Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin America: Costa Rica

FFC-76
(11-42)

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

FOR:

Amendment to this License . . . . . ☐

Extension of this License . . . . . ☐

Renewal of this License . . . . . ☐

Correspondence concerning this application . ☐

Other (Specify)

1. FOR MATERIAL RE ASSURANCES BY THE 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

2. FOR MATERIAL RE APPROVAL OF COSTA RICA RE THIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, WITH VIEW TO ARRANGING AN EXCHANGE AGAINST GERMAN NATIONALS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE OF INTERNEES HOLDING LATIN AME ICAN PAS PORTS AND PAPERS

SEE: 1. PROGRAMS WITH REBBECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND

(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

2. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF EFFECTING RESCUES

(RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS)

800493

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
AUGUST , 1944
RecD August 18, 3 pm

[redacted]

SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

A-496 August 15, 2 p.m.

Reference Department's telegram No. 390 of August 10, 5 p.m. concerning refugee children.

The Embassy is reluctant to request the Costa Rican Government to "extend its acceptance" to children from Hungary, since no formal acceptance has as yet been received from the Foreign Office.

As reported in my airgram No. A-390 of June 16, 10 a.m., the discussions on this subject were between the Embassy and the head of a semi-official welfare agency. It was indicated at that time that, if the Costa Rican Government could be given assurances as to the permanency of stay of any refugee children to be accepted, it would formally agree to accept them. No such assurances have been received, however, and it is felt that the Foreign Office would not care to commit itself until this point has been clarified.

Further instructions are requested.

DES PORTES

848
LDP/em

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

000994

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, San Jose

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 16, 1944

NUMBER: 304

[redacted]

Formal consent to upholding validity of all Costa Rican passports held by persons whose lives may otherwise be in danger has been given by the Costa Rican Government. On the understanding that they do not come to Costa Rica, such persons may be declared eligible for exchange.

In regard to Jules Grunstein and wife (see my cable of May 13, no. 299) no special mention has been made and, although they are not eligible for entry into the country until written assurances are received, they should be considered in the category of persons holding valid Costa Rican passports.

The original note will be transmitted by despatch to follow.

The foregoing message is in reference to Embassy's despatch 1279, April 17 and Department's secret airgrams dated May 1 and 10.

DESPORTES

CC: Secretary, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul Pehle, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White, Files.

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

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EMBASSY
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

San José, Costa Rica,
May 16, 1944.

No. 1400

Subject: Costa Rica consents to uphold validity of all Costa Rican passports held by persons whose lives might otherwise be in danger.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]

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

Sir:

With reference to my telegram no. 304 of May 16, 4 p. m., concerning the precarious situation of a number of persons holding passports issued in the name of the Costa Rican Government and the Costa Rican Government's agreement to uphold the validity of such passports, I have the honor to enclose the original note, No. 948-B of May 15, 1944, from the Foreign Office, together with the translation of that note, confirming the verbal assurance which had previously been given to me by then Foreign Minister Echandi. 1/ 2/

While the matter was taken up orally with the Foreign Minister, he requested that a written note presenting the views of the United States Government be sent him for the archives. The enclosed note is his reply.

The attached note does not state specifically that the persons holding these Costa Rican passports may be considered eligible as Costa Rican citizens for inclusion in the exchange of German and Costa Rican nationals, but I have received verbal assurances from the Foreign Office that the language of the note implies such an inclusion since the Costa Rican Government cannot deny citizenship to the holders of such passports at the same time they uphold the validity of the passports. However, while the note in question also omits specific mention of the fact that the Costa Rican Government would not welcome the holders of such passports to Costa Rican territory, this connotation is likewise brought out in the second sentence of the first paragraph of the Foreign Minister's note where he refers to the fact that the United States Government will assume the responsibility for all the arrangements necessary for the transportation of such persons to non-Costa Rican territories.

The Foreign Minister appears to be of the opinion that his note No. 948-B gives the Costa Rican Government's consent to all the recommendations set forth in the Department's

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By R. F. [illegible] Date SEP 13 1972

Department's secret airgrams of March 31, April 11 and May 1 and 10, and unless the Department thinks it advisable or necessary I shall not approach him again to formulate a demand addressed to the German Government, through the protecting power, that the lives of all persons holding Costa Rican passports be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to which the Geneva Conferences regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, since the United States Government is the channel of communication for the Costa Rican Government to the Swiss Government which is protecting Costa Rican interests.

Respectfully yours,

Fay Allen Des Portes

Enclosures:

1) Original note dated May 15, 1944 from Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs;

2) Translation of note.

SRT-mm

Enclosure No.1 to despatch No. 1400
of May 16, 1944, from the
Embassy at San José.

República de Costa Rica
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

948-B San José, 15 de mayo de 1944.

