Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin Americans Paraguay

000230

FFC-76
(11-42)

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

FOR:

Amendment to this License . . . . . ☐

Extension of this License . . . . . ☐

Renewal of this License . . . . . ☐

Correspondence concerning this application . ☐

Other (Specify)

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

2. FOR MATERIAL RE PARAGUAYAN SUPPORT RE THIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, WITH A VIEW TO ARRANGING AN EXCHANGE AGAINST GERMAN NATIONALS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE OF INTERNEES HOLDING LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS AND PAPERS

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

(EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

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

(RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS)

000231

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

September 15, 1944
7 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

~~RESTRICTED~~

War Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY,

copy

ASUNCION (PARAGUAY)
297

The following from War Refugee Board.

Reference is made to your 503 of September 5. Please convey Board's appreciation to Paraguayan officials.

With regard to their suggestion reported in your cable, you may advise them that in view of liberation of France, no (repeat no) shipment of French children to Paraguay is expected.

HULL
(MMV)

WRB:MMV:OMH
9/15/44

RPA

SEP 18 AM 10 28
WASHINGTON D.C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

000232

RESTRICTED

No. 3
X

Asunción, Paraguay
September 5, 1944

Subject: Paraguayan Government is willing under certain conditions to receive refugee children from Hungary

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegraphic circular instruction August 12, 8 p.m., regarding the situation in Hungary and the possibility of obtaining havens for Jewish children from that country, and directing this Embassy to ascertain whether the Paraguayan Government would extend its acceptance in principle to children from Hungary as well as from France.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Foreign Relations which referred it for final decision to the Ministry of Education. A communication has now been received from the Foreign Office quoting a note from the Minister of Education, of which a copy and translation are transmitted herewith, declaring its willingness in principle to extend to children from Hungary the consent already given, with certain conditions, to receiving children from France. The Department was previously informed of this decision by my telegram No. 503, September 5, 3 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Willard L. Beaulac

Enclosures:
1. Copy of Note 768 from Ministry of Foreign Relations, September 1, 1944
2. Translation of Note 768

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LER:ps

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED

000233

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 3 from Asunción, Paraguay
September 5, 1944

C O P Y

Asunción, 1 de Septiembre de 1944

D.P.y D.
No. 768

Señor Encargado de Negocios:

Con referencia a la nota D.P. y D. No. 762, de 29 de Agosto último, tengo el agrado de transcribir a Vuestra Señoría la siguiente comunicación recibida del Ministerio de Educación, que dice:

"No. 1218-Asunción, 30 de Agosto de 1944.-Excmo. Señor Ministro. Tengo el agrado de acusar recibo del oficio de V.E. No. 733 del 21 de Agosto cte, así como de la copia de la nota 329 de la Embajada Americana acreditada cerca de nuestro Gobierno, que se relaciona al pedido de asilo de niños europeos en el Paraguay. Con respecto a esta tarea esencialmente humanitaria, este Ministerio ya ha tenido oportunidad de manifestar su conformidad a V.E. y se ha adelantado a determinar ciertas condiciones económicas indispensables para hacer posible, de parte de este Ministerio, la tarea de asilo y educación de los niños refugiados de Francia. En cuanto se refiere a los niños de Hungría este Ministerio es de opinión que, en principio, puede aplicarse el mismo régimen señalado anteriormente. Pero muy conveniente sería que entre los primeros grupos que se enviasen - de niños franceses- y los procedentes de Hungría, mediase un intervalo suficiente como para sacar cierta experiencia que permita hacer una acertada apreciación sobre el número máximo de niños huérfanos a quienes se pueda dar asilo con provecho. Ruego a V.E. transmita estas consideraciones a la Embajada Americana para los fines consiguientes. Reciba V.E. las expresiones de mi mejor consideración.- Fdo: Juan Darío Quiróz. Ministro-

Aprovecho la oportunidad para saludar a Vuestra Señoría con mi consideración más distinguida.

