

Cooperation with other Governments: Latin America: Brazil

000950

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON . COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS
LATIN AMERICAN (BRAZIL)

FOR:

Amendment to this License
Extension of this License
Renewal of this License
Correspondence concerning this application .
Other (Specify)

FOR RELATIVE MATERIAL TO THIS FILE

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO
SWITZERLAND

(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

000951

*3-War Refugee Bd.
(Czech)*

~~RESTRICTED~~

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 18479

Rio de Janeiro, October 24, 1944.

SUBJECT: Visit to Brazil of Mr. Jacob Landau,
of the War Refugee Board.

~~RESTRICTED~~

*3 War R/B
3 War Refugee Board
(Czech)
1 War (im Bundry)*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch No. 18266 of October 11, 1944 concerning the visit to Brazil of Dr. Morris D. Waldman, of the War Refugee Board, I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Jacob Landau arrived in Brazil some days ago, subsequent to the departure of Dr. Waldman, and to report that he has been in continuous touch with me.

I have had a number of conversations with Mr. Landau concerning the aims of the War Refugee Board in so far as possibilities of their achievement in Brazil are concerned. I told him of President Vargas having personally authorized the entrance into Brazil of 500 refugee children from Europe. Mr. Landau stated that he had been informed of this encouraging news and he suggested that he would like to speak to Ambassador LeMo Velloso with a view to having the Foreign Office instruct the Brazilian Legation at Bern to issue the necessary visas. I informed him that I would be glad to arrange an interview for him with the Foreign Minister; subsequently he told me that the local Jewish leaders had dissuaded him from doing anything about this.

Mr. Landau told me of his interest in looking into the possibility, while in Brazil, of obtaining exemption for Jewish refugees from the obligatory ten to thirty per cent payment by Axis subjects into a special indemnization fund, as provided under decree-law No. 4166. I informed him that I would be glad to assist him in every appropriate way toward a satisfactory solution of this matter and I have arranged a meeting for him with the Director of Exchange of the Bank of Brazil.

As

CONTROL COPY

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-2-

As the Department may know, Mr. Landau, in addition to his association with the War Refugee Board, is also a representative of the Overseas News Agency and in the latter capacity he has requested me to arrange an interview with Ambassador Leão Veloso which I have succeeded in doing. The Embassy is also making arrangements for Mr. Landau to meet the Director General and other officials of the Department of Press and Propaganda.

Respectfully yours,


Walter J. Donnelly
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

+
CC; American Embassy, Mexico, D.F.

File No. 800
RFG:LEF

000953

UNRESTRICTED

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*3 War to go Board with
John R. K. C.
R.A.*

No. 18266

Rio de Janeiro, October 11, 1944

SUBJECT: Visit to Brazil of Dr. Morris D. Waldman
of the War Refugee Board.

*3 Mr. Robinson (Board - News)
Mr. (Mr. Bundy)
3 MRB*

24
With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 18213
of October 6, 1944, reporting the visit to Brazil of
Dr. Morris D. Waldman of the War Refugee Board, the Chargé
d'Affaires ad interim has the honor to transmit herewith
a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated October 8, from
Dr. Waldman.

CONTROL COPY

Enclosure: ✓
As stated

File No. 800

RFC/am

RFC

000954

Enclosure to despatch No. 18266
dated October 11, 1944 sent from
the Embassy at Rio de Janeiro.

COPY

October 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

I beg to enclose excerpt from a letter Mr. Messersmith wrote to Foreign Minister Padilla. With this goes expression of great pleasure in having met you and my deep appreciation of your helpfulness. The young gentleman who accompanied me to the Panair Office and our Consulate was solicitous and efficient.

I regret our mutual friend Wolf Klabin could not arrange a meeting together. He said he would phone you, which I presume he did. He and Mrs. Klabin spent the previous evening with me during which allusion was made to you. Your ears must have burned. K. certainly holds you in highest esteem, a sentiment I cannot refrain from saying, which appears to be pretty general in these parts.

With high regard, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(s) Morris D. Waldman

The Honorable
Walter Donnelly,
United States Embassy,
Rio de Janeiro.

