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

FOR:

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

FOR MATERIAL RE REQUEST THAT EL SALVADOR AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BE ACQUAIANTED WITH FACTS AND ASKED TO GIVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO SWISS GOVERNMENT; RE ISSUANCE OF UP TO 4,000 IMMIGRATION VISAS TO REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM AXIS TERRITORY

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

(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)
This telegram must be paraphrased before being distributed to anyone except the Department of Defense or the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SSgt. Gunnels

7th August 1964

Washington, D.C.

Secretary of Defense

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Washington, D.C.
TWO

CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

TO

CERTAIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICES

All messages sent on behalf of representatives of the War Refugees Board and messages relating to the operations of the Board should be taken up in your regular accounts for reimbursement by the War Refugees Board in accordance with Section 7-45 of the Foreign Service Regulations.

Please submit by airgram complete list of all messages which you have sent in the Board's interest, as stated above, giving number and date.

HULL

Sept

FAHRT 7/6/44

BP

UBB 8-1/3

PLEASE SEND CIRCULAR AIRGRAM TO THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICES:

Algeria
Amsterdam
Lisbon
London
Madrid
Stockholm

Miss Chiefley (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Agin, Bernstein, Boskin, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaster, Rodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lockford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pahls, Garey, Stanfield, Stewart, Weinlein, R. R. White, Willes
SUBJECT: President's Message to Congress on June 12.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

With reference to the Department's circular airgram (date illegible), regarding President Roosevelt's message to Congress on June 12, I have the honor to report that the contents of the message were duly conveyed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and to the press.

It was published by La Prensa Gráfica on July 1. Clippings thereof are enclosed for the Department's information.

Respectfully yours,

Gerhard Gade
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure
Clippings
MENSAJE DE MR. ROOSEVELT AL CONGRESO DE ESTADOS UNIDOS

Junio 12 de 1944

El Presidente de los Estados Unidos ha enviado este día al Congreso el siguiente mensaje.

En repetidas ocasiones el Congreso ha expresado su profunda conmiseración por la triste situación de los pueblos perseguídos por las fuerzas hitlerianas, cuyas vidas son agredidas diariamente en el altar de la tiranía nazi.

En repetidas ocasiones el Congreso ha expresado su profunda conmiseración por la triste situación de los pueblos perseguídos por las fuerzas hitlerianas, cuyas vidas son agredidas diariamente en el altar de la tiranía nazi.

Esta nación se horroriza ante la sistematica persecución de indefensos grupos por los nazis. Para nosotros, el asesinato sin provocación de gentes inocentes, únicamente por diferencia de raza, religión o credo político, es el crimen más nefasto que puede existir. Desde que los nazis empezaron esta campaña, muchos de nuestros ciudadanos de todas las razas y de todos los credos políticos o religiosos, han presenciado nuestro atentado de represalias y enemigos. Entre nosotros, en un asunto en el cual no existe ni podrá existir nunca una división de opinión.

A medida que la derrota final de las fuerzas hitlerianas se acerca, la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra, continua desempeñando su santo deber. Muchos grupos cristianos también están siendo atacados. A pesar de que ya han perdido la guerra, los nazis están tentados de completar su programa de exterminio por medio de masacres sin precedentes. No es nuestro propósito detener la proscripción de los judíos del mundo, pero nuestra intención es detener las violaciones que a nuestro pueblo nos trasmiten, de las que nos aseguramos que están en liza.

Este Gobierno no sólo ha expedido medidas de represan
cia por tan inhóspita y barbarosa política de exterminio que, en cooperación con otros gobiernos, ha conseguido alterar la situación de los pueblos perseguidos. En enero de este año revivió que este Gobierno no debiera dudar de sus esfuerzos para que la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra compusiera por los Secretarios de Estado, Hacienda y Guerra. A la Junta se le encomendó la responsabilidad de ejercer acción en la línea de la derrota de los nazis, de las vidas de gentes inocentes. En efecto, de miles de pueblos evacuados del territorio enemigo, algunos han estado en contacto con las autoridades nacionales en el extranjero, y hemos recibido informes de que nuestros enemigos, en la medida que la derrota final de Hitler es el que prevalecerá, han sido más atacados que nunca. Esta Junta está directamente unida con todos nuestros esfuerzos de guerra.

