Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin America; Haiti
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS
LATIN AMERICAN (HAITI)

FOR:

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

FOR MATERIAL RE HAITIAN APPROVAL RE THIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE
GERMAN GOV., WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING AN EXCHANGE AGAINST GERMAN NATS,
IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE OF INTERNEES HOLDING LATIN AMERICAN PAS PORTS
AND PAPERS

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: OTHER MEANS
OF EFFECTING RESCUES
(RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS)
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A-406, August 16, 11:00 a.m., 1944.

In the absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I asked the Under Secretary whether his Government would be willing to ask Switzerland to represent Haitian interests in Hungary in order to protect the lives of persons holding documents issued in the name of the Haitian Government (Department's telegram of August 3, 11:00 a.m., 1944).

The Under Secretary states that he perceived no objection in principle and that he would consult the Minister on his return to Fort-au-Prince at the beginning of next week.

All C.

File: 711. OR 705.
0:2000

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 5-11-44
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 1 8 1972
AIRGRAM

FROM: Port-au-Prince, Haiti, May 24, 1944.
Rec'd: May 27, 1944, 8 a.m.

The Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.
A-286, May 24, 1:00 a.m., 1944.

Department's secret circular airgram of May 11, 7:30 p.m., 1944, and previous concerning refugees:

The Haitian Minister for Foreign Affairs is disposed to ask the American Government, being charged with the representation of Haitian interests in Spain, to present to the Spanish Government a request that the good offices of that Government be utilized to invite the German Government to accord to all persons holding Haitian passports the status of Haitian nationals until the receipt from the Haitian Government of a report on the validity of the passports in question.

In making this request, the Minister again expressed concern lest any action taken be prejudicial to the interests of any authentic Haitians, and desirability of usefulness of making such a request of the Spanish Government when the Swiss Government represents Haitian interests in territory occupied by the enemy.

The Foreign Minister therefore requested that, before delivering any official note in the sense requested, an informal approach to the Spanish Foreign Office be made for assurance that it will carry out the request made. The Minister further observes that he has confidence that the United States Government will conduct the negotiations as to safeguard the status of Haitian nationals which are under the control of the Germans.

CHAPIN

Files: 711.
V O HAN

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Gaston, Rodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luckford, Manx, Mann, Marks, McCormack, Sarogy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstain, H. D. White, Files Pehle

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
AIRGRAM
FROM: Port-au-Prince Haiti
DATE: May 4, 1944, 11 a.m.
Rec'd: May 4, 1944, 4 p.m.

The Secretary of State
Washington
A-248, May 4, 1944,

Department's A-144, May 1, 1944, 10:45 a.m.

Minister for Foreign Affairs states that only occasions
on which question of ultimate destination with respect to
immigration and recognition of documents has arisen has been
in recent conversations on the subject with me. He said
Vatican Charge here had spoken to him only on very general
lines of safeguarding refugees in Axis controlled countries
and could ascribe report mentioned in Department's airgram
as some perhaps distorted opinion expressed on the subject
by the Haitian Charge in Bern. Minister for Foreign Affairs
confirmed his understanding that there was no question of
any physical admission of refugees into Haiti involved.

Despite foregoing he stands on previous position with
regard to taking any positive steps in this connection. He
sites the continuing efforts which had been made through
the Swiss Government to recover all Haitian passports
fraudulently issued or dishonestly acquired and states that
his Government cannot now very well ask the Swiss Government
to do the reverse. He refers to measures taken here to this
end when notice of cancellation of citizenship was given
by decree in December 1942 (please see Embassy despatch
no. 1628 of December 12, 1942, also no. 1678 of November
13, 1942). He also points to the case of Arpad Bresch
(Embassy despatch 1578 of November 13, 1942 and previous)
and recalls the efforts which had been made through the
intermediary of the Swiss Government to have his Haitian
passport taken from him.

On the other hand, the Foreign Minister stated that he
remained entirely sympathetic with the motives which have
prompted the United States Government to take this initiative
and was prepared to accept any formula which could take above
reservations into consideration. He said that he would be
agreeable to any plan wherein the United States, as agents
for the Haitian Government, took the immediate responsibility
to implement the protection which the recognition of docu-
ments might afford the refugees in question. In other words
he is entirely willing that the American Government within
the Haitian Govt.
its discretion to obtain the desired objectives without having
to take any position on its own account which would only re-
verse its present position and might also be prejudicial to
such bona fide holders of Haitian documents who might now or
later claim full protection. (Embassy's A-244, May 3, 11 a.m.)

CHAPIN

VG/1st

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Soc'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein,
    Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford,
    Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Rains, Bargoy, Smith,
    Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, White, Files.
From: Port au Prince  
Date: May 3, 11 a.m., 1944  
Rec'd: May 6 a.m.

The Secretary of State,  
Washington  
A. 244, May 3, 11 a.m., 1944.

