CROSS REFERENCE ON CIRCULAR CABLES

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For circular cable #391, 3/24/44 to be repeated to Stockholm, Lisbon, Madrid, Ankara & Cairo re: President's Statement.

SEE: STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
Circular Cable

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICES.

The following relaxation of security rules pertaining to merchant shipping in non-combat areas is now effective. Information may be transmitted by plain language telegram or UNRESTRICTED pouch mail on such matters as; time schedules of merchant ship departures and arrivals, passenger lists, non-military cargo data, names, locations and destinations of ships.

The non-combat areas for this purpose are:
- North Atlantic Ocean, including Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.
- Arctic Ocean, Baltic and North Seas.
- Mediterranean, Black and Red Seas.
- South Atlantic Ocean between 74° west and 15° east longitude.
- Western coastal waters of South America to 65° west longitude.

Security rules pertaining to the following have not been changed:

Information regarding
Circular, June 11, 9:10 a.m.

Information regarding merchant vessels whose destinations are Cape Town, Aden, Balboa, or vessels bound to or from a combat area.

Information regarding troop-ship movements, secret installations aboard ships, and marine or war casualties.

GREV
(Acting)
(LMF)

G:UPARK:V:EB: OFS
CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL. 10 1944

CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

July 19, 1944

6:20 A.M.

TIME

DESTINATE

TO

CERTAIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICES:

All messages sent on behalf of representatives of
the War Refugee Board and messages relating to the
operations of the Board should be taken up in your
regular accounts for reimbursement by the War Refugee
Board in accordance with Section V-4B of the Foreign
Service Regulations.

Please submit by airgram complete list of all
messages which you have sent in the Board's interest,
as stated above, giving number and date.

Hull
Opt

FAIESTTE 7/6/44 SF WRB 4-9/8
PLEASE SEND CIRCULAR AIRGRAM TO THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICES:

Algiers
Ankara
Lisbon
London
Madrid
Stockholm
CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 16, 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

FOR THE PERSONAL AND
INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADORS AT:
BASILICAS, SAN JOSE, HABANA, QUITO,
SAN SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, YORK-IN-PRINCE, PORTUGUESE,
Havana, ASUNCION, MONTEVIDEO AND CUNEO:

With reference to previous communications from the Depart-
ment and the War Refugee Board regarding protection of refugees
with Latin American documents in German-held territory, you are
informed that pursuant to our instructions the Legation at Rome
has advised the Italian Government with respect to claims to
American citizenship by refugees in German-controlled areas as
follows:

(OB) The Department will undertake fully to investigate any
claims to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within
territory under enemy control, upon receipt from the Italian Govern-
ment of all pertinent information available to the Germans relative
thereto. The claimant must be presumed to be a United States ci-
tizen and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities
to which such citizens are entitled while any particular claim to
United States citizenship is under investigation by the Department
and until the Italian Government is specifically advised by the
Department to the contrary, with the exception that until the
Department

DECLASSIFIED

By H. F. Parks
SEP 1 1972
CIRCULAR, May 11, 7:30 P.M.

Department so authorizes financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended UNLESS:

You are authorized to advise the government to which you are accredited of the foregoing if you think it will help to obtain its effective cooperation in rescuing refugees with Latin American documents.

The Legation at Bern has also been instructed to request Swiss authorities to obtain from Germany immediate return to Vittel of previously deported refugees with Latin American documents. The Embassy at Madrid, pursuant to our instructions, has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittel.

It is essential that démarche of Madrid Embassy be supported by similar urgent representations of other American republics in Madrid on various points covered in our circulars of April 11 and other relevant communications. Please act accordingly and advise us of results.

