AMERICAN INTERESTS IN GERMANY AND AXIS CONTROLLED AREAS

100148

THE EVENING STAR
MARCH 26, 1945

Nazis Reported Hiding 27 American Citizens

The State Department announced today that it has learned "through various reliable channels" of the "disappearance" of 27 American citizens who were deported by the Germans from occupied areas of Europe.

Every effort is being made to ascertain the whereabouts of these persons or to determine their fate, the department said.

Home addresses of the 27 were not available, but officials said that so far as is known, none of them had relatives in Washington.

The missing Americans and the places from which they were taken by the Germans were listed as follows:

Frank Abbott, Italy; Violet Bach, France; Louis Bellegarde, France; Helene Bulford, France; Rosa Busch-Lewy, Belgium; Theo Marcel Chunn, France; Roberta de Maunuit, France; Edward Henry de Neveu, France; William Franzoni, Italy; Jacob Harnis, Romania; Clara Kahn, France; Sara Kapon-Roussos and daughter, Greece; Sara Kardos and son, Hungary; Sumner Moore Kirby, France; Mrs. Leonora Kirouac, France; Netti Klein, Hungary; Herbert Lespinasse, France; Ida Modiano, France; Elibabeth Moskowitz, Hungary; Virginia Oliver, France; Szeslaw Paprocki, Poland; Ruth Hilde Schmidt and Karin Elizabeth Schmidt, Danzig; Marcelle Trompetter and daughter Betty, France.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
JAN 9 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
War Problems
SPECIAL DIVISION

January 9, 1945

WRB - Mr. Vance

In accordance with our recent conversation, I attach a copy of a despatch dated December 13 from the American Legation at Bern (number illegible) and of the Department's telegram no. 3112 of September 8 to the Legation at Bern upon which it was based.

It is believed that these documents may be of some interest to the War Refugee Board.

A. E. C.

SWP:AEClattenburg:BB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

WASHINGTON November 8, 1944

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

U. S. URGENT

ANKARA,

BERN.
3112, eighth

Please request Swiss Government to submit the following communication verbatim to the German Government:

QUOTE The United States Government is shocked to learn that the German Government is unable to find Marcello and Betty Trompetter, two American women who were forcibly removed from their home at Nantes, France by duly constituted authorities of the German Government. It is known that these women informed the German authorities who took action against them of their American nationality. Furthermore, representations in their behalf were made to the German authorities as early as November, 1942. Since the German Government is after all this time unable to account for them the United States Government has no alternative but to presume that they have been treated by the German Government as other Jewish persons who were forcibly removed from their homes and transferred to unknown destinations and like ~~[illegible]~~ most of those unfortunate individuals have either been put to death or relegated to a state of untold terror and misery which has generally led to death.

In the

00051

In the absence of incontrovertible proof that the foregoing assumption is incorrect this action of the German Government must be considered a further illustration of its flagrant disregard of the natural rights of persons and also a serious breach of the obligation voluntarily assumed by the German Government to apply the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention to United States nationals in its custody. The United States Government protests against the German Government's actionaand demands that henceforth all claimants to American citizenship be permitted to bring their cases to the attention of the protecting Power and that the German Government do not arbitrarily deprive them of the rights to which they are entitled.

The United States Government reiterates its publicly stated intention of leaving no stone unturned in its effort to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes. UNQUOTE

HULL
(AAB)

340.1115/62892

SWP:EJD/AEJ:MA 8/19/44 PD EUR LE

00052

CONFIDENTIAL

No. [illegible]

Via Airmail Pouch.

Bern, December 13, 1944.

Subject: American Interests - Germany
Refusal of German Foreign Office to accept from Swiss Legation Berlin text of Department's telegram No. 3112 of September 8, 1944, regarding Marcelle and Betty Trompetter.

The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Bern has the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 3112 of September 8 which was presented verbatim on October 5 by the Swiss Legation at Berlin to the German Foreign Office. The latter, as may be noted from the present enclosures, refused to accept the note which it described as "calumny of the worst nature worded in a way contrary to all established relations between civilized nations".

Although the following, in the light of the first paragraph of the Department's telegram No. 4154 of December 8 - 9 p.m., is without particular importance, it is believed it should be communicated to the Department for its background and as a matter of record.

On December 6, Mr. BISANG, Chief of the American section of the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, personally handed a Foreign Office note dated December [illegible] (a copy and translation of which are enclosed) to a Legation Secretary. In doing so he stated that this was the most unpleasant incident which the Swiss Legation had yet experienced with regard to the refusal of the Germans to accept certain notes because of the phraseology employed. After remarking, incidentally, that it took the Germans exactly fifty days to ascertain that the note, as presented by the Swiss, was unacceptable, Mr. Bisang declared that this action placed the Swiss authorities in a position where they would have to determine in advance whether a given note was so drafted as to be rejected by the Germans. In such a case, he remarked, the Swiss authorities, in the most effective representation of American interests, could, in future, only indicate to the Legation that they felt no useful purpose would be served by the Note's transmission to Berlin.