Department’s circular April 22, 1944, 7:30 p.m.

Many requests for recognition by refugees have been received, but it has been impossible to substantiate any claim or assign a reason to the delay in production of passports by refugees concerned. If no such passports are produced, foreign Minister states that gratuitous blanket statement of recognition at this time might later prove prejudicial to bona fide cases. He has constantly maintained negative position, however, of being willing to acknowledge validity of question raised in specific cases. No requests of this nature have been currently received.

CHAPIN

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
No. 2521

Division of Communications and Records

Subject: Report on Extent to Which Haitian Government Can Cooperate in Aid to Refugees from Nazi Persecution.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Department's circular telegram of January 26, 7:00 p.m., directing me to enlist the aid of the Government to which I am accredited for assistance to Jews and other Nazi victims, and asking certain specific questions.

I read an abridged statement of this in the French language to President Lescot. The latter informed me that he proposed to make certain collections for the War Fund. At the moment of conversation, the President had in mind a donation of $10,000 from the State Lottery, the profits from the sale of tickets to see the film of his journey to the United States, and possibly a special stamp surcharge on letters leaving the country. It was his idea that these collections could be delivered to a fund (I gather, the U. S. War Fund), from which it would be possible to make payments to refugees. The manner and tempo of the implementation of the foregoing admirable intention remains to be seen.

As regards the placing of refugees in Haiti, there would be no point in sending any here who are not capable of earning their livelihood and probably the only way that they could do so would be to have a little capital of their own or else have sufficient commercial aptitude to enlist the assistance of others to obtain a little money for such purposes. Even so, however, the prospects seem precarious. In view of the low cost and abundance of labor and the existence of a considerable number of unemployed in the towns, the location of refugees without those means would be most unfortunate; further, the Haitian budget is so limited that it would be unfair to charge it with sums for refugee support, apart from what President Lescot may be able to manage by outside means.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
There are no restrictions upon entry of Jews into this country as such. A few have established themselves here and some have made a success in business.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

File: 711.
JOW: MAK
To the Department in original and hectograph. [Note: sent to DCA]

P. S. There are over one hundred Jews in Haiti being supported by the Joint Jewish Relief Committee in the United States.
Fort-au-Prince, Haiti, February 10, 1944.

No. 2559

Subject: Haitian Contributions to the War Relief Fund.

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

Sir:

In reference to my despatch no. 2521 of January 31, 1944, regarding measures taken by the Haitian Government in rendering assistance to refugees from Nazi persecution, I have the honor to report that as of February 7th President Lescoat appointed the following to a Committee of Aid for Refugees:

President Lescoat - President

Mr. W. H. Williams
Co-President of the Banque Nationale de la Republique d'Haiti - Treasurer

Mr. Abel Lacroix
Secretary of State for Commerce, Finance and National Economy - Member

Mr. J. W. Thomas
Manager, Royal Bank of Canada - Member

Mr. Gentran Rouzier
Under-Secretary of State for Interior and for Information and General Police - Executive Secretary

As a first contribution to this fund President Lescoat turned over $500 which represented the proceeds, in the amount of $462.20, taken from a showing of a film of the President's visit last fall to Canada, United States and Cuba together with incidental contributions.
contributions.

At its first meeting on February 7th the newly appointed Committee endorsed the President's plan, as outlined in my despatch no. 2321 under reference, to obtain funds, (1) by a special State lottery for £10,000; and (2) by a special issue of 5 centime postage stamps.

Respectfully yours,

J. C. White.

VC:alk
File:711
To Dept: Original & Facsimile
AMERICAN LEGATION

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI,

March 27, 1944

Reference to your telegram No. 2521 of January 31, 1944.

It was a source of satisfaction to the War Refugee Board to learn of President Lescoat's plan to make available $10,000 to be used in refugee work. Your telegram of February 10, No. 2559 brings further encouragement through the announcement of the establishment of a committee by President Lescoat for the aid of refugees and by the fact that a portion of the above sum has been made available for immediate use.

Please express to President Lescoat the sincere appreciation of the War Refugee Board.

If a definite plan presents itself in which Haiti can render concrete assistance, it will be submitted to you for your consideration and counsel. The Board is aware of the limited possibilities in Haiti for a program for the immigration into Haiti of refugees, but it hopes that small numbers at least may be absorbed by the Republic.

(End)

3/27/44
March 28, 1944
3:30 p.m.

To: Mr. George L. Warren
From: J. W. Pohle

I should appreciate it if the attached
airgram were transmitted to Ambassador John Campbell
White in Haiti as soon as possible.

(Signed J. W. Pohle)

Alaughlin 3/28/44
AIRGRAM

To the American Embassy
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Reference to your report No. 2521 of January 31, 1944.