000953

UNRESTRICTED

No. 18213

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OCT 15 1944

War Refugee Board
130
(Treas)

Rio de Janeiro, October 6, 1944

SUBJECT: Refugee Problems - Visit of Dr. Morris David Waldman of the War Refugee Board.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

3 War Refugee Board
(Treas)
1 War in Brazil
B or 8/14

Sir:

Referring to previous reports from the Embassy concerning the War Refugee Board, I have the honor to apprise the Department of a visit I received yesterday from Dr. Morris David Waldman of the War Refugee Board who is in Brazil in the course of a trip around Latin America in the interests of the refugee problem.

Dr. Waldman and I talked at some length about the refugee problem in general and about the Brazilian position in particular. Dr. Waldman is sanguine about the Brazilian Government's and people's long range attitude in this regard and he demonstrated an appreciation of the problems in this regard.

I informed Dr. Waldman of the contents of the Embassy's airgram No. (A-1568) of August 22 concerning President Vargas' approval of the plan to bring 500 refugee children to Brazil. Dr. Waldman had not heard of this before and he was very pleased by this concrete evidence of Brazil's desire to aid the unfortunate victims of Axis brutality.

I have invited Dr. Waldman to meet this evening with me and Senhor Wolf Klabin, prominent Jewish leader in Brazil, to exchange further ideas as to the conduct of his mission.

Dr. Waldman has expressed his appreciation of the Embassy's assistance and counsel. He plans to leave here on October 9 to resume his journey back to the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Walter J. Donnelly
Walter J. Donnelly,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

File No. 800

RFC/am

CONTROL COPY

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RECORDED 10-10-44
OCT 15 1944
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DIVISION OF

OCT 4 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

AIRGRAM

CONTROL COPY

FROM

RIO DE JANEIRO

DATED: Sept. 28, 1944

REC'D: October 3, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

To the Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-1828, September 28, 1:30 p.m.

Reference Department's instruction No.
6372 of September 14, 1944.

In reply to an inquiry made today at the Foreign Office, the Embassy was informed that the contents of the copy of telegram no. 3082 sent to Fern by the Department on September 6, 1944 is being examined by the Minister of Justice and it is hoped that a reply may shortly be furnished the Embassy as to the position which the Brazilian Government may adopt upon this matter.

DONNELLY

VC:mp

000957

2 W 2 By BU-Park

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 8, 1944
NUMBER: 7393
X

File

CONTROL COPY



The Embassy has been advised by the Director of IGC that the Brazilian Ambassador in London has informed him that Brazil is ready to accept 500 Jewish refugee children from Hungary who may be allowed to leave Hungary. However, the Government of Brazil does not desire to assume any financial responsibility concerning upkeep or transport. The War Refugee Board should be informed.

WINANT

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

DCR:VAG:JFR 9/11/44

000958

No. 16920
X

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

Rio de Janeiro, July 17, 1944



SUBJECT: Jewish and other Refugees

*3 War Refugee Board (Press)
3WRB
1 War (Mr. Bundy)
Jew*

840.48 REFUGES/T-1744

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 16511 of June 20, 1944 and to previous correspondence concerning the problem of Jewish and other refugees, the Ambassador has the honor to transmit herewith, for the Department's information, copy and translation of a note dated July 13, 1944 which has been received from the Foreign Office in this connection.

Enclosure:
copy and
translation

File No. 800

EO'S:mp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000960

C O P Y

Enclosure to Despatch No.
16920 of July 17, 1944 from
the Embassy at Rio de Janeiro

DPD/194/601.34(00)(00)

Ministério das Relações
Exteriores, Rio de Janeiro

O Ministério das Relações Exteriores cumprimenta a Embaixada dos Estados Unidos da América e tem a honra de acusar o recebimento da nota-verbal no. 2179, datada de 26 de Junho próximo findo, pela qual lhe foi enviado texto da mensagem especial do Presidente Roosevelt ao Congresso sôbre os esforços empreendidos pelo Governo dos Estados Unidos da América em auxílio dos judeus e outras vítimas da opressão inimiga.

