DMK

The British Minister in Montevideo duly made representations to the Government of Uruguay enquiring whether any of the Polish refugees now in Persia could be accommodated in Uruguay.

The Uruguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs has now informed Mr. Stevenson that if the British Government were to put forward a formal request on the subject it would be studied with the greatest sympathy. He explained, however, that an influx of possibly some thousands of Poles into the country would raise very serious difficulties in connection with housing, feeding and maintenance of public order. The situation would be easier if the refugees were agricultural workers who could be settled in some kind of colony.

British Embassy

October 1st 1942.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE:

September 24, 1942

SUBJECT:

Alleged slaughter of Jews in Poland.

PARTICIPANTS:

The Right Honorable the Viscount Halifax,  
British Ambassador;  
Mr. Welles, Under Secretary.

COPIES TO:

S, A-B, Eu

9-24-42

\*\*\* 1-1403

The British Ambassador called to see me this morning at his request.

I discussed at some length with the Ambassador the statements made to me yesterday by Rabbi Wise concerning the alleged slaughter of Jews in Poland by the German authorities and informed the Ambassador that Mr. Myron Taylor had been requested to ascertain from the Vatican whether the Holy See had any confirmation of these reports. Dr. Wise had seen Lord Halifax before the former's conversation with me and had also requested the intervention of the British Government in this matter.

U:SW:IJ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE:

December 4, 1942

SUBJECT: Sending of Polish refugees now in India to Mexico by way of the United States

PARTICIPANTS: British Ambassador, the Viscount Halifax;  
Under Secretary, Mr. Welles

COPIES TO: S, A-L, Eu, PA/LD, RA

12-4-42

\*\*\* 1-1400

The British Ambassador called to see me this morning at his request.

The Ambassador informed me that the British Government was planning to send, in the immediate future, some 700 Polish refugees now in India, who had reached there from Persia, to Mexico by way of the United States. The British Government was anxious to know what, if any, financial assistance the United States Government would give so that these people might be cared for after they reach Mexico. The Ambassador reminded me that when the plan to send some of these Polish refugees to South Africa was under consideration, the President had expressed the thought that the American Red Cross could undertake at least a part of the financial responsibilities involved.

I told the Ambassador that the matter would be given consideration and I would let him have a reply as soon as possible. I told him that, if I remembered correctly, the credits which had been made available by this Government to the Polish Government had been based in part on the understanding that out of these credits the Polish Government would take care of Polish refugees, and that if that were in fact the case I thought that that was the best way to handle the matter. I told the Ambassador,

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which he did not know, that General Sikorski was going to Mexico himself in order to discuss the care in Mexico of Polish refugees, and that I believed consequently the matter brought to my attention by the Ambassador should be discussed with General Sikorski before he left.

December 4, 1942

A-L - Mr. Long:

Will you take this up with the Red Cross and let me know what their feeling may be as soon as possible so that I can make a reply to the British Ambassador?

U:SW:GES