

: DE BOURBON, RENE and MARGRETHE

Subject File "D"

Box ●

143

30. Oct. 1942 -

PSF
De Bourbon

325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

~~WTS~~
~~for~~ ~~for~~
D 3-42

Dear Mr. President

Ever so many thanks
for your kindness and
the wonderful weekend
I can't tell you how
much I enjoyed it
and how pleased I
was for seeing you again
Sir. I suppose

Marta told you
that we went together
to her doctor, who seems
a very nice man and
inspired confidence.

I think, Sir, we
ought to give him
another chance, and
then if she gets
worse, perhaps try

The Doctors you mentioned.
Poor Mária I'm so
sorry for her, and she
never complains - it was
such joy to see her
again -

Thank you once
more 'yours very
sincerely

Margaret de Bourbon



GRAND CENTRAL
ANNEX



The President of the U.S.A.
The White House
Washington D.C.

325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

*file
personal*

*Gen. ~~Lehman~~ De Bourbon
PSF 3-42*

December 18, 1942.

My dear Margrethe:-

I have spoken with Governor Lehman in regard to your husband and I feel sure that when the time comes he can be of very great use in French relief work. However, as you probably know, we are merely planning for that great event and can do nothing at the present time except to make a paper organization which would be put into effect at the first opportunity.

In other words, at the present time Governor Lehman will have only a very small staff of planners for the different countries where we hope to start rehabilitation as soon as they are freed from the German yoke.

Perhaps when you next come to Washington you will let me know a little in advance and bring your husband down here in order that I may introduce him to Governor Lehman.

Märtha had a grand time in New York and she tells me that you have not insisted on any peanuts for the top of her head!

I do hope to see you one of these days soon.

Very sincerely yours,

H.R.H.
The Princess Rene de Bourbon,
325 East 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

3-Dec 1942.

325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

Sir,

Dear Mr. President-

First of all René and I want to thank you ever so much for your help and kindness to Jacques, who is now since almost two weeks in "little Norway" training at full speed. He loves it and is very happy. As you always

are so kind to me, and
tell me you are my Grand-
uncle, which gives me
great pleasure, may I
Take the liberty Sir, of
asking you for judgement
in a cause which is
very close to my heart -
Peiri being French is
very eager to do something
useful for his country
now as you Sir, have
nominated Governor
deeman to help to restore

and specially feed Europe-
Beri thought that he
might be very useful in
helping over there.

What do you advise him
to do - Should he go
directly to Governor Seaman
and offer his services
for anything, he might
wish him to do over-
there or here?

I personally think
that Beri might be
of great help Sir.

He knows the language
and the country well
and I'm sure he would
be greatly thankful
if he could be of
any use here or there.

Please forgive Sir, to
bother you, just tell
Märtle what you think
and she will tell us—

Hoping you are quite
well and thanking
you for all your
understanding I am yours
very sincerely
Marye The

21-12-1942-

325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

~~Go to~~ "Mr. Boulton" 3-42

file
personal
BF

Sir -

Dear Mr. President -

Ever so many thanks
for your very kind
letter and all the
trouble you took, I
can't tell you how very
thankful both Ben
and I are to you - Sir.
Next time we go to

Washington I'll let
you know in time.

It was so nice to
see Märitia here
again. I always miss
her when she is away
as she is such a
wonderful friend -
I promise you, Sir,

no more peanuts on
her head, except, if
we should happen
to go to the Zoo
together, you must
tell her that.

Wishing you Sir, a
Very happy Xmas
and all the best
for the New-Year,
perhaps with the

peace and great
Victory for this
Wonderful country
We all owe so much!

With best love

your grand-niece-
or better, just niece-

Margaret -

To.



The President of the U.S.A.
The White House -
Washington D.C

325 EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK



T-231

En Cones "D"
3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

For preparation of a memorandum
on which I can base a reply to Princess
Rene de Bourbon.

F.D.R.