/s/ Mario Ferrario
Sub-Secretario de Estado
de Relaciones Exteriores

A Su Señoría

El Encargado de Negocios de los Estados Unidos de América,

Doctor Don Leslie Reed.-

S/D.-

000234

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 3 from Asunción, Paraguay
September 5, 1944

No. 768 TRANSLATION

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

With reference to Note D. No. 762 of August 29 last, I have pleasure in quoting the following communication received from the Ministry of Education, which states: "No. 1218, Asunción, August 30, 1944, Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of communication No. 733 of August 21 from Your Excellency, as well as of the copy of Note No. 329 from the American Embassy accredited near our Government, referring to the request for asylum in Paraguay for European children. With respect to this essentially humanitarian work, this Ministry has already had an opportunity to declare its conformity to Your Excellency, and has gone on to fix certain indispensable economic conditions for making possible, on the part of this Ministry, the work of furnishing asylum and education for refugee children from France. With reference to children from Hungary, this Ministry is of the opinion that in principle, the same plan previously set forth can be applied, but it would be very convenient to have an interval elapse between the first groups which may be sent--French children — and those coming from Hungary, sufficient to obtain certain experience, which would permit the formation of an accurate opinion regarding the maximum number of orphan children who might usefully be given asylum. I request Your Excellency to transmit these considerations to the American Embassy for appropriate action. Receive, Your Excellency, the expressions of my highest consideration. Signed: Juan Darío Quiróz, Minister."

I take this opportunity to salute you with my most distinguished consideration.

Signed: Mario Ferrario
Under Secretary of Foreign Relations

The Chargé dèAffaires of the United States of America
Mr. Leslie Reed

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

GEK-171
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Asuncion

Dated September 5, 1944

Rec'd 7:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

CONTROL COPY

503, September 5, 3 p.m.

Paraguayan Government is willing to extend its acceptance in principle and with the same conditions to children from Hungary (reference Department's circular telegram August 12, 8 p.m.) but suggests the convenience of leaving an interval after the shipment of French children in order to ascertain what additional number can usefully be accepted.

BEAULAC

WSB

No. 2280
CONFIDENTIAL

CONTROL COPY

3 War Ref. Bd. (Treas)

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Original with reverse carbon
by air mail to the Department.

Asuncion, Paraguay
July 13, 1944

Subject: The semi-official newspaper, El Paraguayo, refuses to publish President Roosevelt's speech defending the Jews in Europe, but later consents at the request of the Foreign Office.

[redacted]

3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board (Treas)
1 War Info Bureau

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of June 19, 1944 requesting that this mission use all possible means to give publicity to President Roosevelt's special message to Congress reporting on the efforts of the United States to rescue the Jews and other victims of enemy oppression.

This airgram was received in Asuncion on June 25, 1944 and on June 26 it was communicated by note to the Paraguayan Foreign Office. On June 27, copies of the message in Spanish and English were turned over to the local Coordination Committee for placing in the Paraguayan press. It was decided to give the message exclusively to one of the three dailies as inducement to the editor to give it full play, since all papers had previously made brief mention of it in news despatches.

In this connection the Department will recall that certain attacks upon the Jews have appeared in the semi-official newspaper, El Paraguayo, during the last two years and that this newspaper is edited by Sr. Ricardo Brugada Doldan, secretary to the President of the Republic. (See Embassy's strictly confidential despatches nos. 2065 of May 9, 1944 and 2001 of April 19, 1944). Since Senor Brugada has insisted in private conversations that the attacks on the Jews, Protestants, and others that appear in his paper are merely an "expression of the free press in Paraguay" and that "he is only too delighted to publish both sides of any discussion", it was decided to offer President Roosevelt's speech to him with the hope that its publication might counteract to some degree the effect of the anti-Semitic articles.

Senor Brugada, as usual, readily agreed to the publication of the speech, actually fixing the day for its appearance. Several delays were experienced, however, but when the final date was set and it did not appear, inquiry was made of Senor Brugada.

He "regretfully"

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

REFUGEES/7-1944

He "regretfully" returned the message to the Press Section of the Committee with the comment that he could not publish it now due to the fact that it had been mentioned in press despatches in his paper some weeks before.

The article was then given to the editor of La Tribuna who published it at once as a front page feature. (Copy attached).

From the reports of the conversations between Senor Brugada and representatives of the Coordination Committee, it is more than likely that the former's final refusal to publish the article after having previously agreed to do so, came as a result of "suggestions" or orders from above, though not necessarily from the President.

