

Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin America: Ecuador

000047

CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
LATIN AMERICAN (ECUADOR)

FOR:

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

For material re Ecuadorian approval re: this Government's approach to Germany
re: arranging an exchange against German Nationals in the Western Hemisphere
of Internees holding Latin American passports, and papers.

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS OF
EFFECTING RESCUES
(RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2524

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Quito, December 23, 1944

Subject: Assistance to Refugees from Enemy Persecution

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's airgram No. 514 of November 8 last regarding the special immigration procedure that had been adopted by the United States Government in favor of persons in enemy-controlled territory, I have the honor to enclose a translation of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated December 20, 1944, replying to a note which the Embassy had addressed to the Foreign Office on November 22, 1944 in pursuance to the Department's airgram under reference.

It will be noted that the Foreign Office communication states that existing legislation does not permit the granting of special assistance to holders of expired Ecuadoran visas and that it is necessary under Ecuadoran law that such individuals apply for new visas in the same manner as originally.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosure:

Translation as stated.

Copy to Consulate General, Guayaquil

File No. 840.1

JWG:mjp

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn,
Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

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(TRANSLATION)

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
101-DDP-33

Quito, December 20, 1944

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed note No. 460, of the 22nd of last month, in which, with reference to the conversation which Your Excellency and Mr. Jacob Landau of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee of New York had with His Excellency, the President of the Republic, the Minister of Government and the undersigned, on the 27th and 28th of September concerning the granting by the Government of Ecuador of immigration visas to a number of European refugees, you were good enough to inform me that you had received information from the Department of State that referred to the measures taken by the United States Government for the benefit of certain persons in enemy-controlled territory.

2. Your Excellency adds that the Government of the United States of America has adopted a special procedure with relation to the said persons and that this system has been made known to the Swiss Government by means of instructions sent to the American Legation in Berne.

3. I have read with interest the procedure which the United States has adopted regarding this subject, as well as the summary of the instructions sent by your Government to the United States diplomatic mission in Switzerland.

4. Your Excellency took occasion to inform me of the desire of the Government of the United States that Ecuador adopt similar measures which might be extended to other categories of persons or to a definite number of victims of the enemy, taking into account the fact that in areas dominated by the enemy there is a possibility that there are a small number of individuals with expired Ecuadoran visas and that these persons are subject to the persecution of the aggressor nations.

5. In reply, I beg to inform Your Excellency that the position maintained by this Foreign Office in the matter is that the persons who possess visas which have expired are in a situation similar to that which governs the obtaining of these documents for the first time.

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6. Consequently, bearers of holders of authentic Ecuadoran visas which have expired, desiring to enter Ecuador, must comply with the legal regulations which govern the issuance of visas and which the Foreign Office is not able to fail to observe strictly.

7. By virtue of the above, the Government of Ecuador regrets that it is not able to take measures similar to those adopted by the United States of America, for any other position would be absolutely contrary to the clear and precise rules of the existing legislation.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) C. Ponce Enriquez

His Excellency
Mr. Robert McGregor Scotten,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
United States of America.

TR:JMG:mjp

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A- 514

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2 W. H. R. B. (In file)

11:05 AM

Nov. 8, 1944

1944 NOV 10 PM 12 12

EMBASSY

UNITED STATES

Reference is made to your 185 of September 28 and 2192 of September 30. You may inform Ecuadorian authorities, if you consider it advisable, that a special procedure has been adopted by this Government in favor of certain persons in enemy-controlled territory. This procedure is outlined in Department's instructions to Legation Bern substantially as follows:

There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date when present existing procedures and security checks became effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, were unable to take effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941 and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

Accordingly, American consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 18 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report issued subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into

the

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1972**

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

In advising Swiss officials of the foregoing please attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the foregoing authority will follow promptly. The same request is being made of Sweden, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal. UNQUOTE

This program has been further extended by a subsequent instruction to Legation Bern substantially as follows:

NOTE: Please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife,

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or first preference status has been established by the approval of the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person other than a child under 18 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited. Names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cables to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 2 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives residing in the United States. UNCLAS

The Government and Board would be heartened if Hungarian Government were to undertake a similar program in the interest of saving lives. Since there are in enemy-controlled areas probably few or no victims of enemy persecution with legal Hungarian visas or who are near relatives of Hungarian citizens, Hungarian authorities will undoubtedly desire to extend any program of this nature which they may adopt to other categories or to a definite number of enemy victims.

Should Hungarian officials be disposed to extend such program to Hungary as well as to Germany, it would appear necessary first to obtain the services of Switzerland as protecting power for Hungary.

Hungary

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

Location in Hungary, as indicated in Department's A-500 of November 1.

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AIRGRAM TO AMEMBASSY, QUITO, ECUADOR

Reference is made to your 2185 of September 28 and 2192 of September 30. You may inform Ecuadoran authorities, if you consider it advisable, that a special procedure has been adopted by this Government in favor of certain persons in enemy-controlled territory. This procedure is outlined in Department's instructions to Amlegation Bern substantially as follows:

QUOTE There are a number of persons in enemy controlled areas to whom American visas were issued on and after July 1, 1941, the date when present existing procedures and security checks became effective, who, by reason of transportation difficulties and the advent of war, were unable to make effective use of such visas. It is believed that a large proportion of such persons are among those groups subject to enemy persecution. In the belief that the availability of new American visas for such persons may save their lives, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to any person to whom an American immigration visa was issued or for whom a visa was authorized on or after July 1, 1941 and who has been in areas controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies since December 8, 1941, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer in a neutral country and is found not to have become disqualified for the issuance of a visa.