It was a source of satisfaction to the War Refugee Board to learn of President Lescot's plan to make available $10,000 to be used in refugee work. Your report of February 10, No. 2599 brings further encouragement through the announcement of the establishment of a committee by President Lescot for the aid of refugees and by the fact that a portion of the above sum has been made available for immediate use.

Please express to President Lescot the sincere appreciation of the War Refugee Board.

If a definite plan presents itself in which Haiti can render concrete assistance, it will be submitted to you for your consideration and counsel. The Board is aware of the limited possibilities in Haiti for a program for the immigration into Haiti of refugees, but it hopes that small numbers at least may be absorbed by the Republic.

[Signature]

3/24/44
Dear Mr. White:

The Secretary of State has referred to me copies of your Dispatches Nos. 2521, of January 31, 1944, and its enclosure, and 2659, of February 10, 1944, in reply to the Department of State's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, requesting information as to the extent to which the Haitian Government can cooperate in aiding refugees from Nazi persecution.

Your cooperation in this matter and the measures which President Lescot has taken to help in the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pohle
J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. J. C. White,
Embassy of the United States,
Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 3, 1944.

No. 2719

Subject: Transmitting Letter from President Lescot in regard to Haiti's Contribution to the National War Fund, United Nations Relief Fund.

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

Sir:

With reference to the Department's telegram No. 104 of March 27, 1944, transmitting an expression of appreciation on the part of the War Refugee Board for the contribution being made by Haiti in aid to refugees, I have the honor to enclose a copy, with translation of a communication which President Lescot sent me as of March 30th in acknowledgment of the one I addressed to him on March 28th in compliance with instructions.

As will be noted, the President points out that, for reasons cited, it was his intention that Haiti's contribution be made available to the National War Fund, United Nations Relief Fund, rather than to the War Refugee Board. He goes on to say, however, that the profits of the State Lottery, to which reference was made earlier in the Embassy's despatch No. 2521 of January 11st and No. 2559 of February 10, 1944, will, in fact, be turned over to the benefit of the War Refugee Board at the appropriate time.

Respectfully yours,

Vinton Chapin
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:
1/ From President Lescot dated March 30, 1944.
2/ Translation of No. 1 supra.

File: 711.
VC: 54K
LE PRESIDENT
DE LA
REPUBLIQUE

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'ai lu avec l'intérêt que vous devez deviner, votre lettre du 28 mars courant, dans laquelle vous m'apprenez que votre ambassade n'a pas manqué d'attirer l'attention du Département d'État à Washington sur les mesures prises par un Comité Haïtien, que j'ai l'honneur de présider, pour venir en aide aux victimes de la guerre.

Croyez bien que j'apprecie, comme il se doit, la diligence que vous avez mise à instruire votre Gouvernement de cette démarche que nous avons entreprise.

Les fonds que nous recueillons en ce moment ne sont pas destinés, ainsi que vous l'avez cru, au War Refugee Board, mais au National War Fund, United Nations Relief Fund, dont le siège est à New York et qui s'occupe de faire parvenir du secours aux victimes immediates de la guerre, dans les pays qui ont directement souffert de la bourrasque qui balaye le Monde.

Le vérité est que le Gouvernement Haïtien envisage en ce moment la possibilité de faire organiser par la Loterie de l'État Haïtien, en faveur du War Refugee Board, un tirage spécial dont tous les bénéfices seront versés à cette organisation.

Nous aimerions espérer que notre contribution, pour minime qu'elle soit, aidera à soulager un peu la misère de ceux qui sont les pitoyables victimes d'une abominable guerre provoquée par des démons assoiffés de domination.

Avec mes remerciements, je vous demande de recevoir, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires, l'assurance de mes sentiments cordiaux.

4. LESCOT

Monsieur Vinton Chapin,
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.,
Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique,
Port-au-Prince.
Sir:

You can imagine with what interest I read your letter of March 28th, in which you advise me that your Embassy has failed to draw the attention of the State Department to the steps taken by the Haitian Committee, over which I have the honor to preside, to help the victims of the war.

Believe me, I appreciate, as is appropriate, the interest (diligence) you have taken in informing your Government of this plan that we have undertaken to carry out.

The funds that we are now collecting are not intended, as you had thought, for the War Refugee Board, but for the National War Fund, United Nations Relief Office, the office of which is in New York and which is engaged in extending help to the immediate victims of the war in countries which have suffered directly from the storm which is sweeping the world.

The fact is that the Haitian Government just now is looking into the possibility of organizing through the State Lottery, for the benefit of the War Refugee Board, a special drawing of which all the profits will be turned over to that Organization.

We like to think that our contribution, small though it be, will help a little to ease the misery of those persons who are the pitiable victims of a horrible war brought on by madmen thirsting for domination.

With my thanks, I beg you to accept, Sir, the assurance of my cordial sentiments.

ELIS LASCOLT

Mr. Vinton Chapin,
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Port-au-Prince.