Hull
(GLH)

Sent to: Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

电报号: 09/44

5/8/44

ADA 1-9 5/8
CIRCULAR AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN BOLIVIA, CHILE, COSTA RICA, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA

With reference to previous communications from Department and War Refugees Board regarding protection of refugees with Latin American documents in German-held territory, you are informed that pursuant to our instructions Legation at Bern has advised the Swiss government with respect to claims to American citizenship by refugees in German-controlled areas as follows:

QUOTE Upon the receipt from the Swiss Government of all pertinent information available to the Germans relating to any claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within territory under enemy control, the Department will undertake fully to investigate the matter. While any particular claim to United States citizenship is under investigation by the Department and until the Swiss Government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Department, the claimant must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled with the exception that financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended until the Department specifically authorizes such assistance. UNQUOTE

You are authorized to advise the government to which you are accredited of the foregoing if you think it will help to obtain its effective cooperation in rescuing refugees with Latin American documents.

The Legation has also been instructed to request Swiss authorities to obtain from Germany immediate return to Vittel of previously deported refugees with Latin American documents. The Embassy at Madrid, pursuant to our instructions, has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittel.

It is essential that demarches of Madrid Embassy be supported by similar urgent representations of other American republics in Madrid on various points covered in our circular airgram of April 10 and other relevant communications. Please act accordingly and advise us of results.

Yours faithfully,

May 6, 1944
3:50 P.M.
You are further informed that Honduras and Venezuela have acceded to all requests in our circular airgram of April 10 and that Cuba has informed Vatican of its readiness to recognize Cuban passports issued to refugees provided United States and Britain do not (repeat not) object. We have instructed Havana Embassy to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no (repeat no) objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Our London Embassy has been instructed to request a similar British assurance to Cuba.
CONTROL COPY

FOR THE PERSONAL AND INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADORS AT HONDURAS, GUATEMALA CITY AND SAN MARINO.

The following airmails have been sent by the Department to the American Ambassadors in certain South American countries and are repeated to you for your information:

March 21, 1944, 1:06 p.m. "Information has been received that there are in enemy-occupied Europe a number of persons holding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries including the country to which you are accredited. Our information is that in a large number of cases such persons are interned under conditions which are immeasurably better than the treatment they could receive if they did not have such passports. It is reported that without such passports, such persons would be transported to Poland and death.

The plight of these refugees was the subject of a memorandum presented to the Department by the Polish Ambassador in Washington on December 24, 1943, in support of the request of his government that this Government intercede on humanitarian grounds to save the persons concerned from deportation to Poland by interfering to prevent the withdrawal of these passports in cases in which they may have been improperly issued.

The following are excerpts from a report of Dr. Kullmann, Vice

Director

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept Letter: D-1172
By M.E. Parks Date: SEP. 1 1972
Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who has recently made an exhaustive investigation of the matter in Switzerland. It is estimated that 5,000 (passports) have been issued from Switzerland and it is known that others have been issued from other neutral countries including Sweden. Some informants estimated the total number to be as high as nine to ten thousand but some thought that it did not exceed 5,000. In Switzerland it (the securing of the passports) was organized by private individuals and reached such proportions that the Swiss Federal Government had to intervene. Legal action was taken against several of the organizers and at the same time enquiry was made regarding the authority of some of the representatives of the South American states to carry on these transactions.

There seems little doubt that the German authorities are aware of what has been going on but for reasons of their own they have hitherto not adopted a general policy of withdrawing the passports. While in many cases the possession of these documents has afforded the owners protection against persecution and even special treatment in some of the camps, in other cases they have afforded no protection at all and particularly so where the persons concerned were not interned. Originally the German authorities seem to have cherished the hope that the persons with these South American passports might constitute a basis for the exchange of German nationals in South American countries and it is not
not improbable that they still have vague hopes of this. Other reasons
have been suggested for their lack of consistency. Recently however
they have been making enquiries through some of the protecting powers
of the South American Governments concerned regarding the genuineness
of the documents and they have been submitting lists of persons concerned
with a view to verification UNNOTE.
Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee,
on the basis of the foregoing recommends that the Latin American
Governments in whose names such passports have been issued, be approached
on two points: (first) that the Governments should refrain from
withdrawing the passports which have been issued and (second) that if
and when the protecting power on the request of the German authorities
submits lists of persons with such passports they should instruct the
protecting power that the passports have been confirmed UNNOTE.
Although the Department does not condone the unauthorized issue of
passports, it does not follow that the Department should withhold its
intercession in a situation in which the lives of so many persons are
at stake. The Department and the War Refugees Board agree with Emerson
that where thousands of human lives lie in the balance because of war
conditions and enemy persecutions, appropriate steps should be taken
to avoid the nonrecognition by the Germans of such passports.