QUOTE Accordingly, American consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue new American immigration visas to any such person to whom an American visa was issued or for whom such visa was authorized after July 1, 1941, provided that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report dated subsequent to the previous approval, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

QUOTE In advising Swiss officials of the foregoing please attempt to secure their prompt agreement to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland, with or without transit visas, of all persons to whom American immigration visas were issued on or subsequent to July 1, 1941. You may assure such officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not (repeat not) to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Detailed instructions in connection with

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the issuance of new American immigration visas pursuant to the foregoing authority will follow promptly. The same request is being made of Sweden, Turkey, Spain, and Portugal. UNQUOTE

This program has been further extended by a subsequent instruction to Legation Bern substantially as follows:

QUOTE Please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

QUOTE Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or first preference status has been established by the approval of the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

QUOTE Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 2 1944

alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, and names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cabled to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States. UNQUOTE

The Department and Board would be heartened if Ecuadoran Government were to undertake a similar program in the interest of saving lives. Since there are in enemy-controlled areas probably few or no victims of enemy persecution with lapsed Ecuadoran visas or who are near relatives of Ecuadoran citizens, Ecuadoran authorities will undoubtedly desire to extend any program of this nature which they may adopt to other categories or to a definite number of enemy victims.

Should Ecuadoran officials be disposed to extend such program to Hungary as well as to Germany, it would appear necessary first to obtain the services of Switzerland as protecting power for Ecuador in Hungary, as indicated in Department's _____ of _____.

3:00 p.m.
November 2, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, G Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LSless@r:cmh 11-2-44 *BA. R. S. P.*

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SCHENECTADY (N.Y.) UNION-STAR - October 2, 1944

Ecuador to Admit Jewish Refugees

QUITO, Ecuador, Oct. 2—(AP)—Jacob Landau, representative of the War Refugee Board, said yesterday he had received assurances from the President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador that the country will admit "all Jewish immigrants with honest background" who wish to settle here. Landau said arrangements already were being made to bring 300 Jewish children from Hungary to Ecuador.

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NEW YORK (N.Y.) JOURNAL & AMERICAN - October 2, 1944

Welcome for Jews

QUITO, Ecuador, Oct. 2 (AP). — Jacob Landau, representative of the War Refugee Board, said today he had received assurances from the President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador that the country will admit "all Jewish immigrants with honest background" who wish to settle here.

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THE SUN

OCT 2 - 1944

**Ecuador Will Welcome
Jews, Officials Report**

Quito, Ecuador, Oct. 1 (AP)—Jacob Landau, representative of the War Refugee Board, said today he had received assurances from the President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador that the country will admit "all Jewish immigrants with honest background" who wish to settle here.

Landau said arrangements already were being made to bring 300 Jewish children from Hungary to Ecuador.

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The Washington Post
OCT 1 1944

Ecuador Offers Refuge to Jews

Quito, Ecuador, Sept. 30. (AP)—Ecuadorian consuls abroad have been instructed to issue visas to all Jews of good character who desire to settle in Ecuador. Foreign Minister Camilo Ponce announced today on the occasion of the visit of Jacob Landau, New York newspaperman representing the War Refugee Board.

The minister said that he was also arranging for the admission of 700 children. "Ecuador is utterly opposed to the racial doctrine and will do its part in the noble effort inaugurated by President Roosevelt, by offering refuge to victims of the Nazis," he said.

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The New York Times.
OCT 1 1944

ECUADOR OFFERS HAVEN

**Consuls Abroad Instructed to
Issue Visas to Jews**

QUITO, Ecuador, Sept. 30 (AP)—Ecuadorean Consuls abroad have been instructed to issue visas to all Jews of good character who desire to settle in Ecuador, Foreign Minister Camilo Ponce announced today on the occasion of the visit of Jacob Landau, New York newspaper man representing the War Refugee Board.

The Minister said that he was also arranging for the admission of 300 children.

"Ecuador is utterly opposed to the racial doctrine and will do its part in the noble effort inaugurated by President Roosevelt by offering refuge to victims of the Nazis," he said.

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Refugee Board
(Trans)

~~RESTRICTED~~ RESTRICTED

Sept 30, September 30, 1944

No. 2192^x

CONTROL COPY

Subject: Efforts of the War Refugee Board in assisting Jewish Refugees in Europe; visit to Ecuador of Mr. Jacob Landau.

3 to War Refugee Board
1 War Com Board

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 2185 of September 23 last, reporting the visit here of Mr. Jacob Landau, a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, New York, and referring also to the Embassy's despatch No. 2140 of September 15 in regard to the agreement of the Ecuadoran Government to accept 300 orphaned or abandoned children from Europe, I have the honor to enclose a clipping, with translation, from the front page of El Comercio this morning, reporting the conversations which Mr. Landau and I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the President on September 27 and 28, respectively. The newspaper item quotes the President as having stated that while he remains in the executive power, Ecuador would be open to refugees from Nazism. It also reports a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that instructions had been issued to Ecuadoran consuls to grant visas "to all Jews who wish to immigrate to Ecuador, the only condition being that these be for individuals of good antecedents".

Respectfully yours,

Enclosures:

- ✓ 1. Clipping as stated
- ✓ 2. Translation of above clipping

Copy to the Consulate General, Guayaquil
File No. 840.1
JWG:rbm

Enclosure No. 2 of despatch No. 2192 dated September 30, 1944

from American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

DOORS OF ECUADOR OPENED TO THE JEWS

Says Dr. Velasco Ibarra

The Only Requirement Is That They Be of Good
Antecedents

Accompanied by the Ambassador of the United States, the New York Journalist, Jacob Landau, representing the United States War Refugee Board, visited day before yesterday the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Republic, who assured him the doors of Ecuador are open to the immigration of all Jews of good antecedents who wish to establish themselves here and that arrangements are being made so that 300 Jewish children now residing in Hungary may enter the country. Señor Camilo Ponce Larriquez declared to Mr. Landau that:

"Instructions have been issued to Ecuadoran consuls to grant visas to all Jews who wish to immigrate to Ecuador, the only condition being that these be for individuals of good antecedents. Arrangements are being made for the admission of 300 Jewish children. Ecuador is entirely opposed to racial discrimination and wishes to make its contribution to the noble efforts inaugurated by President Roosevelt offering refuge to the victims of Nazism."