Letter to the President, 2-18-44, from
Margrethe, Princess Rene de Bourbon, who en-
closes a letter from the Countess Kotyebue,
740 Park Ave., NYC., 1-14-44, who wants help
in getting her son, John D. Sanford, out of
a concentration camp at Compiègne, France.

Amo
~~Baron~~ "de Bourbon"
PSF 3-44

March 1, 1944.

My dear Margrethe:-

I am enclosing a memorandum from the State Department in regard to Countess Kotzebue's son. Apparently the Germans would not send any of the Americans from the camp where he is, and I fear that all we can do now is to hope that they will let people from his camp come over here on the next exchange. Will you tell his Mother?

I do hope you will come down to Washington again soon and, in the meantime, do be sure to let me know if there is anything more I can do.

Always sincerely,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

H. R. H.
The Princess Rene de Bourbon,
352 East 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

P.S. Since dictating the above I have received the enclosed memorandum from the State Department in regard to Mr. John Densmore Sanford, which is certainly good news.

18 Feb 1944
Mr. President

Dear Sir -

Please forgive me
bothering you, but I am
including a letter from
the Countess Kolze who
I knew for years in Paris -
she is so very worried about
her son and I just feel
very sorry for her. I think
if he could be taken out
of the concentration camp
and exchanged somehow

the thing for himself and
his mother.

It was such joy to see
Maudie again - I

thought she looked so
very well - I often think
of you Sir, and greatly
admire all you are
doing for the humanity

Please accept Sir my
very best regards -

yours truly and devoted

Wm. J. H.



January 14.

740 Park Ave.

The President.

Dear Sir -

Orlando Y

beg of you to

consider the

case of my

you see in - frame

than W and you

who said to

protect your

property and

was returned -

Numbers of 1875

As American
nationals are
to be returned
to the Lybia
as it possible
he could be
included?

With apologies
for taking your
time. I am
Yours truly
Alfred de T. H. H.
American citizen -



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 29, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Repatriation of
Mr. John Densmore Sanford.

A telegram has just been received from the American Legation at Bern which indicates that the German Government has approved the inclusion of Mr. John Densmore Sanford in the current United States-German exchange operation. This is the case which Princess Rene de Bourbon took up recently with you.

*Copy of this memorandum sent to
H. R. H. The Princess Rene de Bourbon,
as enclosure to the President's letter of
2/1/44.*

hms





DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

REPATRIATION OF JOHN DENSMORE SANFORD

Reference is made to your memorandum of February 22, 1944 regarding Princess Rene de Bourbon's request for assistance in repatriating Countess Kotzebue's son, whose name according to our records is Mr. John Densmore Sanford.

Mr. Sanford, an American civilian interned at Compiègne, France, is fifty years of age. His case was specially called to the attention of the Swiss Government for consideration in selecting Americans for repatriation.

Subsequently, the Germans said that because of "technical difficulties" the Americans in the current exchange would be drawn from three camps in southeastern Germany. We made representations in behalf of Americans elsewhere, but have at the moment no assurance that any non-official Americans will be repatriated from other areas.

Further details regarding Mr. Sanford's case are given in the underlying memorandum.

Two copies of our press release regarding the current exchange with Germany are enclosed for possible transmission to Princess Rene de Bourbon.

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum of information regarding Mr. Sanford's case.
2. Press release no. 48.
3. Letter from Princess Rene de Bourbon.
4. Letter from Countess Kotzebue.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REGARDING CASE
OF MR. JOHN DENSMORE SANFORD.

Our records indicate that Mr. Sanford's American citizenship has been established and that he is reported to be interned at Frontstalag 122, which is a civilian internment camp at Compiègne, France.

For security reasons we were obliged to withhold from the current exchange with Germany certain Germans whose return was specifically requested by the German Government. Accordingly, we feel that we cannot insist upon the inclusion of specific non-official Americans in this exchange. Furthermore, we feel that to do so might so emphasize their importance as to convince the Germans that they are persons probably worth detaining for bargaining purposes.