The Department understands that these passports, appearing on
their face to have been issued by competent officials, are valid until they are cancelled. While Department agrees that the Government to which you are accredited is entirely within its right in cancelling such passports, it urges that the right of cancellation be not exercised until the holders shall have reached a place of safety, so that the act of cancellation shall not be, in essence, condemnation of the holder to a terrible death. All that is here asked is that the Government to which you are accredited deal with the question at a time when it shall occasion the least possible measure of human suffering.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR.

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airgram, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such report as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

April
CIRCULAR: May 1, 7:55 p.m.

April 11, 1944, 11:00 a.m. "Minister Harrison at Bern has informed us that the Swiss Foreign Interests Division has advised him informally that the Spanish government had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bona fides of certain Latin American passports, held by internees in enemy-controlled territory, and that the Latin American governments have denied responsibility as well as any claims of the persons holding such passports. Please approach appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited and inquire whether it has received any such inquiries through the government of Spain or otherwise from the Germans with respect to the validity of passports held by such internees and if such inquiry has been made, please ascertain the nature of the response, if any.

In view of the perilous situation in which these internees find themselves, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the only way of safeguarding the lives of those unfortunate victims of Nazi persecution is forthwith to initiate through proper channels negotiations for an exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contembling such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such.
any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative
basis, this government is prepared to take full responsibility for
all arrangements necessary to route those persons to places elsewhere.

Proceeding on this basis, please approach the government to which
you are accredited with the request that it give its approval to the
Government of the United States approaching the German government
through appropriate channels with a view to initiating such negotia-
tions. Please also advise appropriate officials of the government to
which you are accredited that similar requests are being made of other
Latin American countries, it being the hope of this government that it
will be put in a position to initiate exchange discussions on a hemi-
pheral basis. Please also advise such officials that in any exchange
negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that
unquestioned citizens of the United States and of the Latin American
countries will be considered by this government as being, in a category
titled to priority over others.

Please also request the government to which you are accredited,
on humanitarian grounds, effectively to approach the German govern-
ment through
government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded, and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality in whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy.

In view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves, you are requested to act with the greatest possible dispatch.

Finally, we communicate to you, for communication to the government to which you are accredited, the substance of a cable which the Department has sent to our Minister at Bern as follows: ...O.5R. Although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1938 of March 20 may be an indication that
CIRCULAR, May 7, 1938.

But Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans that this government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons in German-controlled territory and that, in this connection, the United States considers that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries will be eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States.

For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to
CIRCULAR, May 1, 7:35 p.m.

Communicated to our Missions in the Latin American countries concerned.
We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information informally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 1954 of March 31 UNNOTE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR:

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airgram, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such reports as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.
April 22, 1944, 7:30 p.m. "Referring to the Department’s circulars of April 18, 11:00 a.m., and of March 31, 1:00 p.m., the following is the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who is now in Washington: JOINTLY According cables Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new commander Vittel Camp advised March 20 about 250 to 300 internees holding South American passports that they were not recognized by government concerned. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. Agency here has partial list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews previously put on list of veteran Zionists, Rabbis, et cetera, for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to Delta protecting power that these persons placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation URGENT.

In view of the imminent danger which faces these persons involved, and in the light of this Government’s deep concern for their welfare, you should communicate to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable response and active measures along the lines described in our circulars of April 18 and March 31 are needed. You may also wish to inform such officials..."
-11- CIRCULAR: May 1, 7:43 p.m.

-11-

Officials that in addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our circular circular of April 18, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter.

Hull
(GLH)

Sent to: Uruguay, Guatemala and Chile.