At five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon the President of the Republic in the presence of the Minister of Government received Mr. Landau, who was again accompanied by the Ambassador of the United States. At that time Dr. Velasco Ibarra stated:

"You may be assured that as long as I am President of Ecuador this country will be open to all those persecuted by Nazism, especially to the Jews who have suffered more than anyone else. These are not times to apply the ordinary legislation concerning immigration; we have to act to save lives."

Mr. Jacob Landau is the editor of the Overseas News Agency and of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and has just participated in the creation of a free port for refugees in Mexico. He continued his trip to Lima yesterday.

Translation
TR:JWB:rbm

*I was Ref BU
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE BY MELBAHN & CHIVER

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: September 28, 1944
NUMBER: 6469
X

CONTROL COPY

[REDACTED]

With reference to Legation's message dated September 7, No. 5894, paragraph five, (Ecuadoran Interests Germany and Hungary), a note with regard to protection of individuals in Germany claiming Ecuadoran Nationality of Federal Political Department was forwarded on May 12 by the Ecuadoran Consulate, we are told by Swiss. Contradictions of such a nature were contained therein that its meaning was difficult for the Swiss to interpret. It is said the Consulate was not able to supply explanatory interpretation of the note and the Consulate concurred with Swiss that in order to avert misconstruction, they should ignore note of May 12. In the meantime, contents of the note were sent by Federal Political Department to Swiss Legation Berlin for informational purposes while waiting for clarification. Ecuadoran Consulate decided to ask Government of Ecuador for such clarification.

A communication dated August 30 conveying the request of the Government of Ecuador that bearers of Ecuadoran papers in Hungary be protected by Swiss has been received by the Swiss from Ecuadoran Consulate. The reply was made by the Swiss that since Ecuadoran interests are not represented by the Swiss in Hungary, they could not consider this request.

HARRISON

DCR:GP:
10-7-44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972



EMBASSY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

Quito, September 23, 1944

No. 2185

Subject: Efforts of War Refugee Board to Assist Jewish Refugees to Enter American Countries; Visit to Quito of Mr. Jacob Landau.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular airgram of July 13, 1944, 12:30 p.m., in regard to priorities for air travel for Mr. Jacob Landau in the course of his trip to Latin America as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, New York, and with reference also to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., I have the honor to report that Mr. Landau arrived in Quito yesterday and will depart tomorrow morning.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Landau called upon me and explained his interest in obtaining authorization from the Ecuadoran authorities for the issue of visas to a number of adult European refugees. He inquired whether I would present him to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and when I acceded to his request later the same day, the Minister showed a very sympathetic attitude in the matter.

This morning Mr. Landau informed me that he had discussed the same subject with the Minister of Government, who was also sympathetic and who proposed to introduce him to the President. Mr. Landau asked whether I would accompany him also to see the President. I stated that I would be glad to do so, which I did this afternoon, the Minister of Government being also present. Mr. Landau explained to the President his desire to obtain Ecuadoran visas for 200 European refugees. He stressed that the great majority of these individuals would probably never come to Ecuador, but that the obtaining of the Ecuadoran visas would serve as a bond or guarantee which would permit the saving of a number of lives from Nazi persecution.

President Velasco Ibarra referred to assurances which he had previously given in public statements that his Government was strongly opposed to any form of racial discrimination. When the President then asked the Minister of Government whether he saw any objection to Mr. Landau's proposal, the latter replied in the negative, but added that there

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State Dept. Letter, 14772
By E. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972 should be

3 War Refugee Board (Sect)
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should be an official request from the United States Government. At that point I stated that my Government was pursuing an energetic and clearly-defined policy of giving the maximum assistance possible to the victims of Nazi oppression. I added, however, that before making an official request to the Ecuadoran Government for visas for a given number of refugees, I would be obliged to ask for instructions, which I would be glad to do without delay. I should be pleased if the Department would instruct me in the premises.

In this connection, it may be noted that on various occasions, as has been reported to the Department, the Ecuadoran Government has indicated to the Embassy a sympathetic attitude towards the program and work of the War Refugee Board. However, as was reported in the Embassy's despatches nos. 1041 of February 7, 1944, and 1219 of March 11, 1944, and airgram No. A-139 of March 10, 1944, the Foreign Office has stated that it would welcome receiving a concrete proposal as to the assistance that Ecuador might extend in the matter. The Embassy has received no instructions in response to that suggestion.

Respectfully yours,

Copy to the Consulate General, Guayaquil
File No. 840.1
JWG:rbm

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

GEK-241

This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Quito

Dated September 15, 1944

Rec'd 1:39 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

908, September 15, 10 a.m.

Ecuadoran Government has indicated it would be
able to accept approximately 300 children (reference
Department's telegram No. 680 and Embassy's despatch
No. 2053 of August 10 and August 29, respectively). Text
of communication received from the Foreign Office is
being sent by airmail pouch.

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SEP 16 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Page 3/22/44

CONTROL COPY

No. 2140

Quito, Ecuador, September 15, 1944

X
Subject: Ecuadoran Response to Proposal to Receive Refugee
Children.

AKZ

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Embassy's despatch No. 2053 of August 29, 1944, and the Embassy's telegram No. 908 of today, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of an aide memoire from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs indicating its belief that Ecuador would be able to accept approximately three hundred orphaned or abandoned children from Europe under the conditions outlined in the Department's telegram No. 680 of August 10, 9 p.m., and previous communications.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

/s/ JAMES W. GANTENBEIN
James W. Gantenbein
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

1. Copy of aide memoire.
2. Translation.

Copy to Consulate General, Guayaquil

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CGR:mt

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

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R. I. Board

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 2140 of September 14, 1944, from American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

TRANSLATION

AIDE MEMOIRE

With reference to the aide memoire addressed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the Embassy of the United States of America on August 24 of this year informing it that Ecuador was prepared to receive a group of orphaned or abandoned European children under the conditions set forth in said communication, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the honor to state that the matter, having been considered by the Ministry of Social Welfare, it is believed that Ecuador would be able to receive up to 300 children provided that the War Refugee Board furnished the funds necessary for the case.

