

TUCKER, SOLOMON (DR.)

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*Correspondence, Dr. Salomon Tocker*

*WJC*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Ad Hoc Unit

April 28, 1944

Re: Dr. Salomon Tocker,  
951 East 179th St.,  
Bronx, New York.

or 1322 Somerset Place, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

The following information relative to the subject is contained in our files:

On December 4, 1942, the subject filed application No. NY 488973 (giving his New York address) in which he asked that his bank account with Manufacturers Trust Company of New York be accorded the privileges of General License No. 42. Green slips were sent to the subject with reference to this application for further information as to his background. The subject in reply stated that he is a Polish citizen and arrived in Paraguay in July 1940; that while in Paraguay he had been connected with one H. Peterson in a small import business and also had been connected with one Guenther Herzberg in an agency for travelers, giving advice on visa permissions and booking of railway and steamship tickets; that he left Paraguay in August 1942 and came to the United States under an immigration visa; that he arrived in New York in October 1942, and at the end of November 1942 he came to Washington, D. C. in search of a job; that he is in Washington at present making contacts for a position with some official agency of a foreign government or with some agency dealing with South America; that his reason for seeking this type of employment is because of his knowledge of foreign languages and because he is an economist and analyst of International affairs. On March 24, 1943, the subject's account at the Manufacturers Trust Company was generally licensed. At that time, said account contained \$170.

At the time the subject requested that his account be generally licensed, he filed a TFR-300, Series L, in which he reported \$607 in assets.

On January 5, 1943, the World Trade Intelligence informed this office that they had no information in their files concerning the subject and Guenther Herzberg. The Mission sent the message to World Trade Intelligence stating that H. Peterson was a satisfactory consignee for American goods. His rating is O.K. No mention was made of the subject's connection with the firm.

On October 7, 1942, about the time that the subject arrived in this country, one Antoin Sch., Peru Requena International, Asuncion, Paraguay, wrote to one Senora L. V. Henreid at 436 No. Rockingham Ave., Los Angeles, California. The writer made the following statement:

"My sister is still waiting for her visa and obviously she must wait a long time yet. On the other hand, a very shady character has been here and this individual had everything fixed up in a comparatively short time and has gone. ...I want to warn you against this man. He has very good references and connections with all sorts of people. His name is Dr. S. Tocker."

*Letter to Mr. Algon  
files*

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Quite a number of intercepts in our files relative to the subject are written in a very vague manner so that their meaning is hard to make out; but, examiner's notes in all of them indicate that the subject is a very shady individual. The following examiner's note in despatch NY PIN 3928 is an example of this:

"Previous communications show that the writer, who immigrated to the United States from Paraguay, has numerous contacts with individuals in Asuncion. He writes regularly to Gilli Herzberg, Dr. G. Herzberg, Isi Jacob and Professor Erika Miles. Writer's style and manner of writing are purposely vague and misleading and communications are often disguised as purely business letters. The sum total of communications have shown more and more clearly that the central business that the writer and his associates is engaged in is that of falsification of papers for identification for the purpose of immigration of individuals to Paraguay from Europe. Tocker is plainly the brains of the concern; his associates in Paraguay merely carry out his orders. They are backed by plenty of money in the United States. The relations of the prospective immigrants are mostly in the United States, moreover Tocker has contacts with numerous influential Paraguayans from the President down. Photographs of the individuals in question are sent to Paraguay; in a different letter Dr. Tocker sends their descriptions with full instructions how to set up the documents. This is mostly done by Saego, Krebs and 'the little doctor' appear as 'go-betweens', who travel across a border. Artur, who is mentioned in every letter, appears to be either in Argentina or Portugal. It appears probable that the individuals who immigrate to Paraguay will rapidly be able to obtain Paraguayan citizenship due to Tocker's numerous political connections there and will then attempt to come to the United States."

A further check of intercepts at the Office of Censorship revealed that the subject in all of his correspondence continually uses both of his addresses noted above. Correspondence in 1944 seems to indicate that the subject is connected with HIAS and with the World Jewish Congress.

cc: Mr. Lesser

S. Goldblatt: hm 4/28/44

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April 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Mr. Berle  
FROM: J. W. Pehle

The World Jewish Congress, of 330 West 42nd Street, New York, has informed the War Refugee Board of its desire to send Dr. Solomon Tocker to various countries in Latin America, to work as representative of the World Jewish Congress in connection with that organization's action to rescue Jews from German occupied areas in Europe. The Board is informed by the World Jewish Congress that Dr. Tocker has lived many years in Latin American countries, has a perfect command of Spanish, enjoys excellent connections in Latin America and therefore, would be of distinct value in furthering refugee rescue work in that area.

