

Requests for Specific Aid: SAMEK, J (Mas.)

000133

JUN 13 1945

Dear Mrs. Samek:

I have your letter of June 8, 1945, and am very glad to know that you have received news that your daughter is alive in Budapest.

As you perhaps know, the special visa program which was developed by the Board in collaboration with the Department of State was aimed principally at obtaining protection for persons in the hands of the enemy likely to be victims of persecution, and with the cessation of hostilities in Europe, the need for such protection no longer exists. Since regular immigration matters are not within the Board's jurisdiction, it is regretted that it is not in a position to be of direct assistance with such problems.

However, it is possible that a private organization may be able to assist you in your efforts to arrange to bring your daughter to this country. While I am not informed as to what immigration facilities are available at the present time, it is my understanding that a number of private agencies are qualified to assist in problems of this nature. I am enclosing a list of such agencies, and I suggest that you communicate with any one of them for such help and information as they may be able to give you in this connection.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph Samek,  
110-56, 71st Avenue,  
Forest Hills, Long Island,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

EBT:inp 6/13/45

000134

Mrs. J. SAMEK  
110-56, 71st Avenue  
Forest Hills, L.I.  
New York, N.Y.

June 8, 1945.

War Refugee Board,  
Office of the Executive Director  
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

In response to my appeal of December 28, 1944, regarding my daughter Miss VERA BARNA, resident of Hungary, I was favored with your reply dated January 5, 1945, informing me:

"..... that your daughter's name has been forwarded to United States Missions in Sweden and Switzerland for transmission to the governments of these countries, as a person to whom American consuls are authorized to issue a United States immigration visa upon appearance at the consular offices."

Although my daughter had not succeeded in reaching either country, now that according to communication recently received she survived the ordeal, I first deem it my duty to express my deepest thanks for your action. While it could not help my daughter immediately it gave me, her mother, the finest possible reassurance and encouragement under the circumstances then prevailing.

Together with my daughter I am now confronted with the changed situation of the present and I once more take the liberty of turning to you for guidance. My daughter still lives in Budapest anxious to join me here where we would long since have been reunited had Japan's attack in the eleventh hour not frustrated the issuance to her of the American immigration visa already approved by cable from Washington.

My present respectful inquiry is whether my daughter would be well advised to now make attempts to travel to Switzerland and/or Sweden or rather wait in Budapest till she can appear at the United States Consulate when reopened in that city with a view to receiving an immigration visa.

May I again express my profound gratitude for the excellent work done by the War Refugee Board, and thank you in advance for assisting me further.

Respectfully

*J. Samek*  
Mrs. J. Samek

000135

JAN 5 1945

Dear Mrs. Samak:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 28, 1944.

In reply, I am glad to confirm that your daughter's name has been forwarded to United States Missions in Sweden and Switzerland for transmission to the governments of these countries, as a person to whom American consuls are authorized to issue a United States immigration visa upon appearance at the consular offices.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director.

Mrs. J. Samak,  
110-56 71st Ave.,  
Forest Hills, L. I.,  
New York, N. Y.

BAK:ia:tmh 1-3-45

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000136

Mrs. J. Samek née Ilona Kiraly  
110-56 71st Avenue  
Forest Hills, L.I. N.Y.

December 28, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25., D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

I am taking the liberty of sending you enclosed copy of a letter I have written to-day to the Department of State, Visa Division, concerning my daughter Miss Vera Barna whom, in the absence of any news to the contrary, I must presume as still being in Budapest, Hungary.

I have addressed my original letter to the State Department because at the time of my one and only consultation with Mr. A. Ralph D'Andrea, attorney-at-law, in Newburgh, N.Y., I was left with the impression that the petition on behalf of my daughter would be filed there. On the other hand, Mr. D'Andrea in his letter to me dated November 11, 1944, and quoted fully in the enclosed copy, advises me that the information he is giving me was received by him from the War Refugee Board, and that it is likewise from your Board that any further information or notice may be forthcoming.

My respectful request in the circumstances is that you kindly advise me whether anything has been or may be done in the matter by the War Refugee Board.

With deep appreciation of your courtesy of a reply, I am,

Yours respectfully

*Mrs. J. Samek née Ilona Kiraly*

Mrs. J. Samek née Ilona Kiraly  
110-56 71st Ave., Forest Hills, L.I. N.Y.

enclosure

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COPY  
Mrs. J. Samek née Ilona Kiraly  
110-56 71st Avenue, Forest Hills, L.I. N.Y.

December 28, 1944.

Hon. Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Ref. VD 811.111 Barna, Vera  
Visa Division.

Gentlemen:

As the mother of the above named Miss Vera BARNA I take the liberty of referring to your letter of November 28, 1941, to my attorney Mr. Sidney L. Harrow, New York, to the effect that advisory approval had been telegraphed to the American Consul at Budapest, Hungary, for the issuance of an immigration visa.

Your letter's date bears evidence to the unfortunate fact that due to events following it shortly the approval came too late to permit my daughter's departure from Hungary.

Some months ago, on the advice of friends, I consulted and retained Mr. A. Ralph D'Andrea, attorney-at-law, 85 Second Street, Newburgh, N.Y., who pursuant to a telephonic inquiry made by him specially in this case, assured me that he would petition and obtain for my daughter Washington's action through the American Consulates at Berne and Stockholm. Several weeks later, and in response to my urgent request Mr. D'Andrea wrote to me under date of November 11, 1944 as follows:

"I am returning herewith the letter of Department of State dated November 28th, 1941, referring to Miss Vera Barna.

"I wish to inform you that I have been advised that the War Refugee Board has taken all steps necessary in advising the American Consulates at Berne, Switzerland and Stockholm, Sweden, to the effect that Miss Barna is entitled to a visa upon personal appearance and that further, her name has been submitted to the Swiss authorities in Hungary as our protecting power in order that steps may be taken to evacuate Miss Barna to neutral territory. If and when the War Refugee Board notifies me of any developments in this matter I shall be happy to notify you."

Since then an advice has been received here through the Red Cross that my daughter's address in Budapest has been changed, and instead of VIII., Baross utca 133 - which I understand Mr. D'Andrea submitted in his petition - is now VIII., Szigetvari utca 1. II. 36.

I thought it right to submit the above and would be immensely obliged being favored with your advice whether steps as indicated in Mr. D'Andrea's letter have been or may be taken.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your reply,

Respectfully yours

(Signed) J. SAMEK NÉE ILONA KIRALY

110-56 71st Ave., Forest Hills, L.I. N.Y.

Mrs. J. Samek née Ilona Kiraly

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