USB: GLYN: NG: OSH
4/30/44
Referring to the Department's circular of April 10, 11:00 a.m., and of March 31, 1:00 p.m., the following is the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Conference, who is now in Washington:

According to cables from London, the new commander of the camp advised March 20 about 680 to 800 interns holding South American passports that they were not recognized by government authorities. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. The Agency here has partial list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews. Previously put on list of veterans, Rabinowitz, et al., for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain formal assurance from Colonial Office that these persons were not placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation.

In view of the imminent danger which faces the persons involved, and in the light of this Government's deep concern for their welfare, you should communicate to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable responses and active measures along the lines described in our circulars are necessary.
of April 10 and March 31 are needed. You may also wish to inform such officials that in addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our circular telegram of April 10, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish Government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter.

Hull

Sent to: Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

WASHDC 10
4/10/44  Ana  vol.  37/48
CABLE TO MISSIONS AT COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, HAITI, PERU, NICARAGUA AND VENEZUELA

Referring to Department's circular airgrams of April 10, 11:00 a.m., and of March 31, 1:05 p.m., the following in the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner, which is now in Washington, D.C.:

According cables from London, Mr. Samuel advises March 20 about 250 to 300 internees holding British passports that they were not recognized by government assurance. It is alleged these persons, already isolated for deportation due to economic panic and despair, have been partially released, mostly Polish Jews previously on list of veterans, refugees, et cetera, for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to visas permitting power that these persons placed on Palestine exchange list. In order to stop off deportation. UNQUOTE.

In view of the imminent danger which faces the persons involved, and in the light of the Government's deep concern for their welfare, you are requested to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable response and active support along the lines described in our circular airgrams of April 10 and March 31 are needed. You may also wish to inform such officials that in addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our circular airgrams of April 10, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish Government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter.

The Government of the United States will not remain in indifference over the condition of internees in Europe. The authorization obtains provisions for the continued protection of the internees and for assistance to forwarding facilities to the United States. The Secretary of State has been advised.

April 13, 1939, 12:55 p.m.

United States to assure this Government that the internees in the United States will not become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you are accredited, willing and able to undertake a program for the care of internees, we shall be glad to have information.

[Signature]

[Classification]

Washington, D.C., April 13, 1939.

[Signature]

[Classification]

Washington, D.C., April 13, 1939.

[Signature]

[Classification]

Washington, D.C., April 13, 1939.

[Signature]

[Classification]

Washington, D.C., April 13, 1939.

[Signature]

[Classification]
With further reference to the Department's circular circular of January 22, 1 p.m., and subsequent communications on refugee matters, you are informed that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or -controlled territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General of the United States to secure this Government that the immigration children will not become a public charge.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you are accredited, willing and able to undertake a program for the care of children

DECLARED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By E. H. Parks Date SEP. 1-1972

DECLARED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By E. H. Parks Date SEP. 1-1972
Refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide these agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of that country would be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to that country.

Kindly approach appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and request them to give assurances to the Swiss Government of their willingness to accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to this Government. For the information of the Government to which you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

Should that Government be willing to make this humanitarian offer, please request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize its chief of mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country become available. The Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular officers.
Of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegraph whether this suggestion has been favorably received by the Government to which you are accredited and, if so, the number of children it is prepared to admit.

Hull

Hull

sent to: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Paraguay.

V robbed by
4/17/44
PROPOSED CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

With further reference to the Department's circular diagram of January 30, 7 p.m., and to subsequent communications regarding refugee matters, you are informed that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or controlled territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain its charge after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General to assure this Government that these children are not likely to become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you are accredited, willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, the War Refugees Board is confident that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of that country would be willing to grant entry. Should they prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to that country.