As you know, the War Refugee Board is desirous of using the services of any private agency which can assist it in rescuing Jews of Europe who are in danger of imminent death. Accordingly, the Board wishes to register its approval of the proposed journey of Dr. Tocker and would appreciate anything that could be done to facilitate this journey.

More particularly, the Board would request the Department's cooperation in granting Dr. Tocker the necessary re-entry permit to enable him to return to this country. Dr. Tocker is a Polish citizen, admitted to this country as a quota immigrant, and has filed his declaration of intention in view of obtaining American citizenship. It is understood that he has already filed his application for a re-entry permit with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

You are aware, of course, of the extreme urgency of rescuing European Jews in German-controlled territory, and of the importance of gaining the cooperation of Latin American countries to this end. I trust, therefore, that you will find it possible to enable Dr. Tocker to depart on his mission with the least possible delay.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Bd. L. S. L.

BAkzin:jp 4/20/44

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Pehle

April 22, 1944

FROM L. S. Lesser

The purpose of the attached memorandum to State is to enable Tocker to proceed to Latin America with a view to ascertaining whether more passports could be made available for Jews in France, Hungary and other Nazi-occupied areas.

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# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL .: CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

April 12, 1944

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

LONDON  
One Harley Street, W. 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 2024-9c

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 174-4

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

May I refer to the talks we had concerning Dr.  
Salomon Tocker?

In view of the fact that Dr. Tocker has lived many  
years in South American countries and especially  
in Paraguay, it would appear to us that he could be  
a great asset in our present action to rescue Jews  
from Europe, were he to go at once on a mission to  
Paraguay and Uruguay. He has a perfect command of  
Spanish and enjoys excellent connections.

We would like to have Dr. Tocker stay in South America  
for some two months, after which time he will return  
to this country. We would be very grateful if the War  
Refugee Board would arrange for a re-entry permit for  
Dr. Tocker as soon as possible, and would also provide  
him with introductory notes to the American Representa-  
tives in Uruguay and Paraguay.

Sincerely yours,

*Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki*  
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki,  
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:lw

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The potential dangers of Nazi and Fascist activities exist even in the remotest corners of South America. The menace to relations between the United States of America and Latin America is of great significance because it is directed against the whole structure of the Good-Neighbour Policy and the work of the Pan-American Union. This Danger may emanate from more than one doubtful South American region, if we continue to rely on present methods of handling the problem. The South American Governments have done very little to date calculated to eliminate the Nazis and their adherents from the substantial positions held by them in almost every branch of commercial and industrial activity.

The "Democracies" prevalent in many South American countries, where a controlled oligarchy imposes its will over the majority are, in fact, just a sham. There is a close relationship between this false Democracy and the so called "Democracy" which the German totalitarianism pretends to be. Even today the Nazi minority in South America is strong, united and solidly behind the movement. What was intended by them and in fact attained was the creation of mutual distrust and continental tensions among the nations of this Hemisphere. They succeeded in poisoning the political morals, in creating a mentality of antistate, anticontinental concepts, deliberately arousing a sort of hypernationalism. They prepared a situation of possible future reverberation.

The clash of fundamental and decisive forces may some day come and the outcome for the United States of America is not certain. Today these tendencies are under the surface, multiple and ramified.. The totalitarian forces are displeased with the position of the English and Americans. The conduct of Argentine at the present time, is an illustration of what may be expected from others after the present emergency. These forces are content to treat the present time and the present relationship as a temporary expedient.

The presence of such a large German - read - Nazi and totalitarian unmolested minority (the "black-lists" have failed to dislodge them substantially from their economic positions, their political solidarity and their potential influence) after having

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committed so many offenses against our efforts, is dangerous, therefore for our position and our sociological aims.

The organizations dealing with South America have done very little to take account of and fight this hot-bed of anti-Democratic and, anti-American factions.

The basic problem is: on whom shall rely the democratic forces when building for future hemispheric security, since there is practically no North American population, except a few representatives of commercial industrial and transportation concerns?

A counterbalance to cope with the overwhelming influence by the German and Totalitarian organizations and activities could be found in the immigrants, who came to Latin America in the last decade.