On February 8, a week before the Gripsholm set sail for Europe, we arranged to have Mr. Sanford's case again called to the attention of the Swiss Government. Subsequently we received a communication emanating from the German Government in which that Government stated that because of "technical difficulties" (probably disruption in its transportation facilities) the Americans to be returned in the current exchange will be drawn from three internment camps in southeastern Germany. Since receipt of this communication, we have requested the Swiss Government, and through it the German Government, to endeavor to overcome these "technical difficulties" so that deserving cases of representative Americans, among whom is Mr. Sanford, may be given an opportunity for inclusion in the exchange no matter where they may be residing.

According to the terms of the current exchange agreement, the selection of those to be repatriated is to be on a compassionate basis, the aged and the infirm being given preference. We have not yet received the list of non-official Americans to be repatriated in the current exchange, but in view of the German Government's attitude in this matter as indicated above, we cannot hold out much prospect of Mr. Sanford's being included in this exchange.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

FEBRUARY 15, 1944

No. 48

The motorship Gripsholm left New York today for Lisbon under safe conduct from all the belligerents. It is carrying 18 members of the former French diplomatic and consular establishments in the United States, 26 German consular officials with their wives and families who came into the custody of the United States during military operations in North Africa, a German consular officer and wife taken in Italy and several hundred German nationals who entered the United States in 1942 from certain of the other American republics en route to Germany but who were unable to continue their voyage at that time. Other passengers include about 375 German nationals being repatriated on humanitarian grounds because of illness or other special circumstances and 131 seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, including 14 from Canada, who are being repatriated under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

On its return voyage from Lisbon the Gripsholm will bring back to the United States the staff of the former American Embassy at Vichy and of the American Consular Offices in the former unoccupied zone of France, together with certain newspaper correspondents and relief workers numbering in all about 156, as well as 95 officials of certain of the other American republics, all of whom since early in 1943 have been held in Germany. Some members of these groups who for illness or other reasons were unable to join them in Germany are expected to be added to the official party as it passes through France.

In addition to the foregoing the Gripsholm is expected to embark at Lisbon for return to the United States about 375 nationals of the United States and of the other American republics whom the German Government reciprocally is releasing for repatriation on humanitarian grounds, and a number of seriously sick and seriously wounded American prisoners of war who are being repatriated by the German Government in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. The Department of State has not yet received information concerning the names of the persons to be included in these last two groups as their selection will be made in Europe.

Lists of those being repatriated will be made public as soon as they are received.

On the voyage to Lisbon and return, the Gripsholm will carry Red Cross relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees as well as prisoner of war and civilian internee mail.

lms/

~~Gen. L. de Bourbon~~
PSF 3-44

March 13, 1944.

Dear Margrethe:-

I have just received the enclosed from the Under Secretary of State showing that Mr. John Densmore Sanford is not on the GRIPSHOLM. Apparently nobody knows why he is not.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

H. R. H.
The Princess Rene de Bourbon,
352 East 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

(Enclosure)

Margrethe



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Repatriation of
Mr. John Densmore Sanford.

On February 29, I informed you that the Department had received a telegram from the American Legation at Bern which indicated that the German Government had approved the inclusion of Mr. John Densmore Sanford in the current United States-German exchange operation. This is the case which Princess Rene de Bourbon took up recently with you.

The Department has just received a telegram from the American Legation at Lisbon which gives the passenger list of the exchange vessel Gripsholm, and I find that the name of Mr. John Densmore Sanford is not included in this list. The Department has no information to indicate why Mr. Sanford did not leave German-controlled territory to participate in the present exchange. Any pertinent information which may be received will be promptly communicated to you.



*file
personal*

Gen Louis de Bourbon

PSF 3-44

March 30, 1944.

My dear Prince René:-

I am delighted to know that you are about to serve as a Captain in the French Army but I shall miss seeing you over here.

For you it will be most interesting work and I trust that all will go well and that France will be really free again in a short time.