2. O Ministério das Relações Exteriores muito agradece à Embaixada dos Estados Unidos da América o envio da mensagem em aprêço.

Rio de Janeiro
June 13, 1944
(should be July)

E.R.D.

TRANSLATION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rio de Janeiro

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of Note Verbale No. 2179 of June 26 último, transmitting the text of President Roosevelt's special message to Congress concerning the efforts of the United States Government to aid the Jews and other victims of enemy oppression.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanks the Embassy of the United States of America for transmitting this message.

Rio de Janeiro
June 13, 1944
(should be July)

000961



~~SECRET~~ CONTROL COPY

*War Refugee Board
Treas*

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rio de Janeiro, July 14, 1944.

No. 16894 X

Subject: Publicity Given Statement of
President Roosevelt Concerning Refugees.

*3 R N R B
3 War Refugee Board
Treas
no. clipp
com
Lester*

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to Secret and Circular Airgram of June 20, 1:30 p.m., and to attach various articles and editorials which have appeared concerning President Roosevelt's statement that refugees from liberated countries would be received in the United States. The text of the President's announcement to Congress was printed in full in most of the Rio de Janeiro papers.

Editorial comment in O Globo, July 12, praised Mr. Roosevelt's attitude and said: "One of the documents of this war most worthwhile for the dignity of humanity ... is the message which President Roosevelt recently sent to Congress... There is not however, in this gesture, a worthless sentimentalism... here is the spirit of a great man representing a great people... obedient to the teachings of Christ".

Mauricio de Medeiros, writing in Diario Carioca of June 27, refers to President Roosevelt's statements and to his own suggestion in a Sao Paulo paper that some Italian farmers, deprived of their homes by war, be allocated land in Brazil for cultivation. He revealed however, the text of a letter received from a "son of Italy", "poisoned by the fascism of Mussolini" in which the writer protests against Brazil as a country suitable for Italian immigrants. Medeiros warned against "impossible sentimentalism" for such as these, whom he called "enemies of Brazil".

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador;

Harold S. Tewell,
First Secretary of Embassy.

HW/BCD
Enc. with Orig. Only
File 891

840.4
REFUGEE/7-1444

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Davis Date SEP 13 1972

000962

Rec'd

AIRGRAM

FROM
RIO DE JANEIRO
DATED: June 27, 1944
REC'D: July 3, 3 pm

File

ACB

CONTROL COPY

To the Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-1195, June 27, 1 p.m.

Following memorandum submitted by Simmons of this Embassy today:

"I took up this morning with Ambassador Velloso, Secretary General of the Foreign Office, the Department's circular airgram of June 20, 1944, 1:30 p.m., concerning our active interest in the question of finding places of safety for refugees, particularly those from Italy.

"In my conversation I reminded Mr. Velloso of the many previous urgent communications of this character which we had received from the Department of State and which had been brought forcefully to the attention of the Foreign Office, emphasizing the crisis which is now occurring and the fact that our Government is extremely anxious that other friendly governments cooperate as far as possible along the lines of our endeavors to find places of refuge for these unfortunate victims of the war. I pointed out in particular the steps we have taken ourselves and the obvious desire of our Government that Brazil endeavor to take parallel action.

"Mr. Velloso said that he was personally in full sympathy with our viewpoint and felt that the Brazilian Government ought to take immediate and energetic action. He said that this question had already been taken up

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000963

A-1195, June 27, 1 p.m., from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

with President Vargas (see Embassy's despatch No. 16511 of June 20, 1944 and previous despatches on this subject), but that the President had thus far shown little inclination to open the doors of Brazil in the near future to any new immigration, even that of the type under consideration. He pointed out the different schools of opinion throughout Brazil in regard to its immigration policy, and said that the present time was one of considerable confusion and uncertainty with respect to just what action should be taken in regard to the broader phases of post-war immigration in Brazil. The President, apparently, had never looked with particular favor on any plan to permit an extensive influx of refugees from Europe, and Mr. Velloso said that he was not particularly hopeful, in spite of our strong representations and in spite of the evident needs of these refugees, that Brazil would follow our line of policy.

"I asked particularly that he do what he could in the matter and that he bring to the President's attention the strong feelings of our Government concerning refugees. He promised to do this."