Would you approach appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited, informing them of the foregoing and requesting them to give assurances to the Swiss Government of their willingness to accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to this Government. For the information of the Government to which you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone approximately eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

Should that Government be willing to make this humanitarian offer, and if, as understood, it has no consular representatives in Switzerland qualified to issue visas, please inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that American consular officers are prepared, if it so desires, to issue as representatives of that Government, the appropriate number of
...mission visa and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to the country become available. The issuance of the visas would have to be executed either by a carte-blanche authorization up to a fixed number or on the backs of American consular officers preparing the applications for submission to the Ministry for approval. It would, of course, be incumbent upon the Ministry to inform the issuing officers of the form and content of the endorsements in the children's travel documents desired by the Ministry.

You may offer to transmit, via American diplomatic channels, any communications the Government to which you are accredited, may wish to send to the Swiss Government. It may also be stated that the special Representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation at Bern will be glad to cooperate with the governments of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegraph whether this suggestion has been received favorably by the Government to which you are accredited and, if so, the number of children it is prepared to admit.

The above children will go to:

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hotel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Flies

[Signature]

[Date]
AIRGRAM SENT

MJB

April 16, 7 p.m.

CIRCULAR

For the personal and information of the Ambassadors at Panama, Havana, Ciudad Trujillo, Bogota, Lima, Santiago, Montevideo and Mexico, D.F.,

With further reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent communications on refugee matters, you are informed that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-controlled or occupied territory, or to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe.

The authorization

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept., Letter, 02/20/72
By: R. H. Pack, Date: SEP 1 1972
CIRCULAR, April 16, 7 p.m.

The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General of the United States to assure this Government that the immigrating children will not become
become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you
are accredited willing and able to undertake a program for the

care of refugee children, the Delegation is confident that
it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with

data of the needs of refugee children in the country to which

you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and

request that they utilize the funds for the maintenance, education, and welfare of

any children to which they are able to contribute, should it prove necessary. Funds would undoubtedly be

available to meet transportation expenses for children to

that country.

Finally, approach the appropriate officials of the government to

which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and

request that they utilize the funds for the maintenance, education, and welfare of

any children in the country to which they are accredited, and request the

authorizing its chief of mission to issue the appropriate

order.
SITUATION, April 18, 7 p.m.

Several of the American vessels had to await the availability of suitable transportation facilities from neutral to the country concerned. The government may be informed that the special representative of the American Board attached to the American legation in Ibadan will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular officers of the other American republics in this as well as all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegraph whether this suggestion has been favorably received by the government to which you are accredited and, if so, the number of children it is prepared to admit.

HULL
PROHIBITED CIRCULAR AFFAIRS

With further reference to the Department's circular
airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent communications
of refugee matters, you are informed that the Department has
now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to
issue up to four thousand quota immigration visas to refugee
children without regard to religion, nationality or stateless
status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-controlled
or occupied territory, or to the availability of means of
transportation to the United States. The purpose of this
authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of
orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the
Swiss Government that these children will not remain in its
charge after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The
authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal
of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facil-
ities to the United States become available. Private sources
have posted bond with the Attorney General to assure this
Government that the immigrating children are not likely to
become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you
are accredited willing and able to undertake a program for the
care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident
that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with
adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as
many children as the Government of that country would be willing
to grant entry. Should they prove necessary, funds would un-
doubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from
Switzerland to that country.

Would you approach appropriate officials of the Government
to which you are accredited, informing them of the fore-
going and requesting them to give assurance to the Swiss
Government through their diplomatic mission in Bern that
they will accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in
a manner similar to this Government. For the information of
the Government to which you are accredited, it is conservatively
estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand
abandoned or orphaned refugee children. Should that Government
be willing to make this humanitarian offer, please request the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize the chief of mission
in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas.
and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country become available. The Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refuge Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular officers of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refuge matters.

Please report by telegram whether this suggestion has been favorably received by the Government to which you are accredited and, if so, the number of children it is prepared to admit.

The above telegram will go to:

Panama
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Colombia
Peru
Chile
Uruguay
Mexico

April 8, 1944
2:30 p.m.

cc: Miss Chmielus (for the Secret.), Abrahamson, Dubois, Friedman, Model, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Fehls, Stewart, Filey

Redline 4/6/44
For the personal and attention of the Ambassadors at Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Refer our previous communications regarding War Refugees Board.