Desde su fundación, la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra, que cuenta con un personal que transita las horas, se ha vendido por medio de sus operaciones en distintas partes del mundo, ha sido objeto de admiración. En efecto, esta Junta ha salvado de las garras de la muerte a miles de personas, en gran parte judías, que habían sido expulsadas del territorio enemigo. Además, ha sido objeto de admiración por la buena voluntad con la que ha acometido su tarea, y ha cumplido con una escala de su trabajo.

Ante esta actitud de nuestros enemigos, no debemos dejar de recordar que estos gobiernos, que, con voluntad de exterminio, no han podido detener la proscripción de los judíos de los países europeos, han sido objeto de admiración por la buena voluntad con la que han acometido su tarea, y han cumplido con una escala de su trabajo.

En los últimos años, en el mismo país y en el extranjero, hemos visto con ojo de horror cómo, durante el enemigo de los judíos, han sido objeto de admiración por la buena voluntad con la que han acometido su tarea, y han cumplido con una escala de su trabajo.

Debemos recordar que, en los últimos años, en el mismo país y en el extranjero, hemos visto con ojo de horror cómo, durante el enemigo de los judíos, han sido objeto de admiración por la buena voluntad con la que han acometido su tarea, y han cumplido con una escala de su trabajo.

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San Salvador, El Salvador, May 4, 1944

No. 1531

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular telegram dated April 20, 7:35 p.m., and to report that I conveyed its purport to the Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs at an interview on the morning of April 25, which was supplemented by a note later the same day, a copy of which is attached hereto.

I have now received from Dr. Avila a personal letter, the English version of which is transcribed below:

"San Salvador, May 2, 1944.

My dear Mr. Thurston:

I take pleasure in advising you that my Government views with sympathy and in principle is in agreement with the suggestion to which your esteemed letter of April 25 refers to the end that El Salvador would

cc. Miss Chaumoy (For the Sec'y), Mr. Abrahamson, Mr. Akin, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Cohn, Mr. Dubois, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Gaston, Miss Hodel, Miss Laughlin, Mr. Lesser, Mr. Luxford, Mr. Mann, Mrs. Mann, Mr. Marks, Mr. McCormack, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Paul, Mr. Pehle, Mr. Pollak, Mr. Reins, 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. Parkes Date SEP 14 1972
grant refuge to orphaned or abandoned children now within the territory occupied or controlled by the enemy, and that to this end it would construct a suitable building; but, before reaching a final conclusion it would desire to know whether the cost of the building, the feeding and education etc., of the children would be borne by the War Refuge Board; and finally all the expenses which that Board would be willing to meet for more or less 100 children.

I beg you therefore to give me this information if convenient.

For your kindness I thank you in advance.

I am, as always your affectionate friend,

/s/ A. R. Avila

When I spoke to Dr. Avila he made no mention of the fact that his Government might expect us to defray the cost of a building in which to lodge the refugees under consideration, but did inquire whether the War Refugee Board would defray all costs of transporting the refugees to El Salvador, maintaining them here for such time as might be decided upon, and of their eventual removal from the country. His letter makes no reference to the latter point and introduces the new one relating to the cost of the building.

Respectfully yours,

Walter Thurston

To the Department in
original and hectograph

Enclosure
Copy of letter to
Dr. Avila dated 4/25/44

711
WF/avg
Encl.-sure to despatch no. 1533, dated 5/4/44, from the
American Embassy at San Salvador, El Salvador, on the
subject: Admission of Jews and other war refugees into
El Salvador.

San Salvador, April 25, 1944

My dear Dr. Avila:

In confirmation of my statement this morning I take
pleasure in advising you that my Government has now
authorised 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-occupied or controlled
territory, or to the availability of means of transportation
to the United States. The purpose of this authorisation
is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or
abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Govern-
ment that these children will not remain in Switzerland
after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The
authorisation contains provisions for the continued re-
newal of the visas until such time as adequate transporta-
tion 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.

Should there be private agencies in El Salvador 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 El Salvador would be willing
to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly
be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland
to this country.