CAFFERTY

JCS:mp

000964

No. 16511

CONTROL COPY

Rio de Janeiro, June 20, 1944

SUBJECT: Refugees in Brazil

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's despatch No. 16169 of June 1, 1944 and to previous correspondence concerning the attitude of Brazil towards the question of admitting refugees into its territory.

The Embassy has pursued this matter further on several occasions at the Foreign Office, but Ambassador Velloso stated today that there have been no further developments and no changes in the situation as described in the Embassy's despatch under reference.

The impression was gathered from today's conversation with Mr. Velloso that the Foreign Office has had difficulty in enlisting the active interest of President Vargas in this question, although the Foreign Office apparently appreciates its importance and significance in relation to the possible approach of the termination of European hostilities and the consequent urgent need for action by various American Republics along the lines which we have adopted.

The Embassy will report any further developments which may occur.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

John F. Simmons
Counselor of Embassy

File No. 800
JFS:mp

to the Department in original and hectograph

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000965

War Refugee Bd. (Trans)

Rio de Janeiro, June 1, 1944

SUBJECT: Refugees in Brazil

CONTROL COPY

The Honorable
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential telegram No. 1215 of April 14, 1944 (8 p.m.) and to previous correspondence concerning the President's executive order establishing the War Refugee Board and declaring the policy of the United States Government on this question.

Since the Embassy's despatch No. 14890 of March 11, 1944 was sent, the Embassy has constantly requested the Secretary General and other high officials of the Foreign Office to give their best attention to this matter in view of its importance and urgency. Up to the present time the Brazilian Government has taken no definite action in this matter other than the passage of a resolution already referred to in the Embassy's despatch above mentioned concerning the admission into Brazil of 500 Jewish refugee children now in France.

The Embassy has now been informed by Ambassador Castelo Branco Clark, Chairman of the Immigration Council, that the subject matter of the Department's telegram under reference, after being given careful study by the Foreign Office, has been taken up with President Vargas in a formal memorandum, with the recommendation that favorable action be taken to the extent which may be found possible in line with the general immigration policy of Brazil. The Secretary General of the Foreign Office, Ambassador Velloso, has advised the Embassy that the President is in fact giving careful study to this question, but that there is no indication, up to the present time, that favorable action may be taken.

The Embassy will continue its efforts in this matter and will report to the Department any further developments which may occur.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

John F. Simmons
Counselor of Embassy

File No. 848
JFS:mp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

FROM

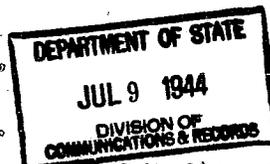
RIO DE JANEIRO

DATED: June 28, 1944

REC'D: July 9, 8 am

To the Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-1205, June 28, 1:30 p.m.



Following memorandum submitted by Simmons of this Embassy today:

"I called on June 27 and 28 on Ambassador Velloso, Secretary General of the Foreign Office, with regard to the Department's circular airgram of June 17, 1944, 9:10 a.m., in regard to the possible presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals upon the resolution of May 31, 1944 adopted by the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense, at Montevideo, on the recommendation of the United States member, favoring the exchange of German nationals in the Western Hemisphere against certain persons belonging to the oppressed peoples of Europe who bear documents issued by or in the name of the American Republics or other non-European states.

"I strongly emphasized to Mr. Velloso the Department's view that it is essential to proceed as quickly as possible with the presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals based upon this resolution. I told him of the hope expressed by the Department that the Brazilian Government would be willing to join in this common program and told him that the Department had expressed the particular wish to learn of any initiative taken by the Brazilian Government to implement this desirable step in strengthening the common front against the Axis. I brought out, in this connection, the attitude expressed verbally by Dr. Aranha last year, to the effect that it might be a good thing for Brazil to get rid of a large number of Germans still in this country. This, I supposed, might have a bearing on the present question, especially in regard to Brazil's willingness

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

00096

A-1205, June 28, 1:30 p.m. from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

to effect some kind of an exchange of the type suggested.

"Mr. Velloso promised to give this matter careful and prompt study and to see whether anything could be done."