Reference is made to Department's 1181 of April 7.

Minister Harrison in Pern has informed us that the Swiss Foreign Interests Division has advised him informally that the Spanish government had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bona fides of certain Latin American passports, held by internees in enemy-controlled territory and that the Latin American governments have denied responsibility as well as any claims of the persons holding such passports. Please approach appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited and inquire whether it has received any such inquiries through the government of Spain or otherwise from the Germans with respect to the validity of passports held by such internees and if such inquiry has been made, please ascertain the nature of the response, if any.

In view of the perilous situation in which these internees find themselves, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the only way of safeguarding the lives of these unfortunate victims of Nazi persecution is forthwith to initiate through proper channels negotiations for

DENNIS
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-71
By B. R. Parks Date Sep. 1 1972
Circular, April 11, 1941

For an exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places elsewhere.

Proceeding on this basis, please approach the government to which you are accredited with the request that it give its approval to the Government of the United States approaching the German Government through appropriate channels with a view to initiating such negotiations. Please also advise appropriate officials of the Paraguayan government that similar requests are being made of other Latin American countries, it being the hope of this government that it will be put in a position to initiate exchange discussions on a hemispheric basis. Please also advise such officials that in any exchange negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that unaccompanied citizens of the United States and of the Latin American countries will be considered by this government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons
persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internes of enemy nationality to which the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy.

In view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves, you are requested to act with the greatest possible dispatch.

Finally, we communicate to you, for communication to the government to which you are accredited, the substance of a cable which the Department has sent to our Minister at Bern as follows: NOT: Although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1983 of March 26 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are con-
considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that there should be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans that this Government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons in German-controlled territory and that in this connection, the United States considers that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries will be eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States.

For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to our Missions in the Latin American countries concerned.
-D- Circular, April 11, 11 a.m.

We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information formally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 19th of March 31 UN NOTE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR.

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airmail, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such report as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

Hull
(JOD)

Sent to Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

UNITED STATES
4/10/44
A. A. W.
FOR THE PERSONAL AND ATTENTION OF THE AMBASSADORS AT Tegucigalpa, San José, Quito, Managua, Port-au-Prince, Caracas, San Salvador and Lima.

Refer our previous communications regarding War Refugee Board.

Information has been received that there are in enemy-occupied Europe a number of persons holding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries including the country to which you are accredited. Our information is that in a large number of cases such persons are interned under conditions which are immeasurably better than the treatment they would receive if they did not have such passports. It is reported that without such passports, such persons would be transported to Poland and death.

The plight of these refugees was the subject of a memorandum presented to the Department by the Polish Ambassador in Washington on December 24, 1943, in support of the request of his government that this Government interests on humanitarian grounds to save the persons concerned from deportation to Poland by interfering to prevent the withdrawal of these passports in cases in which they may have been improperly issued.

The following are excerpts from a report of Dr. Mallmann, Vice Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who has recently made an exhaustive investigation of the matter in Switzerland:

1. It is estimated that 4,000 (passports) have been issued from Switzerland and it is known that others have been issued from other nations.
neutral countries including Sweden. Some informants estimated the total number to be as high as nine to ten thousand but some thought that it did not exceed 5,000. In Switzerland (the securing of the passports) was organized by private individuals and reached such proportions that the Swiss Federal Government had to intervene. Legal action was taken against several of the organizers and at the same time enquiry was made regarding the authority of some of the representatives of the South American states to carry on these transactions.

There seems little doubt that the German authorities are aware of what has been going on but for reasons of their own they have hitherto not adopted a general policy of withdrawing the passports. While in many cases the possession of these documents has afforded the owner protection against persecution and even special treatment in some of the camps, in other cases they have afforded no protection at all and particularly so where the persons concerned were not interned. Originally the German authorities seem to have cherished the hope that the persons with these South American passports might constitute a basis for the exchange of German nationals in South American countries and it is not improbable that they still have vague hopes of this. Other reasons have been suggested for their lack of consistency. Recently however they have been making enquiries through some of the protecting powers of the South American Governments concerned.
CIRCULAR, March 31, 1:05 p.m.

Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, recommends that the Latin American Governments in whose names such passports have been issued, be approached on two points, first that the Governments should refrain from withdrawing the passports which have been issued and (second) that if and when the protecting power on the request of the German authorities submits lists of persons with such passports, they should instruct the protecting power that the passports have been confirmed.

Although the Department does not condone the unauthorized issue of passports, it does not follow that the Department should withhold its intercession in a situation in which the lives of so many persons are at stake. The Department and the War Refugee Board agree with Emerson that where thousands of human lives lie in the balance because of war conditions and enemy persecutions, appropriate steps should be taken to avoid the nonrecognition by the Germans of such passports.

The Department understands that these passports, appearing on their face to have been issued by competent officials, are valid.
valid until they are cancelled. While Department agrees that the Government to which you are accredited is entirely within its right in cancelling such passports, it urges that the right of cancellation be not exercised until the holders shall have reached a place of safety, so that the act of cancellation shall not be, in essence, condemnation of the holder to a terrible death. All that is here asked is that the Government to which you are accredited deal with the question at a time when it shall occasion the least possible measure of human suffering.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR.

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airmail, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the Government to which you are accredited. Such report as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

HULL
(AAB)

Sent to Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Venezuela, El Salvador, and Peru and Honduras.

*RG:ULM* KG
3/28/44
B/CR FC HCA ARA VD HOLL
TO: Mr. Stettinius
FROM: J. W. Pehle

Attached is the text of a cable which I strongly urge be promptly sent to the American Missions in Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Venezuela, and Salvador. The proposed cable deals with the problem of Polish Jews and other persons now interned in enemy-occupied Europe who hold passports issued in the names of Latin American countries. For full details reference should be made to my memorandum to you dated February 21, 1944, transmitting a proposed cable to Minister Harrison at Bern.

The cable herewith proposed would instruct our Missions in the countries named to approach the governments to which they are accredited in an endeavor to secure their agreement, on humanitarian grounds, to take no action until after the war to revoke, cancel or otherwise impair the effectiveness of the passports held by the internees above mentioned.

The proposed cable is patterned after No. 81 to Lima, dated January 21, 1944 which contains the Department's reply to Lima's dispatch No. 8623, dated December 27, 1943. Paraguay's position, referred to in the attached proposed cable, is expressed in No. 588 from Asuncion, dated December 27, 1943 and No. 8190 from London, dated December 28, 1943.

Sincerely,

J. W. Pehle

L.S. L
LSLennessee 3/19/44
Information has been received that there are in enemy-occupied Europe a number of persons holding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries including the country to which you are accredited. Our information is that such persons are interned under conditions which are inexcusably better than the treatment they would receive if they did not have such passports. It is reported that without such passports, such persons would be transported to Poland and death. Reports have reached this country from Switzerland that the impression has been created that the Latin American countries, including the country to which you are accredited, in whose names such passports have been issued, are refusing to recognize the validity of such passports and that the German government intends on that basis to refuse to recognize the validity of such passports. This Government is of the view that nothing should be done which would harm the lives and welfare of persons holding such passports and firmly believes that all appropriate action should be taken to prevent a worsening of their condition. Appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited should be approached and urged, on humanitarian grounds, to take no action, at least until after the war, which would indicate that such passports are or may be revoked or are or may be considered ineffective or invalid. They should also be urged to take all appropriate action to advise the protecting power that the validity of such passports is not in question at the present time and that there is no intention at the present time of cancelling or revoking them. You may wish to advise appropriate authorities of the government to which you are accredited that the government of Paraguay has advised this Government and the Intergovernmental Committee that it has not and is not considering the cancellation of passports issued in its name and held by persons situated as above. In approaching the appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited, you should make it clear that although this Government does not condone the unlawful issuance of passports, it holds to the view, that where, as here, human lives lie in the balance because of war conditions and enemy persecutions, all such matters can and should be reserved on humanitarian grounds until after the war.