Señor Embajador:

Tengo el honor de anunciar a Vuestra Excelencia el recibo de su muy atenta nota No.251, estrictamente confidencial, de fecha 15 de este mes, en la que se sirve recabar la opinión del Gobierno de Costa Rica respecto de la posibilidad de mantener su valor legal a varios pasaportes poseídos por europeos, generalmente poloneses y judíos, sobre cuya legítima expedición pudiera haber alguna duda, a fin de proteger a sus tenedores contra actos de crueldad de las autoridades alemanas. Agrega Vuestra Excelencia que su Gobierno asumirá la responsabilidad para todos los arreglos necesarios al traslado de los portadores de tales pasaportes a territorios no costarricenses, en goce de todos los derechos que por analogía les otorga la Convención de Ginebra sobre Prisioneros de Guerra.

Muy complacido comunico a Vuestra Excelencia la conformidad de mi Gobierno con el procedimiento indicado en su expresada nota, ya que, en tanto no haya constatación eficiente de motivos de nulidad de los pasaportes en referencia, han de tenerse por válidos en razón de haber sido expedidos por funcionarios consulares costarricenses, particularmente, si así se cumple un deber de humanidad.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia los sentimientos de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Julio Acosta

Excelentísimo Señor
Fay A. Des Portes
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario de Estados Unidos
C I U D A D.-

Copy: mc

840.48

Enclosure No.2 to despatch No.140
of May 16, 1944 from the
Embassy at San José. C.R.

Republic of Costa Rica
Ministry of Foreign Relations

948-B San José, May 15, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency of the receipt of your very courteous, strictly confidential, note No.251 of the 15th instant, by which you request the opinion of the Government of Costa Rica with respect to the possibility of preserving the legal value of various passports possessed by Europeans, usually Poles and Jews, in connection with which there might be some doubt with respect to the legality of their expedition, in order to protect their holders against acts of cruelty of the German authorities. Your Excellency adds that your Government will assume the responsibility for all the arrangements necessary for the transportation to non-Costa Rican territories of the holders of such passports by virtue of analogous rights granted to them by the Geneva Convention with regard to Prisoners of War.

I am very pleased to communicate to Your Excellency the agreement of my Government with the procedure indicated in your above cited note, since, and until there has been effective proof of the reasons for the invalidity of the passports under reference, they are to be held valid by reason of their having been issued by Costa Rican consular officials, particularly if a humane duty is thereby fulfilled.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the sentiments of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Julio Acosta

His Excellency
Fay A. Des Portes
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the United States.

Translated by: mc
Checked by: srt

000993

[redacted] BY COURIER

A 229

11:10 a m

SENT BY [redacted] AIRGRAM

AMEMBASSY,

SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA)

FOR THE [redacted] INFORMATION OF THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM.

The Department and the War Refugee Board are gratified by the results reported in your 1279 of April 17. Please convey to the Costa Rican authorities this Government's appreciation of their inclination to cooperate on the lines indicated in the Department's airgrams of March 31 and April 11.

Since only quick action can save the victims, you are requested to press for a note to the Protecting Power regarding the validity of documents and the treatment of bearers as soon as possible. We are also awaiting a formal notification from Costa Rica to the United States indicating their approval of our declaring the persons concerned eligible for exchange, subject to the assurances contained in the Department's airgram of April 11.

Hull
ghk

HULL

WRB:MMV:KG CCA A-B
cc/S/S/Ay, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D.White, Pehle, Files

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

001000

[illegible] Foreign [illegible] regarding subject matter Department's Secret Airgrams of March 31 and April 11

STRICTLY [redacted]

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

With reference to the Department's secret airgrams of March 31 and April 11, 1944, I have the honor to advise the Department that on April 15th I discussed the subject matter thereof with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He stated that our conversation was most opportune since he had been contemplating taking an early opportunity to recommend to President Calderon Guardia a complete investigation of all outstanding Costa Rican passports. It had been his original intention of declaring the [illegible] of a number of these passports and [illegible] others to limited periods of [illegible]

The Minister stated he thoroughly understood the situation and would be inclined to cooperate with the Department along the lines recommended in view of the humanitarian considerations involved. As he stated, there was no other alternative but to attempt to save the people concerned from harsh treatment by the Germans.

As suggested, I recommended that the Foreign Minister address the German Government through the protecting power as soon as possible along the lines suggested in the Department's airgram of April 11. I shall remind him of this matter either to day or tomorrow.

Respectfully yours

/S/Edward G. Trueblood,
Edward G. Trueblood,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

EGT:mc

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

cc: Secy, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

001001

MJB

April 15, 1944
7 p.m.

CIRCULAR

[redacted] 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 Switzerland 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 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 foregoin and request 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

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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.

HULL

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