With respect to the foregoing, it would be gratifying
were the Government of El Salvador to give assurance to the
Swiss Government of its willingness to accept a certain num-
er of refugee children in a similar manner. It is conserva-
tively estimated that there are in France alone eight to
ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.
Should the Government of El Salvador be willing to make this humanitarian offer, it is suggested that the Salvadoran representative in Bern issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to El Salvador become available. The special representative of the War Refugees Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Salvadoran representatives in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will inform me as quickly as may be possible of the attitude of the Government of El Salvador toward this question and, if the suggestion above presented is favorably received, what number of children it is prepared to admit into this country.

Cordially and sincerely,

/s/ Walter Thurston
AIRGRAM

American Embassy

FROM (San Salvador, El Salvador

DATED May 3, 1944

RECD May 5 pm

Secretary of Washington

A-134, May 3.

The Peruvian Charde d'Affaires has informed me that he has now received a note from the Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that five of the persons to whom he had granted asylum and against whom no serious charges have been preferred may return to their homes without fear of molestation. The remaining three refugees, upon two of whom death sentences have been pronounced, will be granted safe conduct to proceed to Peru.

It is my understanding that the two refugees harbored in the Costa Rican Legation are also to be permitted to leave the country under safe conduct.

It is probably that the same procedure will be adopted with respect to the refugees sheltered in the Guatemalan and other diplomatic missions.

Repeated to American Embassies at Guatemala City, Tegucigalpa, Managua, and San Jose, and Lima.

THURSTON

800
St/wga

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBols, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Rains, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White, Files.
The Peruvian Chargé d'Affaires has informed us that he has now received a note from the Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that five of the persons to whom he had granted asylum and against whom no serious charges have been preferred may return to their homes without fear of molestation. The remaining three refugees, upon two of whom death sentences have been pronounced, will be granted safe conduct to proceed to Peru.

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Repeated to American Missions at Guatemala City, Tagsolapa, Managua, and San José, and Lima.

THURSTON
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL INFORMATION OF THE
EMBASSIES AT PANAMA, RABANA, CIUDAD V centillo, BARRA,
LIMA, SANTIAGO, MONTREAL, AND MEXICO, D.F.

With further reference to the Department's circular
telegram of January 26, 7 a.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 refugees 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 assurance 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
removal 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
suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country, if none available. The Government may be informed if
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 Re-
publics, as well as in all other refugee matters.

Miss Chamoisy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akins, Bernstein, Cohn,
Dufolz, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Joeser, Luxford, Mann,
Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pahle, Pollak, Rainis, Sargoy, Smith,
Standish, Stewart, Walenstein, H. D. White, Files
Dear Mr. Thurston:

The Secretary of State has referred to me your dispatch No. 1250 of February 2, 1944, and copies of your dispatches Nos. 1261 of February 9, 1944, and 1264 of February 9, 1944, in reply to the Department of State's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, concerning the possibility of admission of Jews and other war refugees into El Salvador.

The War Refugees Board appreciates your cooperation in making this information available, and the comments embodied in your dispatches are being carefully studied.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Walter Thurston,
Embassy of the United States,
San Salvador, El Salvador.
No. 1261

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.
Embassy of the United States of America
San Salvador, El Salvador, February 8, 1944

No. 1261

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

In despatch no. 1230, of February 2, 1944, it was stated that a personal note was being addressed to the Salvadorean Minister for Foreign Affairs containing the salient points of the Department’s circular airgram of January 26, 1944 (7 p.m.) on the subject above cited. This note was sent to Dr. Avila on February 2 and the following personal reply dated February 8 has just been received from him:

"My dear Mr. Thurston:

"Reiterating your esteemed letter of the second instant, in which, complementing our conversation of the same day, you were so good as to confirm the statements made to me in conformity with the instructions which His Excellency the President of the United States of America had given to the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War with respect to the taking of measures for the immediate rescue of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution, and at the same time to request of me information with respect to what my Government has done in that connection and in general with respect to the situation in El Salvador in relation to the other points mentioned, permit me to advise you as follows:

"a) Since the laws on the subject contain no particular provisions thereon, it was agreed in Cabinet meeting that while the present situation should prevail, European immigration should not be permitted, particularly in view of the fact that the smallness and over-population of our country do not permit unrestricted immigration.