CAFFERY

JFS:mp

ORIGINAL COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO
DATED: April 14, 1944
NUMBER: 1215

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, RIO DE JANEIRO.

With reference to the Department's circular airmail of January 28, 7 p.m. and to your despatch no. 14890 of March 11, 1944, 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 under sixteen years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or controlled territory, or in 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 now 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 facilities 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, in addition to these children mentioned in your despatch no. 14890, there are private agencies in Brazil willing and able to undertake a program for the care of refugee children, regardless of religion, 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 Brazilian Government would be willing to grant entry. Should they prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to Brazil. In view of Senhora Vargas' known interest in charitable undertakings, the War Refugee Board hopes that you will be able to approach her regarding this program with a view to obtaining such cooperation and leadership in Brazil as she may care to give.

Would you approach appropriate officials of the Brazilian Government informing them of the foregoing and requesting them to give assurances to the Swiss Government through their diplomatic missions in Bern of Brazil's willingness to accept the five hundred Jewish children and as many more refugee children as may be possible in a manner similar to this Government's offer. For the information of the Brazilian Government, it is conservatively estimated

that.....

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000969

that there are in France alone approximately eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children. Should the Brazilian Government be willing to make this further humanitarian offer, please request the Minister 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 Brazil become available. The Brazilian 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 Brazilian diplomatic and consular officers in this as well as the all other refugee matters.

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

A report has been received by the War Refugee Board that Senator Juan Alberto, Minister of Economic Coordination, recently stated in a private interview that he believes that Brazil could reasonably undertake a progressive five-year program for the settlement of Jewish and other European refugees beginning with one hundred thousand during the first year. The state of Goiaz was suggested by Senator Alberto as having climatic conditions and natural resources suitable for colonization by Europeans. It is understood that the Ministry is preparing a plan for transmission to the War Refugee Board. Any further information concerning the plan that the Embassy can submit, together with its comments thereon, will be appreciated by the Board.

HULL

No. 14890

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rio de Janeiro, March 11, 1944

*3 - War Refugee Bd
(Trus) AVEA
DCR/C
BA
EH
SWP*

SPECIAL ADVISER ON
SUPPLY AND RESOURCES
MAR 22 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: Refugees in Brazil

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of February 29, 1944 (7:30 p.m.) in which, referring to previous correspondence concerning the President's executive order establishing the War Refugee Board and declaring the policy of the United States Government on this question, the Embassy was directed to discuss this matter with the Brazilian Foreign Office and to make it clear that the establishment of the War Refugee Board represents the United States Government's determination effectively to carry out without delay a policy of taking all possible measures for the speedy rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe.

As was indicated in the Embassy's despatch 14561/ of February 12th on this subject, this matter has been taken up with the Secretary General of the Foreign Office and the question has been brought urgently to his attention on several occasions since that time, and has been further discussed in detail with Minister Oswaldo Correia, Chief of the Passport Division of the Foreign Office. The Embassy has been assured by these two officials that this whole question, in the form presented by the Embassy, is now under active discussion both by the Minister of Justice and by the National Immigration Council, and that an effort is being made to come to certain definite conclusions as to the fundamental policy which Brazil should adopt in regard to this important question. There are undoubtedly many and conflicting currents and cross-currents of public opinion in regard to the general admission of European refugees into Brazil, and the policy in the past has been in general a liberal one towards this question. It is particularly true in Brazil that racial animosities and anti-Semitism have never played an active role in determining questions of general policy of immigration and this fact should have a definite bearing on the present studies of the Brazilian Government, although it must be remembered that a certain amount of commercial rivalry has appeared recently by merchants in the larger Brazilian cities in connection

840.48 REFUGEES/5833

PS/MO

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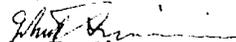
with developing competition on the part of refugee merchants who have established themselves in this country.