The number indicated in the preceding paragraph might vary, nevertheless, in accordance with the provisions which the above mentioned board might make for each child, the adequacy of which is to be submitted to the judgment of the Ecuadoran Government.

TR:CGR:mt

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 was Refugee Board
Files

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No. 2053

Quito, Ecuador, August 29, 1944

Subject: Ecuadoran Response to Proposal to receive Refugee
Children from Hungary

3 to War Refugee Board (200)
3 to RFB
War (Mr. Bundy)

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

With reference to the Department's telegram No. 680 of August 10, 1944, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of an aide memoire from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs concerning its acceptance in principle of the proposal with respect to refugee children from Hungary.

It will be noted that the Ecuadoran Government has once again failed to indicate specifically the number of children which it would be prepared to receive. However, a high official of the Ecuadoran Foreign Office in conversation with an officer of the Embassy today stated that his Ministry was awaiting communications in the matter from two other interested Government departments and hoped to be able to provide the Embassy with a definite figure within two or three days. The Embassy will, of course, cable this information to the Department as soon as it is received.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosures

1. Copy of aide memoire.
2. Translation

840.1
CGR:mt

840.48 REFUGEE/8-2944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 14 1972**

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 2053 of August 29, 1944,
from American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

COPY

REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Departamento Diplomático

AIDE MEMOIRE

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores ha estudiado con el mayor detenimiento y con verdadero interés el contenido del Aide Memoire entregado por la Embajada de Estados Unidos de Norteamérica el día 21 de los corrientes.

El Ecuador, que el 21 de julio próximo pasado hizo conocer ya su resolución de recibir inmediatamente un grupo pequeño de niños europeos huérfanos o abandonados, se complace en informar a la Embajada Norteamericana que estaría dispuesto a ampliar en forma considerable el cupo preestablecido, para recibir niños procedentes de Hungría y de Francia, siempre que la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra le proporcionara los elementos necesarios para el sostenimiento y educación de aquellos niños.

En consecuencia el Ecuador podrá determinar con precisión el número de niños que estaría dispuesto a recibir cuando la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra directamente o por intermedio de la Embajada Norteamericana le haga conocer el monto de fondos que estaría dispuesta a proporcionar por cada niño.

La Cancillería conviene en la necesidad de tratar, si fuere del caso, conjuntamente con otras naciones los planes para el posible establecimiento de una inmigración en gran escala de niños refugiados. Pero, hasta que se llegue a esa planificación, que quizás los acontecimientos mundiales próximos venideros hagan innecesaria, el Ecuador está dispuesto a tratar este asunto con un criterio muy amplio como corresponde a la naturaleza humanitaria de la gestión.

• Quito, a 24 de Agosto de 1.944

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 2053 of August 21, 1944,
from American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

TRANSLATION

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Diplomatic Department

AIDE MEMOIRE

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has studied with the greatest care and with real interest the contents of the aide memoire presented by the Embassy of the United States of America on August 21.

Ecuador, which on July 21 last made known its intention of receiving immediately a small group of orphaned or abandoned European children, takes pleasure in informing the American Embassy that it would be disposed to amplify considerably the pre-established quota for receiving children from Hungary and France provided that the War Refugee Board would furnish the necessary funds for the maintenance and education of those children.

Consequently, Ecuador will be able to determine exactly the number of children that it will be disposed to receive when the War Refugee Board directly or through the American Embassy notifies it of the amount of money that it would be disposed to furnish for each child.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs agrees to the necessity of considering jointly with other nations, should the case arise, plans for the possible undertaking of a large scale immigration of refugee children. But until it comes to such planning, which perhaps world events of the near future will render unnecessary, Ecuador is disposed to treat this matter with a very ample criterion as befits the humanitarian nature of the negotiations.

Quito, August 24, 1944

TR:CGR:mt

*3-5 War Refugee
Board (Heas)*

~~RESTRICTED~~

No. 1918

Quito, Ecuador, August 3, 1944

Subject: Assistance to Victims of Enemy Oppression.

CONTROL COPY

~~RESTRICTED~~

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular airgram received June 23, 1944 (the date of which is not legible), requesting that there be conveyed to the Ecuadorian Government the message which the President of the United States delivered to the Congress on June 12 in regard to assistance to victims of enemy oppression, I have the honor to enclose a copy, with translation, of a note dated August 1, 1944, from the minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosures:

1. Copy of a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
2. Translation of note

Original to the Department of State
Copy to the Consulate General, Guayaquil

File No. 840.1
JWG:rab

13/10/44
10. 10. 1944

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 1918 of August 3, 1944,
from the American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Diplomatic Department

No. 27-D-7
Quito, August 1, 1944

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to state to Your Excellency that I have received your esteemed note No. 240 dated the 30th of last month (sic.) in which, as I was informed, you complied with direct instructions from your Government in bringing to my knowledge the text of the message which His Excellency, President Roosevelt, addressed to the Congress of the United States of America on June 12 of the present year regarding the activities which are being conducted for the assistance and defense of the victims of Nazi persecution.

I have read with the greatest attention the text of that important document, in which His Excellency, the President of the United States of America, makes clear the profound concern which he feels regarding the state into which thousands of persons have fallen who have not been able to escape from enemy persecution and the zeal with which he is seeking the solution of this problem of an essentially humanitarian character.

Ecuador shares the noble sentiments which inspire the policy of the United States and of its illustrious leader; it applauds the many measures which are being taken for giving to those innumerable persons who are without refuge the aid of the guarantees and privileges which are afforded by the democracies and in a particular way it is pleased that it is America which is opening its gates in order that in its lands there may be rehabilitated those who have suffered the rigors of the racial and ideological persecution.