In

On December 7, during the course of a conversation on this subject with the Chief of the Federal Political Department, M. Pilet-Golaz commented to the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. that Minister Frölicher, after referring to the tenor of certain notes which both the American and British Governments had during recent months requested the Swiss to present to the German Foreign Office, pointed out that the substance of these notes was considered offensive by the Germans and that the Foreign Office had flatly refused to accept them. The Foreign Office, he indicated, was greatly concerned and M. Pilet-Golaz appeared to accept Minister Frölicher's indication that the position of the Swiss had been weakened in their presentation. M. Pilet-Golaz felt that the Swiss would be unable to present notes of this character without seriously jeopardizing their ability to protect our interests. He felt, moreover, that if the tenor of a given note was such as to jeopardize the Swiss in their position as the Protecting Power, the Swiss Government deemed it wiser not to present the note. He stated in conclusion that other means might be employed by the American Government for communicating such information to the Germans, and observed in this connection that the radio, for example, might be used.

Enclosures:

1. - Copy of Swiss Foreign Office note dated December 5, 1944, with enclosure;

2. - Translation of Enclosure No. 1.

File No. 711.5
GT/dmh
Original and Hectograph to Department.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 10231
dated December 13, 1944, from the
American Legation, Bern.

COPY
dmh

DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL
Division des Intérêts étrangers

B.24.35.- E/Jw.
No. 61097

Le Département Politique fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de faire savoir à la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique que la communication du Département d'Etat contenue dans l'obligeante note A.I. No. 9439 du 9 septembre 1944 concernant la ressortissante américaine Madame Marcelle TROMPETTER et sa fille Betty a été notifiée à l'Office allemand des Affaires étrangères par la Division Spéciale de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin le 5 octobre 1944 sous le couvert d'une note d'accompagnement.

Par note verbale R XII Zv 14373 Li du 24 novembre l'Office allemand des Affaires étrangères a fait savoir à la Division Spéciale de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin qu'il devait refuser d'accepter cette communication. Les raisons du refus sont indiquées dans la note de l'Office des Affaires étrangères que le Département Politique remet en copie sous ce pli à la Légation.

Berne, le 5 décembre 1944.

Annexe:

1 copie de note.

A la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique,
BERNE.

008 55

COPY
dmh

Auswärtiges Amt

R XII Zv 14373 Ld

Berlin, W.8, Wilhelmstrasse 74-76

Die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft, Abteilung Schutzmachtangelegenheiten, hat letzthin dem Auswärtigen Amt mit den beiden im Original wieder beigefügten Noten Nr. 1894 und Nr. 3512 den Wortlaut je einer Note der Nordamerikanischen und der Britischen Gesandtschaft in Bern übermittelt. Diese Noten der beiden Gesandtschaften, deren tatsächliche Angaben sich von vornherein als Verleumdung übelster Art kennzeichnen, sind von einer allen Gepflogenheiten des Verkehrs zwischen kultivierten Nationen widersprechenden Form abgefasst. Das Auswärtige Amt muss es daher ablehnen, von diesen englischen und amerikanischen Noten Notiz zu nehmen und bittet die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft, künftig von der Uebermittlung solcher Noten abzusehen, und ihm Noten der Feindmächte nur dann zuzuleiten, wenn ihre Fassung den im Verkehr zwischen kultivierten Nationen geltenden Gepflogenheiten entspricht.

Berlin, den 24. November 1944.

An die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft,
Abteilung Schutzmachtangelegenheiten.

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 10231
dated December 13, 1944, from the
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
Division of Foreign Interests

B.24.35. - E/Jw.
No. 61097

The Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that the Department of State's communication contained in the kind note A.I. No. 9439 of September 9, 1944, concerning the American nationals Marcelle TROMPETTER and her daughter Betty, has been notified on October 5, 1944, to the German Foreign Office by the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin under cover of an accompanying note.

By its note verbale R XII Zv 14373 Li of November 24, the German Foreign Office informed the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin that it was obliged to refuse the above-mentioned communication. The reasons of the refusal are indicated in the note from the German Foreign Office, a copy of which is herewith attached.

Bern, December 5, 1944.

Enclosure:

Copy of note.

To the Legation of the
United States of America,
BERN.

dmh

00057

TRANSLATION

Foreign Office

R XII Zv 14373 Li

Berlin, W.8, Wilhelmstrasse 74-76.

By its notes Nos. 1894 and 3512, the Division of Foreign Interests of the Swiss Legation has recently transmitted to the Foreign Office the contents of two notes from the North American and British Legations at Bern respectively. These notes from both Legations, the contents of which are, from the first, an expression of calumny of the worst nature, worded in a way contradictory to all established relations between civilized nations. The Foreign Office must therefore refuse to accept these English and American notes, and requests the Swiss Legation in future not to transmit such notes to the Foreign Office, and only to forward notes from enemy powers to the Foreign Office if their wording corresponds to the customs established in the relations between civilized nations.

Berlin, November 24, 1944.

To the
Division of Foreign Interests,
Swiss Legation.

dmh

000 58