The only definite action which the Brazilian Government has taken since the sending of the Embassy's despatch under reference, has been that of the National Immigration Council which, in its most recent meeting, held last week, passed a resolution concerning the admission into Brazil of 500 Jewish refugee children now in France and threatened with deportation by the German occupational forces. The resolution in question provides that the Brazilian Government:

- "a) Consents to receive, in principle, a group of these children who will remain under governmental protection until the world situation shall have become normal. There is placed in the hands of the respective government organizations the framing of the necessary orders to permit the sending of these children to Brazil;
- "b) Limits to 500 the number of children benefiting by these conditions;
- "c) Requests that the choice shall be made among minors, from 10 to 14 years of age, for educational reasons."

At the Embassy's request, the Foreign Office has undertaken to endeavor to obtain definite action on the part of the Brazilian Government at as early a date as feasible in regard to this question. This will naturally include its submission for approval to President Vargas, in its final form.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:


John F. Simmons
Counselor of Embassy

File No. 800
JFS:mp

000972

No. 14561
X

CONTROL COPY

UD

Rio de Janeiro, February 12, 1944

SUBJECT: Jewish Refugees in Brazil

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944 (7 p.m.) concerning the Jewish refugee question.

The discussion contained in the Department's airgram has been brought emphatically to the attention of the Brazilian Foreign Office and is now receiving the careful study of the Secretary General, Ambassador Leão Velloso, who states that he intends to bring the matter urgently to the personal attention of President Vargas, with a view to establishing a more definite policy towards the acceptance by Brazil of Jewish and other refugees as an emergency measure.

Pending any definite action of this type, it may be stated that, according to best information available, about 50,000 Jews have entered Brazil since 1925. Best estimates indicate that there are now in Brazil about 70,000 foreign-born Jews, 10,000 Sephardic Jews whose families have been here for years, and 32,000 children of the above foreign-born Jews, or a total of 112,000. Most of these Jews are in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Porto Alegre. About 90% of them are in cities.

The greatest legal obstacle now existing to the free admission of Jews is Decree-Law 3175 of April 7, 1941, which makes it very difficult for any European to obtain a visa for Brazil. This does not discriminate against Jews but naturally affects them. The exceptions to this restrictive Decree-Law are, as regards temporary visas, that the admission is permitted of a person who can show means of subsistence and can return to his country of origin within two years, and, as regards a permanent visa, of (a) a person who transfers from abroad the equivalent of US\$20,000 in foreign exchange, (b) a technician of proven merit whose services are needed in Brazil, and (c) a person of outstanding reputation.

The above-mentioned Decree-Law gives to the Minister of Justice full jurisdiction in the execution/

540.48 REFUGEE/5216

cc/HWT

000973

cution of immigration regulations. This function has been, for practical purposes, delegated to Dr. Ernani Reis, a secretary in the Ministry of Justice, whose word is very powerful in all immigration matters. He has the reputation of having a very restrictionist viewpoint, although no actual instance is known of anti-Jewish discrimination on his part.

On the other hand, a somewhat favorable piece of legislation, as regards European refugees, is a "Portaria" No. 4941 of July 24, 1941, which granted permanent status for the duration of the war for persons who entered Brazil on temporary visas, but only for those who left their country of origin prior to January 1, 1941. This legislation enabled a number of refugees to take employment or go into business.

There is in Rio de Janeiro a Jewish Colonization Association of English origin. This organization is aimed particularly at facilitating the immigration of Jews for the purpose of engaging in agriculture. It has built two agricultural colonies for them.

[REDACTED]

The local Director of this organization said that, in his opinion, the high policy of the present Brazilian regime is not anti-Jewish, but that there are anti-Jewish individuals at work in it at certain critical points. He described as the two principal anti-Semites (1) the Director of the Departamento de Povoamento of the Ministry of Labor, now a member of the Council of Immigration and Colonization, and (2) Dr. Ernani Reis, mentioned above.

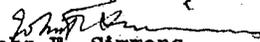
END CONFIDENTIAL

In general Jewish refugees are kindly treated in Brazil once they have arrived here. They are not free to enter the liberal professions, but that is only because they are foreigners. They have set themselves up, in considerable numbers, in small commercial enterprises and this has led to a certain amount of commercial jealousy among their competitors who were previously established here.

A fundamental and obvious difficulty to the admission of Jews into Brazil is of course the question of transportation facilities. This situation should improve greatly, however, as the war draws to a close.