I am grateful to Your Excellency for having brought to my knowledge the text of this very important message and I avail myself of the opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(signed) C. Ponce Enríquez

Mr. Robert McGregor Scotten
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America
City

TR:JWS:rab

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL ATTACHE

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] USE OF THE
ATTACHE GENERAL AT PANAMA, HABANA, GUAYAMA, TRUSTE, BOGOTA,
SANTIAGO, MONTEVIDEO AND MEXICO, D.F.

With special reference to the Department's circular
of January 21, 1947, p. 1, and to subsequent
instructions as to refugee matters, you are advised that
the Department has now authorized the American consular
officers to issue up to forty thousand quota
immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years
of age who are of foreign nationality or
stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy
enemy-controlled or occupied territory, or to the
possibility 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
validity 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 these 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
this 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, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

APR 10 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

The Secretary of State has referred to me copies of your Dispatches Nos. 1041, of February 7, 1944, 1093 of February 15, 1944, and enclosure, and your Airgram No. A-138 of March 10, 1944, in reply to the Department of State's circular airgrams of January 26, 1944, and February 29, 1944, requesting information as to the extent to which the Government of Ecuador can cooperate in aiding refugees from Axis-controlled countries.

Your cooperation in making this information available is appreciated. The comments and suggestions embodied in your dispatches are being carefully studied.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,
R. M. Scotten,
United States Ambassador,
Quito, Ecuador.

EEH RRM RRHatchison:agr 4-7-44

ZFG 746

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

Quito

Dated May 13, 1944

Rec'd 9:23 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

471 May 13 5 p.m

Proposal regarding refugee children (Department's
circular airgram April 20) has been referred by
Foreign Minister to the President and is under con-
sideration by the latter. Embassy expects decision
soon and will cable promptly

GANTHEMBIN

HPL
HEP

CCS Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standis,
Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

AIRGRAM

American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
Date: May 6, 11:00 a.m., 1944
Despatches: May 6, 6:00 p.m., 1944
Rec'd: May 15 4 p.m.

██████████
SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

No. A-245, May 6, 11:00 a.m., 1944

Department's circular airgram, April 11, 11:00 a.m.
After studying the matters raised in the airgram the
Minister for Foreign Affairs has orally informed me that:

1. His Government has received no inquiry through
the Spanish Government.
2. His Government is immediately sending a telegram
to the German Government through the Swiss Government
requesting safeguarding of persons claiming Ecuadorian
nationality.
3. His Government approves the proposed negotiations
for a further exchange of nationals of the American Republics
against German nationals in which holders of irregular pas-
ports in Axis-controlled territory would be eligible. He
inquired what country would bear the expense of the exchange
and I stated that it was my understanding that the United
States would bear all the expense insofar as the American
Republics were concerned.

CANTERBURY

JVG:rab
File No. 711

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Akrin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin,
Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish,
Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Files.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(By Courier)

[REDACTED]
No. 1388

Quito, April 18, 1944

Subject: Unauthorized Passports Issued to Persons Persecuted
by Enemy Authorities.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's secret circular airgram of March 31, 1:05 p.m., regarding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries to persons in enemy-occupied Europe, I have the honor to report that the substance of the Department's airgram was conveyed orally to the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday. The Minister then read to me a copy of a note sent to the British Minister here on March 30 which was in reply to a note from the British Minister concerning the unauthorized issuance of Ecuadoran passports in Stockholm and which he said explained the attitude of the Ecuadoran Government in the matter. I enclose a copy of this note, which was later furnished me by the British Minister, as well as a translation of the communication.

It will be noted that the Foreign Office communication indicates that while the Ecuadoran Government is not disposed to confirm the validity of unauthorized passports in

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akzin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mannon, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Rains, Mr. Sargoy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Standish, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Weinstein, Mr. H.D. White, Files

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

AIR MAIL

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 1368 of April 18, 1944,
from the American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

(Translation)

C O P Y

Republic of Ecuador
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DIPLOMATIC DEPARTMENT

No. 28-DC-13
Quito, March 30, 1944

Mr. Minister:

In reply to Your Excellency's communication No. 17 dated the 22d current, in which you are good enough to inform me of the desire of the Government of His Britannic Majesty to know whether Ecuador will permit the retention of passports which have been granted by the ex-Consul of my country in Stockholm to Israelites who are living in states occupied by the German forces, I have the honor to state to Your Excellency that my Government, notwithstanding the fact that it denies all validity with respect to the aforementioned passports, considering the grave penalties and difficulties to which those individuals would be subjected in case they were deprived of those documents, has decided not to insist on their cancellation while the existing circumstances prevail.

This decision of the Ecuadoran Government was transmitted to the Inter-Governmental Committee of Political Refugees, and Ecuadoran consular agents (officers) have been instructed in the same sense.

I must make clear that the aforementioned decision of my Government does not confer any right on those persons who possess passports with respect to entry into Ecuador without the fulfillment of the formalities established by the Alien Law (now) in force and does not constitute precedents for claiming a presumed acquisition of nationality.

Ecuador will deny all validity concerning those documents as soon as their bearers have left areas controlled by the Nazi armies.

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I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to
Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most dis-
tinguished consideration.

(Signed) Francisco Guarderas

To His Excellency
Mr. LESLIE CHARLES HUGHES-HALLET,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of Great Britain,
CITY.

TR/JWC:rab

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38 9718 CONTROL COPY 3 Wm Refugee
38 Wm Refugee, Guayaquil (Guayaquil)
1-12-44

EMBASSY OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quito, Ecuador, March 30, 1944

No. 1291

Subject: Assistance to Refugees from Axis Oppression.

SPECIAL ADVISER
 SUPPLY AND RESOURCES
 MAY 11 1944
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable
 The Secretary of State,
 Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatches Nos. 1219 of March 11 and 1248 of March 17 last on the subject of assistance to refugees from Axis oppression and the cooperation in the matter of the Ecuadoran Government, I have the honor to enclose a clipping, with translation, from the local newspaper, Ultimas Noticias, of last night, containing a local columnist's article which lauds the efforts being made in this regard by President Roosevelt. The article praises also the activities of inhabitants of the occupied countries, particularly Denmark, in assisting Jewish and other persons persecuted by the Axis to escape from Axis tyranny.

