

Requests for Specific Aid: STEEN, FREDERICK M.

000245

MAR 9 - 1945

Mr. Frederick W. Stern
100 Forest Avenue
New Rochelle, New York

Dear Mr. Stern:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of February 7 and March 5, 1945.

In reply, I wish to state that judging by the statement of facts contained in your letter of February 7, Mrs. Marie Stern seems to be interned as a civilian internee. This fact, if correct, would indicate that German authorities are aware of her status as a holder of a passport issued in the name of Haiti.

I will add for your information that the German Government has been informed that persons holding passports issued in the name of Haiti, whether or not they have arrived in Haiti by a certain date in 1942, are eligible for exchange against Germans held in the Western Hemisphere. On the basis of these facts, Mrs. Stern would seem to be protected against enemy persecution pending her release by the German Government.

As for the chances of her early release and inclusion in one of the next exchanges, please be advised that the order in which persons eligible for exchange are actually included in current exchange groups depends solely on German authorities, and that no further steps can be taken for the moment in this matter.

Whether, after her release from Germany, Mrs. Stern would be allowed to proceed to the United States or to any other definite territory under the control of the United Nations, is a matter which is likewise outside the province of the War Refugee Board. If you wish, you might discuss the matter with the Visa Division or the Special War Problems Division in the Department of State. In connection with any steps you might wish to undertake in this direction, the documents attached to your letter of February 7 are hereby returned to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Enclosures.

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FREDERICK M. STERN
100 FOREST AVENUE
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
TEL. NEW ROCHELLE 6-3867

March 5, 1945

War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I wrote you on February 7th about exchange of my uncle, Mr. Albert Stern, and his wife, Marie Stern, born Ebstein. Today I have to report that Mr. Albert Stern died about the middle of January. I learned this from a lady who was, until January 25th, interned with Mrs. Albert Stern in Liebenau, Germany and who, being an American citizen, arrived here as an exchanged prisoner on the Gripsholm. Consequently, my application now concerns only Mrs. Marie Stern who is still interned in Liebenau.

I have not yet received any reply from you and I would highly appreciate hearing from you whether you find it possible to do anything in this case. I am told that the Germans are inclined to release the widow if the husband dies in internment.

Respectfully yours,

Frederick M. Stern

FMS/ems

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FREDERICK M. STERN
100 FOREST AVENUE
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
TEL. NEW ROCHELLE 6-3867

February 7, 1945

War Refugee Board
U. S. Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Re; Exchange Albert Stern and
Gentlemen: Marie Stern, born Ebstein (Mrs. Albert Stern)

I herewith ask you for your kind intervention in the following case:

I have an uncle, Albert Stern, 84 years of age, who is a brother of my late father. His wife, Marie Stern, born Ebstein, is 66 years of age. They emigrated from Germany to Holland in 1936 and lost their German nationality by a German decree depriving all emigrated Jews of their citizenship. In April or May 1940 Mr. Albert Stern, at that time residing at 193 Apollolaan, Amsterdam, Netherlands, acquired for himself and his wife the citizenship of Haiti. I have been informed that in cases like those of Mr. and Mrs. Stern, the government of Haiti does not recognize the citizenship at present except for those who arrived in Haiti by a certain date in 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stern have made every possible effort to comply with this regulation but for reasons beyond their control they have so far not succeeded. (I had even paid for their steamer tickets in 1940).

In 1943, they were taken from their home in Amsterdam and interned. Mr. Albert Stern is now interned in the camp for Civilian Internees in Lauffen, Ilag VII/H, Upper Bavaria. His internee number is 821. Mrs. Marie Stern is interned in St. Josefshaus 1/5 at Liebenau, Post Tettnang, Wurttemberg. She has no number. They are permitted to correspond as prisoners of war. The Swiss government, as protective power for the interests of Haiti in Germany and German occupied territories, is protecting them as Haitian citizens, although it appears that Haiti is not willing to admit them.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stern have asked me to bring about their liberation. Upon medical examination, they have received the German exit permits for "America" (as Mrs. Stern expresses it in one of her letters).

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I have obtained for them an entry permit from the Swedish government by the intervention of a friend, Mr. Franz Mockrauer in Stockholm, under my personal guarantee and promise of payments for the living expenses in Sweden, given under U. S. Treasury Licenses Nos. NY-595445-R dated January 25, 1944, NY-646161-R dated September 11, 1944, and NY-672875-R dated January 25, 1945. I enclose photostats of the last two licenses. I learned from Mr. Mockrauer that Mr. Gosta Lundin, the Swedish Manager of the German main office of the Aid for Prisoners of War of the YMCA, as well as the International Red Cross, have been fully informed about this case and have been asked to take an interest in it.

Furthermore, I have been informed that Mr. Zeev William Stern, a son of Albert Stern, has procured for his parents Palestine certificates. Both possibilities, however, seem to be useless for Albert and Marie Stern because their German exit permit is ^{possibly} valid only for exchange to America.

The aforementioned Zeev William Stern is a farmer in Ramot Hashavim, Post Ramataim, Palestine. Furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. Stern have a daughter, Mrs. Eva Friedlander, 4 A Wilmslow Road, Diagsbury, Manchester, England. Mrs. Friedlander is a British subject, her husband being a physician in the British army now serving in the Far East.

I herewith ask the War Refugee Board to kindly bring about the liberation of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stern in the best way possible. I suggest that in order to comply with the German exit permit, a temporary entry be given for the United States with the understanding that they would later on go to live with either their son in Palestine or their daughter in England, a condition they certainly would be glad to accept. Indeed, it would be most satisfactory if, by use of a permit of entry into the United States by way of exchange or otherwise, Mr. and Mrs. Stern could enter Switzerland for a temporary stay until they would be able to go to England or Palestine. Lauffen and Liebenau, where Mr. and Mrs. Stern are interned, are not far from the Swiss border.

I am willing to give a guarantee for all expenses of any kind which may arise, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of the liberation of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stern and for their transportation and living expenses, without any limitation. I enclose a letter from the Irving Trust Company regarding my financial position and showing that Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stern have a cash balance of about \$78,000 in their names in that bank.

I am an American citizen. I shall be glad to give any further information, declaration, guarantee or payment upon request. I would be glad to discuss the matter personally with your officials at any time.

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Expressing my warmest thanks in anticipation of your
very kind efforts, I am

Respectfully yours,

Frederick W. Allen

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