A further report on this subject will be sent to the Department at a later date.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:


John F. Simmons
Counselor of Embassy

File No. 800
JFS:mp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000974

Falter Amencos

The attached memorandum is from the State
Department Refugee File on Brazil.

Brazil

000975

(TRANSLATION)

PROBLEMS OF IMMIGRATION IN BRAZIL

Jews - Stateless Persons - Italians

Continuing the examination of the directions of the future immigration policy of Brazil, we call attention to a resolution adopted by the Brazilian Congress of Economy "against the mass entrance of Hebrews into national territory".

The reporter was Mr. Dulpho Pinheiro Machado, who is also a member of the Council of Immigration and Colonization. Among other things, he stated:

Previous experiences in connection with the "Four Brothers Colony" and the "Resende Colony", experiences in localization of Hebrews, show a complete lack of success. We consider, therefore, that the mass introduction of Jews into the "plantations" or the formation of nuclei of colonies is inadvisable. The Jews who have entered Brazilian territory have for reasons which I dispense with naming, settled down in the great urban centers and helped to increase civic problems still more, devoting themselves to the exercise of activities which are devoid of economic benefit for the country. Few devote themselves to industry, and none to agriculture."

The reporter finishes by stating that, considering that in Brazil there are no race or religious distinctions, the Jews must be made equal to their fellow countrymen and considered on the basis of the country from which they originated, or on their calling. Still, mass immigration is to be excluded.

(We note that for a few years the words race and religion have figured in the notes on immigration and also in numerous other civil documents, which helps in the identification and differentiation of those Jews who, officially, would have to be considered equal to their respective countrymen, that is, German, French, Italian, etc. On the other hand it is proper to stress that for some time now - especially after the influx of European refugees stopped - secondary importance has been attributed to such words. The words race and religion appeared in Brazilian notes only as a consequence of and during the period of racial persecutions in German territories or those controlled by Germany).

The Brazilian Congress of Economy also adopted a resolution: very general and with many precautions, opposing the immigration into Brazil of stateless persons

As a rule, stateless persons will be considered undesirable but the way remains open for exceptions in unusual cases.

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A rather interesting article is published in the "Diario de S. Paulo" by L.V. Giovannetti in answer to a prediction of Ambassador Macedo Soares referring to the immigration to Brazil of one million Italians. L.V. Giovannetti explains first of all - and with courageously frank irony - the reasons why Brazil, or better, the Brazilian ruling class does not view favorably a very extensive immigration of workers:

"Brazil", he writes, "in the present phase of its economic life, is not desirous of a large immigration of laborers. It is not desirous of it because, good or bad, unions have been organized here of the working masses, having the customs, discipline, and resignation which are very suitable to the particular interests of the industrial and capitalist classes. This class does not wish the entrance of elements disturbing to an industrial peace based on the admirable system of low pay and enormous profits.

The European workers possess fighting temperaments and are accustomed to defend their rights by strikes; they discuss matters openly and are not moved by respect for the constituted authorities nor by love for the owner of the factory. Besides, they do not hesitate to declare the capitalistic system abominable. Here such methods of thinking and acting would immediately be condemned and branded as communism.

I do not say that the heads of factories do not have the right to think thusly. Nor do I say that the workers are not right. I only say that during the present formative period of Brazilian industry large masses of European workers would not be acclimatized well here in a social atmosphere which is still impervious to any ideas which are common patrimony in Europe and in North America: for example, to the idea of the right of the worker to participate in the surplus profit of the "plantation" where he works."

That, predicted Giovannetti, excludes mass immigration of European workers. The farmers remain. But these according to the writer of the article - will not be ruined at the end of the war. As in 1919, the rural class will be stronger than before and will have some available funds. In Italy, which is firmly entrenched in Catholic organizations, it will not think of emigrating at all.

In conclusion Giovannetti writes:

"There will not be mass immigration into Brazil. Perhaps there will not be any emigration at all from Italy. Only a small stream of ruined bourgeois will leave their native land in search of a quiet life."

Enclosure in Yiddish.

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(COPY - lmb 2-17-44)

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