These tens of thousands of immigrants are strongly opposed to Totalitarian doctrines and they are the potential friends of peace and of democratic evolution in this Hemisphere. They because of their experiences in the past and their knowledge of the menace of Nazism can be reliable allies for strengthening the positions of Democracy in Latin America. They have seen and experienced the whole impact of these movements. They have seen how silent and slow the work of the Nazis was in the beginning, they can feel and sense menace here also.

There lies the reason, why the Nazis have used every device, every influence, every pressure to prevent or make difficult the entrance of these people into Latin America.

They particularly succeeded in certain countries, where they have great influence and where we must expect the greatest difficulties in the future. Many Immigration Departments in the Hemisphere would be astonished to know, that pleas for restrictions against immigrants were dictated and approved in Germany.

The Germans had an easy task. These people have no native country to protect them.

In most cases they are not even possessed of any passports. At a time when German, Italian and Spanish "tourists" and commercial travellers could and still do move easily and wage their nefarious schemes enjoying all citizenship privileges, our friends and allies may not so move about.

They have difficulties in obtaining their travel documents, visas and naturalization papers. It is interesting to see, how efficient and far-reaching in this restrictive

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direction against our best friends some countries can be. The good intentions of the Board of Interamerican Defense are perverted by the Nazi and Fascist minded who form a portion of certain police and governmental machinery and act, sometimes deliberately, against these friends of the United States and Democracy. Under such conditions we cannot hope for open and efficient support of the Democratic cause from them. We could expect real support from them in case a powerful country like the United States came to their aid and endeavoured to ease their situation and give them sort of protection and help.

How might the United States tap this reservoir of potential assistance this reserve of rectims of tyranny driven out of Europe, as a weapon to fight the insidious German influence in these parts:

First, by organizing some means to afford them protection, second making them feel that the Democratic countries are behind them, just as every Nazi and Fascist knows that sympathetic Legations are behind him, to protect him in every possible way in his fifth-column activities. Of great help also, could be the issuance of a an Interamerican Passport for Stateless people. Eligible for such passports would be all refugees, who could establish that they are Democratic sympathizers, that they are exercising a lawful profession, business or trade in the country where they live. Protection of aliens in foreign countries, and guarantees of protection to non-nationals, still lacking in the Western Hemisphere, was and is well known in Europe. The so called Nansen Passport was created by a committee which helped the Russian Emigrees in 1922. It was issued by the Nansen Committee of the League of Nations, Another similar paper has been created by some European states for the so called "heimatlose" or "country-less" the large class of unfortunate people, who after 1919 had been left for some reason or another, without citizenship of any kind. The creation of an Interamerican Passport for stateless people could be a very noble task either for the Pan-American Union, the Coordinator of Interamerican Affairs, or some other Interamerican Body.

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It seems to be one more of the perplexities of our unhappy time, that thousands of innocent victims of barbarian persecution of our enemies most brave and decent people, sometimes the flower of European intelligentsia were left absolutely helpless and without legal protection. When the Nazis deprived thousands of people of their citizenship as a means of propaganda and boasted in press and radio about it, we did not answer by a measure even as modest, as was given to unhappy people after the First World War. This fact is a step backward in the history of human relations and shows no respect whatsoever for democracy and freedom and Good Neighbour relations, why the Democracies are so slow to come to the aid of their sympathizers and allies, the victims of European Totalitarianism, cast up on the American shores. Out of these considerable elements could be formed a new column for peace and democracy on the Western Hemisphere.

Another aspect of the question of Totalitarianism colonies in the Hemisphere is that the more the Nazis are beaten and loosing in Europe the more they prepare new positions and reserves for future revenge and for future revival in South America. In the scheme of the Nazis the fascist and Nazi elements these can provide a springboard for future adventures.

In Europe every Nazi, even higher members of the party suffers in some way and understands that the war is lost. However the Nazis in South America don't suffer at all. They are not menaced by trials with which their comrades in Europe are threatened. They are more fanatic and more stubborn and are regarded as the reserve for future preparations for the part.

Since the German Colony (more than one Million people) in South America is resolutely and solidly behind the party, which for years undermined the Western Hemisphere, has conspired and even now in the midst of our mortal, still is conspiring and receiving orders from their masters, we must ask? What have we done to convince them, that they must account for the years of propaganda, and conspiracy, for their criminal acts against the life and security of the Hemisphere?