"But for reasons of humanity and convenience it was agreed to permit the entry, on agreement in each case, of some foreign nationals and of male and female Jews of sixty and fifty years of age respectively, who were related as grandfathers, fathers, sons and brothers of Jews having resided in the country for ten..."
ten years, who might be able to support them and
who should not come to the country to work and dis-
place nationals from their individual activities,
this arrangement also embracing minors under six-
teen years of age and those who might be under the
 guardianship or charge of immigrant Jews.

"It was agreed, moreover, to permit the entry
of those who might be experts or technicians in any
industry or scientific speciality which could be of
value to the country.

"b) With respect to the rest, my Government is
disposed to cooperate in every way possible with the
Government of your country in order to bring about
the realization of a policy set forth in your esteemed
communication.

"With my expressions of high esteem and friendship,

/s/ A. R. Avila"

Respectfully yours,

Walter Thurston
No. 1230

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

Upon receipt of the Department's circular airgram instruction dated January 26, 7 p.m., I visited several of the more prominent Jewish residents of this city for the purpose of ascertaining what information they might possess with respect to the feasibility of the introduction of Jews and other war refugees into El Salvador and the extent to which they might be prepared to cooperate in any plan for such resettlement.

I was informed that the Jewish community had very recently succeeded in organizing itself on a racial basis regardless of nationality and had just submitted (on January 28) a copy of its proposed charter to the Ministry of Fomento in order to obtain the necessary right to effect such organization in conformity with the laws of the country. The association will be called "The Israelite Community of El Salvador," and it will have as its major purposes the defense of the collective interests of Israelites residing in El Salvador, representation of the Israelite community before the judicial and administrative authorities of the country, charity (aid to needy Jews), organization of the religious, cultural and social life of the Israelites, and relations with other Israelite organizations elsewhere in the world. The Jewish community here, I was informed, consists of about 80 families. A number of these are of great wealth, and most of them are successfully and even prosperously established in local enterprises. I was informed that within recent years the Jewish community contributed extensively toward the temporary maintenance and eventual transportation of a number of Jewish refugees who were in transit to the United States. I was also informed that the community would be able and disposed to contribute to the maintenance of refugees who might enter El Salvador for a reasonable time. It was suggested that they might be able to support for a reasonable period of time 150 refugees— it being understood that such refugees would become self-supporting as quickly as possible. It was added, however, that certain restrictions have been set up by the Salvadoran authorities designed to prevent the entry of all save a very limited class of Jews and that these restrictions have already been applied in the cases of Mr. Rudulfo Goldschmidt and Mr. Ernesto Liebes, each of whom attempted to bring into El Salvador sisters who had succeeded
had succeeded in entering Holland from Germany in the early days of the present war. In each case permission to bring the sisters to El Salvador was refused.

This morning I called at the Foreign Office to discuss the Department's circular airgram with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Dr. Avila requested me to give him a memorandum containing the salient points of the airgram and I am sending this information to him in the form of a personal note. Dr. Avila stated that there is considerable popular antipathy to Jews in El Salvador and that in recognition of this and the fact that there is little room in El Salvador for any considerable influx of outsiders of any kind, the Government had quietly put into operation restrictive measures which had enabled it to sharply limit the number of immigrants into the country. He added, however, that the Government of El Salvador would give very sympathetic consideration to our views and would lend such cooperation as might be possible. I inferred that the subject will be discussed at a Cabinet meeting.

I pointed out to Dr. Avila that my instructions were contained in a circular airgram and that of course it was couched in general terms which could not apply equally to such disparate countries as for example Brazil and El Salvador. As the Department is of course well aware, El Salvador is one of the smallest states in America and one of the most densely populated. It is primarily an agricultural country with a considerable part of its available arable land in use. It is not highly industrialized although more so than most of its neighbors, but the trend and possibilities seem to indicate further industrialization.

Respectfully yours,

Walter Thurston

711
W2/sgd

To the Department in original and hectograph.

Enclosed sent to DOA
April 15, 1944
7 p.m.

CIRCULAR

FOR THE PERSONAL AND INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADORS AT PANAMA, HABANA, CIUDAD TRINIDADO, DONOTA, LIMA, SANTIAGO, MONTUVIEDRO AND MEXICO, D.F.

With further reference to the Department's circular ariagram 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 foregoing 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
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.

MISS CHEINNEY (For the Dealy) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lecenx, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pohl, Pollock, Revins, Sargey, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weisnein, H. D. White, Files