Respectfully yours,

JWW

Enclosures:
 Clipping from Ultimas Noticias,
 with translation

Original to the Department of State
 Copy to the Consulate General, Guayaquil

JWG:rab
 File No. 840.1

0222.4015/28

PS/JF

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AIR MAIL

Enclosure to despatch No. 1291 of March 30, 1944,
from the American Embassy, Quito, Ecuador.

THE EXAMPLE OF DENMARK

(Translation)

Almost unnoticed by the Latin American press, President Roosevelt has taken a long step toward the solution of the problem of the refugees of this war. He has established a special commission entrusted with rescuing, in so far as possible, the persons persecuted by Hitler, asking the states bordering on Nazified Europe to accept provisionally any number of refugees who knock at their doors, at the same time contracting the obligation that the United States later, when there do not exist the present problems of transportation, will look after the continuation of the migration of those refugees. Thus, in the fifth year of the war, there has at last been made the first practical attempt to alleviate the situation of the victims of Hitler.

One part of this new definite policy of the United States President is that now, on the occasion of the occupation of Hungary by the Germans, there has been directed to the Hungarian people an appeal to hide their benetic compatriots before the Nazi persecution, helping them to flee, taking into account that the tribunals of the United Nations will punish not only the German executioners but also those nationals of the occupied countries which have collaborated in the deportation of the Hebrews.

In various countries the inhabitants have done everything possible to defend their Israelite compatriots persecuted by the Nazis. In Norway, Holland, and Belgium many Christians have risked their own lives in concealing and helping them to escape. In France, the Catholic clergy has valiantly defied the agents of the Gestapo, giving shelter to the children who also are not excluded from Nazi sadism. An example has been the attitude of Denmark. Even before the second German invasion (August of 1943) the Danish Government had resisted every German attempt to make a discrimination of its citizens of the Hebrew race. From the Crown to the people, every Dane refused (to accept) the insinuation. "They belong to my people", said the King. "We do not know a Jewish problem in this country because we have never felt an inferiority complex with respect to the Israelites. If the Nazis desire that our Hebrew citizens carry the yellow star (discrimination ordered by the Germans in all the territories under their domination), I and my family will also carry it as a badge of the highest distinction." Shortly afterwards the King, accompanied by all the court, attended a religious ceremony in the synagogue of Copenhagen. A high official of the Danish Catholic church said to a group of those who had been confirmed: "I would prefer to die with the Hebrews than to live with the Nazis."

When on

AIR MAIL

- 2 -

When on August 28 of last year the Nazis resolved to put an end to the farce of their "protection" of Denmark and invaded that country for the second time, this time to act as in the other occupied countries, the zero-hour had arrived for the Hebrews. There commenced the arrests, the detentions en masse, the deportations. But the subterranean Danish movement crossed the derailing of the trains which conducted them; the conveyances were assaulted; Danish fishermen, risking their lives, crossed with the persons persecuted the arm of the sea which separates Denmark from Sweden. The result is that the 6,000 Danish Israelites and thousands of refugees who lived in Denmark, more than 17,000, have been saved, finding refuge and hospitality in Sweden. No small number of Danes have lost their lives in this exemplary conduct of democratic solidarity with the numerous objectives of the Nazi persecutions.

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2 - War Refugee Bd

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

American Embassy
Quito, Ecuador
Date: March 10, 12:15 p.m., 1944.
Despatched:
Rec'd.: *March 11 1944*

SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
U.S. OFFICE
QUITO, ECUADOR
FEB 10 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

See Caracas cables

NO A-158, March 10, 12:15 p.m., 1944

Department's circular airgram February 20, 1944, re-
garding program of the President's War Refugee Board.

Embassy has again discussed this subject with the Foreign Office and has emphasized both the great importance of the work undertaken and the value that would be derived from Ecuador's collaboration. The Foreign Office again indicated that it would welcome being furnished with a concrete proposal as to the further aid that Ecuador might render (my despatch NO 101 of February 7, 1944) but it agreed to make at this time a public statement of Ecuadoran support of our program. This, being the two principal Quito papers, *El Comercio* and *El Viajero* as a Foreign Office press release of which the following is a translation:

"The Ambassador of the United States, in the name of his Government, has approached the Foreign Office in order to inform it of the determination of the United States to rescue and aid the victims of Nazi persecution in Europe and in order to consult on whether Ecuador would be disposed to cooperate in that policy.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has replied that Ecuador shares the humanitarian sentiments which inspire the Government of the United States and that it is prepared to lend the cooperation requested, in accordance with the possibilities of the country, for which purpose the two Governments will have to consult and define the nature and means of the Ecuadoran assistance."

SCOTTISH

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*3 War Refugee Bd
(Trans)*



EMBASSY
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quito, Ecuador
February 15, 1944

No. 1093

Subject: Assistance to Refugees from Axis Oppression

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7:00 P.M., and with reference also to my despatch No. 1041 of February 7 last regarding the position of the United States Government with respect to the alleviation of the problem of refugees from Axis oppression, I have the honor 1/ & 2/ to enclose a copy, with translation, of a note from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, dated February 12, 1944. This is a reply to a note which I sent to the Ministry on February 2, in pursuance of the Department's airgram aforementioned.