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Shall they and their adherents among the local populations believe, that all this is forgotten and that they have only to wait until the war is over in order to begin their nefarious work again undisturbed? To many South American or slowness and tolerance against all these crimes and out tolerance of a mortal enemy are signs either of ignorance or of weakness. If we do not take measures, they will believe in Nazi slogans of democratic weakness, blindness and degeneration. This problem of eradicating the Nazis and Fascist minorities, their punishment for past and present behaviour must be solved soon. Circles and Institutions dealing with this problem know, how reluctant and hesitant many countries are, when confronted with this problem. They are met with arguments; "The German colony is too big" or "The economy of the country will suffer". We must meet such objections with arguments of the priority of War necessities and the priority of Continent-Interests.

The contribution of economic sacrifice when the German minority is taken to account, will be, indeed, a relatively small contribution from some South American Countries in such a war, as we are now waging. The destruction of the Nazi and Fascist minorities and their influence, is in a way more important, than the offers of active help on the battlefields of Europe.

Shall we farther tolerate the S.A. and S.S. and the Gestapo in South America? They are dissolved only formally, but they exist and they live under the surface. In most countries they still enjoy the possibility of preserving all their institutions intact. Governments are proceeding very mildly and very reluctantly against them, and fascist governmental employers are turning most anti-Nazi resolutions into a farce. It is time to really destroy all enemy institutions and to clear the nests of saboteurs, spies enemies of democracy once and forever.

The whole colony of enemies must be divided into many parts for treatment and readjustment. One of the most important tasks, will be reeducation. Reeducation is a very difficult problem and without precedent for democracies. But it is a continental problem and therefore must be done and it must be done now.

The grown population must be divided in many parts:

First the active leadership; all functions of the Party, Gestapo etc., must be interned

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and separated from their own and local population. Separate measures must also be taken with regard to the remainder adherents of Nazism and Fascism, to which about 80-90% of the Germans in South America belong and they also must be re-educated and brought back to a democratic way of life.

Another most important task will be the re-education of their youth. Youth must be separated from the grown population for years. From now on, they have to grow up in an absolutely opposite environment to that which they have had. They cannot be permitted to attend their own schools, where always the atmosphere of conspiracy feeling of superiority and mutual understanding against the native population and against any democratic principle exist. Special school and colleges must be founded by responsible Interamerican Institutions, where this youth, under supervision of American, English and Democratic native teachers must be carefully educated and watched for years.

If we should proceed to arrest and isolate, as a wartime measure, the active leaders, we would forthwith have in our hands something to prevent the shooting of innocent hostages in occupied countries and we could stop this heretofore unpunished ruthlessness of the Nazis in Europe. The Nazis understand only the language of force. Since we are at war with them, we have to adapt our warfare to theirs. Their psychology is different from our way of thinking; Any threat is taken as a gesture. If they knew, that we have their comrades, the German leadership the Gestapo S.A. and S-S. and the rest of saboteurs in South America in hand and that we too can take drastic measures and that we intend to pay them in their own manner. They would abandon at least partly from their ruthlessness, against the victims, because they possess the solidarity of gangsters and criminals. It seems obvious for everybody, who knows the mentality of the Nazis, that we have here a possibility, in fact the only possibility, of saving the lives of thousands of innocent people in Europe.

To avoid future complications the United States and the South American countries which are at war with Germany, and also the other members of the Pan American Union, should therefore think in terms of warfare with regard to the security of the Hemisphere. The United States, bearing the greatest sacrifices for the protection of the Hemisphere

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have the moral right to ask from the other Latin American countries support in the liquidation of this dangerous minority by means of internment, isolation, reeducation and repatriation. They must be made to understand that we are suffering far more damage on all fronts, and in the United States, than such little sacrifice on their part and the reshuffling of some parts of their economy. They will understand, if we will do it now, since now we are absolutely justified in asking support from them, in this matter. To secure peace to avoid future troubles this must be done. The German Colony is still stronger than we in South America, thanks to their acquired positions their contacts and intermarriages with the native population, their knowledge of the language, thanks to Anglophobia and USaphobia, and thanks to the fact, that they still are organized and united as a one-man-society against us.

Exceptional times require exceptional measures. We see for instance, how farsighted the English were sending back to Italy, the Italian colonist from East Africa. It proved wise in this case as well as in the case of the repatriation of Greeks and Turks. It ought to be done also with regard to the German in this Hemisphere.

These measures are most important for the United States of America. A strong german colony, I would say a german colony in South America is incompatible with American influence, the good Neighbour policy and understanding in the Hemisphere.

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