I hope that Margrethe will be sure to let me know if there is anything possible that I can do to help while you are away.

With all the good luck in the world,

Very sincerely yours,

H. R. H.
Prince René de Bourbon,
325 East 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

C
O
P
Y

325 East 57th Street

New York

27 March, 1944

Mr. President

Dear Sir:

Before I leave for Africa as a Captain in the French Army, I want to thank you, Sir, for all your kindness towards me. I have almost spent 4 years over here and I will always keep a deep feeling of gratitude to the country that became my second home. It is hard for me to leave my wife, but I know how very kind you, Sir, have always been to her and how many good friends she has over here - Two of my sons are also in the Army and I hope to see my daughter in Africa where she serves as ambulance driver.

We have all great hope that France will rise again with the support of you, Sir, and the U.S.A.

God Bless America.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) RENE DE BOURBON

Captain

325 EAST 57TH STREET WHITE HOUSE
NEW YORK
24 Mar '44
MAR 29 8 26 AM '44
RECEIVED

Mr. President

Dear Sir

Before I leave for
Africa as a Captain
in the french army
I want to thank you,
Sir - for all your kindness
Towards me. I have
almost spend 4 years
over here and I will
always keep a deep
feeling of gratitude

to the country that became
my second home. It is
hard for me to leave my
wife but I know how
very kind you Sir have
always been to her and
how many good friends
she has over here - Two
of my sons are also
in the army and I hope
to see my daughter in
Africa where she lives

as ambulance driver.
We have all great hope
that France will rise
again with the support
of you Sir, and the
U.S.A. God Bless
America
Yours very sincerely
Rene de Bourbon
Capt.

COPY

file personal

~~See Cases~~ "De Bourbon"
PSF 3-44

23 June 1944

Mr. President

Dear Sir:

It was so very kind of you to ask me to Hyde Park and I want to thank you Sir, for having given me such a nice time. It was so very nice to see you again Sir, and looking so wonderfully well. Maybe next week I will be staying with Martha in her new place in Connecticut, it will be fun seeing her again.

For the moment I am in Vermont staying with the sister of Lotty, she and her husband have a farm here. It is such a beautiful country with mountains all around.

Thanking you once more for all your kindness towards me Sir,
I remain

Yours very sincerely. niece

MARGRETHE

(Princess Rene de Bourbon)

23 June 1944

Mr. President

Dear Sir

It was so very kind of you to ask me to Hyde Park and I want to thank you Sir, for having given me such a nice time - It was so very nice to see you again Sir, and looking so wonderfully well. I may be next week I will

in the new place in Con-
nect, it will be fine seeing
her again.
For the moment I am in
Vermont staying with the
sister of Betty. She and
her husband have a
farm here. It is such
a beautiful country with
mountains all around.

Thanking you once
more for all your
kindness towards me
Sir, I remain yours
very sincerely niece

Margaret



The President of the U.S.A.
The Whitehouse
Washington D.C.

lms

~~Memorandum~~ 'D'
3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

De Bourbon

December 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

PRINCESS RENE DE BOURBON:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

F.D.R.

Transmitting carbon of memorandum which the President received from the Secretary of State, 11/29/44, in re repatriation of John Densmore Sanford. Original memorandum retained for our files.

December 9, 1944

WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Repatriation of John Densmore
Sanford

I refer to your memorandum of February 22, 1944, regarding Princess Rene de Bourbon's request for assistance in repatriating Countess Kotzebue's son, Mr. John Densmore Sanford and to my memorandum of February 28 and 29 to you on this subject.

The Embassy at Paris reports that Mr. John Densmore Sanford called at the Embassy recently and requested that the following message be sent to Allene Kotzebue, 740 Park Avenue, New York:

"Liberated September 1st working
in Paris. Henry at Farm. Farm intact.
Building and three chateaux all right
also Lucy. Love."

The message has been transmitted to Mrs.
DeKotzebue.