Respectfully yours,

JWG:ksg
840.1

Enclosures:

- 1/ Copy of Foreign Office Note No. #17-D-19
- 2/ Translation of above-mentioned Note

Original to Department
Copy to Consulate General, Guayaquil

000090

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1093
dated February 15, 1944, from
American Embassy, Quito

REPUBLICA del ECUADOR
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

#17-D-9

DEPARTAMENTO DIPLOMATICO

Quito, a 12 de Febrero de 1944

Señor Embajador:

Tengo a honra avisar a Vuestra Excelencia recibo de la atenta comunicación número 47, de 2 de los corrientes, en la que se sirve informarme que el Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América ha expedido un decreto declarando que la política del Gobierno norteamericano "es la de tomar todas las medidas a su alcance a fin de libertar a las víctimas de la opresión enemiga que se encuentran en peligro de muerte, así como también el de proporcionar a tales víctimas el consuelo y asistencia compatibles con la prosecución y éxito de la guerra"; decreto en cuya virtud se crean Departamentos gubernamentales encargados de llevar a cabo esta política, bajo la observación directa del Excelentísimo Señor Presidente Roosevelt.

Termina Vuestra Excelencia expresándome que el ilustre Mandatario de la Unión recibirá con agrado la cooperación de otros Gobiernos para realizar esta difícil pero importante tarea, pidiéndome, en consecuencia, un informe sobre la posición de mi Gobierno sobre este empeño de asistir y aliviar a las infortunadas víctimas de la tiranía nazi.

En respuesta tengo a honra manifestar a Vuestra Excelencia que el Gobierno del Ecuador, fiel a las normas democráticas y a los principios humanitarios que lo rigen, mira con especial simpatía la iniciativa del Gobierno norteamericano por aliviar la situación de las víctimas de la guerra y de la agresión y atropellos de las Potencias totalitarias, pues coinciden estos propósitos con los mantenidos por mi Gobierno para procurar resolver los graves problemas que ha creado la persecución, dando facilidades para el establecimiento en el país a quienes, por sus antecedentes personales, estaban en capacidad de organizar su vida al amparo de las leyes y de la soberanía ecuatoriana.

Me hallo en espera de conocer las actas de las sesiones del Comité Intergubernamental de Refugiados Políticos, antes de comunicar a Vuestra Excelencia la decisión que, con respecto a las resoluciones de dicho organismo, adopte mi Gobierno, dispuesto siempre a colaborar, en la medida de sus posibilidades, para la mejor realización de tan plausibles propósitos.

Válgome de la oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi consideración más alta y distinguida.

Por El Ministro, El Subsecretario

(signed) C. Proaño Alvarez

Copied and checked by: KSG

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 1093
dated February 15, 1944, from
American Embassy, Quito

REPUBLIC of ECUADOR
Ministry of Foreign Relations

#17-D-9

DIPLOMATIC DEPARTMENT

Quito, February 12, 1944

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's esteemed communication No. 47, of the second current, in which you were good enough to inform me that His Excellency the President of the United States of America has issued a decree declaring that the policy of the United States Government is "to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war"; a decree by virtue of which there are created governmental departments entrusted with the carrying out of this policy under the direct observation of His Excellency President Roosevelt.

Your Excellency concludes by stating that the illustrious Statesman of the United States would welcome the cooperation of other Governments for effecting this difficult but important task, requesting of me, consequently, a statement of the position of my Government concerning this undertaking of assisting and alleviating the unfortunate victims of Nazi tyranny.

In reply I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Ecuador, faithful to the democratic norms and to the humanitarian principles which govern it, views with special sympathy the initiative of the United States Government for alleviating the situation of the victims of the war and of the aggression and the atrocities of the totalitarian powers, because these purposes coincide with those maintained by my Government for endeavoring to solve the grave problems which have been created by the persecution, giving facilities for the establishment in the country to those who, owing to their personal antecedents, have been able to organize their lives under the protection of the laws and sovereignty of Ecuador.

I am waiting to learn the acts of the meetings of the Inter-Governmental Committee of Political Refugees before communicating to Your Excellency the decision which, with respect to the resolutions of the aforementioned organization, my Government will adopt, disposed, as it is, always to collaborate within the scope of its possibilities for the best attainment of these very commendable purposes.

I avail myself of the opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the renewed assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

For the Minister, the SubSecretary

(signed) C. Proaño Alvarez

TR:JWG

Copied and checked by: KSG



EMBASSY
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

San Salvador, El Salvador, February 9, 1944

No. 1264

X
SUBJECT: Admission of Jews and other war refugees
into El Salvador.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

Supplementing my despatch no. 1261 of February 8, 1944, I have the honor to advise the Department that it is my understanding that the Cabinet meeting referred to in Section (a) of Dr. Avila's letter therein transcribed took place several years ago and is not therefore to be confused with the meeting which, as reported in despatch 1230, of February 2, 1944, I surmised might be held with respect to our most recent representations on the subject of admission of Jews and other refugees into this country.

The earlier Cabinet meeting presumably is that alluded to in the second paragraph of Mr. Frazer's despatch no. 425, of January 3, 1939.

Respectfully yours,

Walter Thurston
Walter Thurston

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27/11/44

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 3321
+

Bogotá, Colombia, February 4, 1944

Subject: Assistance to War Refugees

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m. regarding the executive order of January 22, creating a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, charged with taking action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In accordance with the Department's instruction, the policy expressed in the President's executive order has been explained to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the airgram has been repeated to all Consular offices in Colombia.

In discussing this broad program with Dr. CABALLERO Escovar, Acting Secretary General of the Foreign Office, the latter expressed the desire of the Colombian Government to cooperate fully with the War Refugee Board, the Inter-governmental Committee, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and other interested international organizations, in extending humanitarian assistance to European war refugees. He said that no obstacles existed at present in Colombia to the entry of such refugees, other than the natural and necessary wartime controls governing the movement of all aliens. He pointed out that there were already in Colombia a number of European refugees, including Jews. He added that the problem was not at present a very acute one in Colombia, due to the difficulties of transportation which prevented any large number of refugees from arriving at Colombian ports.

