



Cooperation with Other Governments; Latin America: Chile

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000970

FFC-76
(11-42)

CROSS REFERENCE ON .COOPERATION WITH .OTHE .GOVERNMENTS
LATIN AMERICAN (CHILE)

FOR:

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

FOR MATERIAL RE ASSURANCES OF LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS TO SWITZERLAND
SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN BY THIS GOVERNMENT RE ISSUANCE OF UP TO 4000
IMMIGRATION VISAS TO REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM AXIS TERRITORY

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

(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

000979

MEM-381

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (BR)

Santiago

Dated May 16, 1944

Rec'd 6:41 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

851, May 16, 5 p.m.

Foreign Office has just advised that consideration is being given to the suggestion that the Chilean Government admit a specific number of refugees, as referred to in the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m., and will submit a definite reply as soon as the necessary study can be made. Department will be informed as soon as a definite reply is received.

BOWERS

HTM

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Fehle, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files

MJD

April 15, 1966
7 p.m.

CIRCULAR

CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADORS AT PANAMA, HABANA, CIUDAD TRUJILLO, BOGOTA,
LIMA, SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO AND MEXICO, D.F.

With further reference to the Department's circular
airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent
communications on refugee matters, 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 up to sixteen years
of age without regard to religion, nationality or
stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy,
enemy-controlled or occupied territory, or to 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 not remain in Switzer-
land 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 be-
come available. Private sources have posted bond
with the Attorney General of the United States to
assure this Government that the immigrating children will not
become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you
are accredited willing and able to undertake a program for the
care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident
that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with
adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as
many children as the Government of that country would be willing
to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be
available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to
that country.

Kindly approach appropriate officials of the Government to
which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and re-
quest them to give assurance to the Swiss Government through
their diplomatic mission in Bern that they will accept up to a
fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of
this Government. For the information of the Government to which
you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there
are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned
refugee children. Should that Government be willing to make this
humanitarian offer, please request the Ministry 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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Data SEP 13 1972

-2- CIRCULAR, April 15, 7 p.m.

suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country become available. The 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 diplomatic and consular officers of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

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

RMII

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lufford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Walsstein, H. D. White, Files

APR 13 1944

My dear Mr. Bowers:

The Secretary of State has referred to me a copy of your Dispatch No. 9106, of March 11, 1944, in reply to the Department of State's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, concerning the war refugee problem in relationship to Chile.

Your cooperation in making this information available is appreciated, and the comments embodied in your dispatch are being carefully considered.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fahle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
Claude G. Bowers,
The United States Ambassador,
Santiago, Chile.

EWB
RBHutchison:agr 4-11-44 *Jot*

000983

3: W. P. B
(Treas.)
Chile

CONTROL COPY

No. 9105

Santiago, Chile, March 11, 1944

Subject: War Refugee Problem in Relation to Chile.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7:00 p.m. concerning the establishment and purposes of the War Refugee Board and containing a request for a statement as to what is being done in this country to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler.

During the year 1939, many refugees, among them a large proportion of Jews, entered Chile from Europe. It appears that the normal Chilean immigration practice was liberalized or waived in many cases by unauthorized administrative action and it has been charged that pecuniary rewards were reaped by some of the officials concerned with this matter. At any rate, with the appointment of a new Minister of Foreign Affairs toward the end of that year, a policy of strict enforcement of the visa requirements was adopted which continues in force up to the present time, although there are signs that it has been progressively but slowly relaxed.

Under this policy it was necessary for the Chilean consular authorities authorized to issue visas to refer applications to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for prior approval, except in routine cases, which might be decided upon the consular officer's personal responsibility. Some of them were reluctant to exercise this discretion and thus referred to the Foreign Office all cases presented to them. There were, in the period from 1940 to 1942, some indications that in the exercise of this discretion adverse discrimination was being exercised against Jews. When the Ambassador inquired about this, the Minister of Foreign Affairs readily admitted that since late in 1939 rigid rules had been in force regarding immigration but he denied that there was any discrimination against Jews. This was reported in the Embassy's telegram No. 772 of May 20, 1942, 5:00 p.m.

It is numerous

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Numerous non-Nazi Germans, some Austrians, Czechs, Poles and Yugoslavs have migrated to Chile to escape the Hitler holocaust. This was not the result of any positive effort on the part of the Chilean Government to extend humanitarian relief but unofficial organizations rendered assistance by providing advice and sometimes financial aid and guarantees. There is some latent anti-semitism in Chile which is understandable in view of the large proportion of the population of German nationality or descent which is found in the southern part of the country, among whom the Nazi Party has worked intensively over a period of years. Germans of Nazi sympathies are found in positions of influence throughout the commerce and industry of the country and some Chileans have been swayed by their views. While this has had some effect in requiring the maintenance of a strict immigration policy, the primary reason is believed to be the economic situation of the country.

During the year 1943 there was agitation in Santiago to require the departure of recent immigrants from the capital and from Valparaiso on the ground that they were overcrowding the small business field and were responsible for the scarcity and soaring cost of housing in the cities. It was announced that some immigrants had failed to fulfill their undertaking upon arrival in Chile to establish themselves in provincial and rural areas rather than in the principal centers of population. Agitation over this subject however was short-lived and seems now to have disappeared completely.

The President of the Zionist Federation of Chile informed the Embassy today that his organization is not now encountering unusual difficulties in making arrangements to assist prospective immigrants. He states that sometime ago it became necessary to protest against the obvious discrimination against Jews which was being exercised in the authorization of visas by the consular department of the Foreign Office. The head of that office was replaced and the situation seems to have improved.

The present legal provisions concerning immigration into Chile seem to consist primarily of a delegation of responsibility and general authority to the consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subject of course to the general authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In this situation much depends upon the attitude adopted by the chief of the consular department and there seems to be at this time no complaint on that score.

One of the principal obstacles which a large scale European, and especially Jewish, immigration into Chile may be expected to encounter is the fear that such immigrants would tend to become concentrated in the urban centers, and to overincrease the number of small mercantile establishments, whereas the underpopulated rural and agricultural areas would receive little benefit. This is a factor which should be borne in mind in judging the possibilities for absorption of European immigration in Chile in the coming years.

Respectfully yours,

Claude G. Bowers

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AFT:msv

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