Pelope, Osvaldo García
July 31st, 1944

Miss Anne Laughlin
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, District of Columbia

Dear Miss Laughlin:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated July 28th, 1944, in regard to the Oswaldo Garcia Palomar case.

As Mrs. Hay is now on vacation and will not return before the early part of August, your letter will then be brought to her immediate attention.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

D. G. Ephrinson (Miss)
Secretary
Dear Mrs. Hay:

You asked in your letter of July 14 if in approximately a month we would again approach Mr. Barretto on the Oswaldo Garcia Palomar case.

We will surely have had a reply from Mr. Barretto within a month and will keep you informed. However, if there is no reply, I question that anything further would be accomplished by continuing the correspondence. I would suggest that your committee again take the case up with the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Laughlin
Special Assistant
to the Executive Director

Mrs. Irene O. Hay
Director of Case Work
Unitarian Service Committee
25 Beacon Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts
July 14th, 1944

Miss Anne Laughlin  
Special Assistant to  
the Executive Director  
Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.  

Dear Miss Laughlin:

Re: Oswaldo Garcia Palomar

Thank you for your letter of July 12th. We were not surprised to hear about the action, or rather about the absence of any action on the part of those concerned in the Palomar case. It has been this way all along.

Do you not feel that, in about a month's time, one should approach Mr. Barretto again to remind him of the case? Would you desire us to do so, or perhaps you would care to follow up on the case yourself, in view of your having written Mr. Barretto in detail on July 10th?

Sincerely yours,

Irene O. Hay  
(Mrs.)  
Director of Case Work

Irene O. Hay  
(on behalf)

Irene O. Hay (Mrs.)
Dear Mrs. Hay:

On receipt of your letter of June 28, I called Mr. Barretto in regard to action taken in the case of Oswaldo Garcia Alcena at the Council Meeting on June 22.

Mr. Barretto reported that no action had been taken on the case and suggested that we present it in writing. This was done as of July 10.

I regret that we have not been able to get a decision on this case for you, but I assure you that every effort has been made.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Anne Laughlin
Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Mrs. Irene O. Hay
Director of Case Work
Unitarian Service Committee
25 Beacon Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts
June 28th, 1944

Miss Anne Laughlin  
Special Assistant  
Executive Office of The President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Miss Laughlin:

This is with reference to your letter of June 17th, addressed to Miss Taft, in regard to the case of Oswaldo Garcia Palomer. We wonder whether you have heard from Mr. Barretto with regard to the Council Meeting on June 22nd. If not, perhaps you would get in touch with him again. We hesitate to do so direct as the more recent contacts with the Philippine authorities in this case have been handled by your office.

As you will recall, this is an old case of our Lisbon office and we are very anxious to bring it to as happy an ending as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Irene O. Hay  
Director of Case Work
April 12, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D. C.

ATTENTION: Miss Laughlin:

Re: Oswaldo Garcia Palomar

Dear Miss Laughlin:

You will remember that Dr. Dexter talked with you a few weeks ago about this case of the Philippine couple and their son who are now in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal and are anxious to come to this country. I believe you were going to take up the matter with the Commissioner of the Philippines to see what that Government had decided to do about helping these people.

I am sure Dr. Dexter told you that the Commissioner wrote us last August, saying that the Philippine authorities might be willing to pay the transportation of this family and arrange for all documents. We have not been able to get any answer to our letters since that time, even though I wrote that we had the passage money available.

We have been supporting this family for some months.

I should greatly appreciate hearing whether you have been able to accomplish anything and do hope you are successful.

Sincerely yours,

Rebekah L. Taft (Miss)
Acting Director of Case Work

RLT: DGE
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Dexter
From: Miss Taft

When you are in Washington, will you please try to see Mr. J. A. Barretto, General Secretary, Office of the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines to the United States, or someone else in authority, about this case.

Present situation:
There is $1400 in Lisbon for their transportation. Papers are needed including a financial affidavit. These should be given by the Philippine authorities.

Recent correspondence with Mr. Barretto:
7.29.43 Mr. Barretto closes the case, saying there is no hope for help from the Philippine Government.
8.27.43 Mr. B. reopens the case and says that if the proper authority can be secured, funds for transportation can be obtained.
8.31.43 Sent Mr. B. some information which he requested.
9.2.43 Mr. B. said matter was being reviewed and he hoped something tangible would result. Was sure there would be no difficulties in securing the necessary documents.

Since then we have heard nothing.
We wrote 9.3.43; 10.7.43; 2.9.44. No replies.

Confidential. The Friends have had difficulty getting answers from the Philippine authorities when decisions were involved.

Lopez. Before Pearl Harbor, in Nov. 1941, the Phil. Govt. arranged for the Lopez family to come over. The money was guaranteed by friends in Manilla and did not come out of the Govt.
Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Last March Dr. Robert C. Dexter, European representative of the Unitarian Service Committee, when on a visit to Washington, discussed with us the case of Oswaldo Garcia Palomer. Circumstances prevented Dr. Dexter from calling on you in person, and he requested that we discuss with you the above case. Miss Laughlin, Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, called at your office and discussed the case with you and Mr. Barretto, General Secretary.

The information given us by the Unitarian Service Committee, and which Miss Laughlin presented to you, is as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Palomer and their son are now in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal, and are anxious to come to this country. Fourteen hundred dollars is available in Lisbon for their transportation but certain documents are necessary, including financial assurances from your Government.

We have received numerous letters from the Unitarian Service Committee in regard to the Palomer case and, while it is not the general policy of the War Refugee Board to handle individual cases, we would appreciate your giving this matter your attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable J. M. Elizalde
Resident Commissioner of the
Philippines to the United States
1617 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Laughlin:ec 7/8/44
Dear Miss Taft:

Immediately after Mr. Dexter's visit to our office, I made an appointment and called on the Resident Commissioner of the Philippines. I had a conference with him and Mr. Barretto, General Secretary, and they assured me that they would do everything possible in the case of Oswaldo Garcia Palomar.

Since that time I have repeatedly called Mr. Barretto but he has postponed a decision. He assured me the case of Mr. Palomar would be brought to the attention of the Council when they met last week. Today he reported that, because of lack of time, they did not discuss the case but that it would be discussed at the Council meeting on June 22. If I receive a report at that time, I will communicate with you.

I regret I have not been able to be of more assistance but a reply seems difficult to secure.

Very truly yours,

Anne Laughlin
Special Assistant