With reference to the future, Dr. Caballero Escovar stated that the Colombian Government was now studying the immigration policy which it should adopt for the post-war period. He said that while there was a certain need for immigration in Colombia as well as other American Republics, it was the desire of his Government for such immigration to be on a selective basis, so that only those immigrants who could adjust themselves to living in Colombia and contributing to the welfare and advancement of the country would be permitted entry. It

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AIRMAIL

- 2 -

was apparent from the discussion that while the Colombian Government is prepared to cooperate in a general way in extending humanitarian assistance to European war refugees, at the same time it will adjust its policy and action in this regard to its national immigration policy, now under study, with a view to protecting Colombia against any uncontrolled influx of undesirable refugees.

The Embassy will, of course, keep actively in mind the President's policy as set forth in the airgram under acknowledgment, and will make its facilities freely available in all appropriate cases in order to assist the War Refugee Board in its important task.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Paul C. Daniels
Counselor of Embassy

Original to Department
800 - Gen./840.1
PCD:iam

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CONTROL COPY



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quito, Ecuador, February 7, 1944

3-11-44 [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear]
(Treas.)

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ AL

No. 1041

Subject: Assistance by Ecuador in Relief of Refugees from Axis-Controlled Countries.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

MMH

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7:00 p.m., regarding assistance to refugees from Axis-controlled countries.

No official efforts are now being made in this country to rescue the Jews and other prosecuted minorities from Axis-controlled countries, although efforts have been made for some time by leaders in the Czechoslovakian colony here and Jewish societies. A plan is now on foot by the Jewish association, the HICEM, to bring in 400 Central European Jewish families to Ecuador from Spain and Portugal. Officials and other persons interviewed have pointed out that it is necessary to pay high ransoms to obtain permission for the departure of refugees from the Axis-controlled countries. Only about three or four applications per month are being made at present for entry into Ecuador.

There are no special restrictions in Ecuador against the entry of Jews into the country on racial or religious grounds, although like all other immigrants, they are required by law and regulations to come here for certain specified purposes, more particularly to engage in agricultural activities or activities related to essential industries or to be technicians or to engage in professions. I enclose a copy of a booklet published in 1941 by the Ecuadoran Ministry of Government containing the latest immigration laws and regulations.

In a preliminary conversation on this subject today at the Foreign Office, the latter stated that the policy of the Ecuadoran Government was one of liberalism with respect to the entry of Jewish and other refugees from Axis-controlled territory and that the Government here could be counted upon to cooperate in the problem insofar as social and economic conditions in the country permitted. The Foreign Office stated, however, that Ecuador had already opened its doors to a relatively large number of such refugees during the last few years, that virtually all of these had congregated in the towns and cities, and that as they had caused certain maladjustments in business and industry, it feared that the acceptance of additional non-agricultural refugees would produce an extensive anti-Semitic feeling in the country. As to agriculture, it was stated that it appeared very unlikely whether any of the Jewish refugees in question would be suited to agricultural work in Ecuador, but that the country might be able to absorb suitable non-Jewish agricultural laborers. The

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

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Foreign Office mentioned the difficulties concerning documentation and stated that, while the Ecuadoran Government had adopted a liberal policy in this regard, a real problem was presented in cases in which refugees did not have the proper papers and could not satisfactorily establish their identity and antecedents. In conclusion, the Foreign Office stated that this matter would be presented to the President for his consideration but that it believed that it would be helpful if the United States Government could present a concrete plan to the Ecuadoran Government on the subject.

In recent months a certain amount of anti-Semitic feeling has come to the attention of the Embassy, and only several days ago the Consulate General in Guayaquil reported that there had been a sudden increase in such feeling in that city. It would, therefore, appear, as the Foreign Office commented today, that it would probably be unwise to ask Ecuador to cooperate in any plan which would entail the large-scale absorption of additional Jewish refugees in the principal cities of this country.

With respect to non-Jewish individuals, tracts of potentially agricultural land, particularly in the Oriente and in the province of Manabi, are slowly being opened up by new roads and there is every reason to believe that able-bodied European peasants who are capable of performing agricultural work would be well-received for colonization on these lands. In January 1941, approximately 50 Spanish Republican refugees came to this country under the auspices of the New World Resettlement Fund, and although the colony project failed, this was due to the fact that unsuitable land was made available and the fact that the administration of the colony did not function satisfactorily. However, the head of the Ecuadoran Immigration office today expressed the opinion that this country was not yet ready for any extensive colonization in thus far undeveloped sections not easily accessible by roads. Among the difficulties involved are the human and plant diseases which exist in the tropical and sub-tropical climates of the sections of Ecuador in which available lands would be located, and the absence of sufficient agricultural experimentation in those sections to enable colonists to know what products could be profitably raised.

Concerning the request in the airgram under reference for my recommendations as to what the United States Government might do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression, I believe that it would be advisable to consider the problem from two points of view. Regarding physically-fit refugees who are of the peasant class, there would seem to be opportunities in Ecuador as well as in other undeveloped countries of the Americas to find at least a certain amount of land suitable for agricultural exploitation. In regard to the non-agricultural refugees, however, the problem is admittedly more difficult. Insofar as Ecuador is concerned, I agree with the Foreign Office that the entry of further Jewish refugees who would settle in Quito and Guayaquil would lead to a strong and extensive anti-Semitic feeling. It would seem, therefore, that with respect to this non-agricultural category of refugees, it might be preferable to establish temporary camps for the duration of the war, maintained for them by governmental or philanthropic funds, in which these people might receive the requisites of food, shelter, and medical care, without adding to the social and economic problems of the receiving countries. Such camps might be economically established and maintained in this country, although the pressure against available supplies of certain foodstuffs in this country is a subject of daily comment in the local newspapers as well as of corresponding embarrassment to the Government.

As to the position of the Ecuadoran Government, I believe that, as the Ministry for Foreign Affairs intimated today, the Government would at

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least give sympathetic consideration to any concrete plan that the United States Government might be disposed to offer, provided that it would not serve to create increased social and economic problems in the country.

Respectfully yours,

Original to the Department of State
Copy to the Consulate General, Guayaquil

Enclosures
As indicated

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