A day or so later a member of this mission mentioned the refusal of Senor Brugada to publish the article to Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mario Ferrario, who expressed surprise and immediately brought the matter to the attention of Senor Brugada. As a consequence the article was finally published in the issue of July 12, 1944, (clipping attached) though it was not given prominence.

This is doubtless another instance of the struggle in the present Paraguayan Government between the forces which are anxious to cooperate with the United States and those who delight in placing petty obstacles in our path.

Respectfully yours,

Leslie E. Reed
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

1. Clipping from La Tribuna.
2. Clipping from El Paraguayo.

840.1
MC/gm

AIRGRAM

FROM
Asuncion
Date: May 20, 1944.
Rec'd: May 27 8 a.m.

[redacted]

The Secretary of State,
Washington.
A-185, May 20, 9:15 a.m., 1944.

With reference to my airgram No. 148 of April 29, 10 a.m., and the Department's circular airgram No. 135, May 1, 4:40 p.m., I have the honor to report that a Note was drafted by the Paraguayan Foreign Office on May 9 to the Spanish Charge d'Affaires in Asuncion, after repeated inquiries by me, with regard to the fate of the holders in German concentration camps of Paraguayan passports. Unfortunately the Note dealt again with the legal situation created by the existence of those passports more than with the danger in which their holders were found. Accordingly I arranged, through Third Secretary Henderson, to have the Paraguayan Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs redraft the communication so that the latter should consist solely of a firm admonition to the German Government. The former Undersecretary informed me on the 11th that he had sent the Revised Note; and the new Undersecretary stated yesterday in the presence of the Foreign Minister that he had just despatched such a Note over his own signature. Whichever official signed the Note, it seems reasonably certain that a fairly sharp warning has thus been conveyed to Germany; but efforts will be continued to secure an actual copy of the communication.

The Department will have in mind the anxiety of the Foreign Minister to secure a reply regarding the case of the Macke sisters and regarding the possibility of including Dutch nationals in any exchanges of prisoners.

FROST

848.
WF/ajl

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

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

000239

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]AL

No. 2095 Asunción, Paraguay, May 16, 1944

Subject: Conditions surrounding the immigration to Paraguay of persecuted minorities from Europe.

[redacted]

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944 with regard to the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. Reference is also made to Embassy's airgram No. A-85 of March 11, 9 a.m. Pursuant to this Embassy's initial reply contained in airgram No. A-45 dated February 12, 8:15 a.m., there follows an outline of some of the factors affecting the immigration of Jews to Paraguay.

Anti-Semitism has flared up periodically in the government press under the Morínigo Administration, and it has often been interpreted as a reflection at first of Nazi ideology and more recently of Argentine anti-Semitism. Nevertheless, a study of Embassy files for the past five years reveals that opposition to Jewish immigration was active under previous administrations. Reference is made to Legation despatches

Nos. 743, December 8,
762, December 29, 1938;
783, January 20,
785, January 26,
799, March 9,
868, June 1, 1939;
32, May 26, 1941;
347, January 7, 1942.

As early as 1936, under the Franco Administration, a decree was passed prohibiting the immigration of Jews regardless of nationality. This still-outstanding decree, according to contemporary accounts of the circumstances surrounding it, did not so much reflect anti-Semitism on the part of the Franco Government as it did a drastic move to forestall a hegira of persecuted Jews to Paraguay arranged by certain unscrupulous individuals who were seeking exclusively their own enrichment by swindling the Jews in question.

Decree 12,277 of March 6, 1939 (transmitted with despatch No. 799 cited) specifically excluded Jews from the provisions authorizing the immigration of Czechoslovakian agriculturists. During 1938 and '39 there was considerable anti-Semitic agitation in the Paraguayan Chamber of Deputies, and a bill was introduced

to

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

Miss Hadell

000240

to prohibit all Semitic immigration (see despatch No. 785 cited), notwithstanding the existence of the Franco decree of 1936. It appears that the emphasis on anti-Semitic restrictions at that time was in part the result of the exposure of large numbers of illegal visas issued to Jews in Europe by unscrupulous Paraguayan consular officers who lined their pockets through this traffic in visas. The record discloses that through our own government a substantial portion of these irregular visas were disclosed, and even during the past three years this Embassy has brought to the attention of the Foreign Office a number of similar cases with the result that at least three Paraguayan consular officers have been dismissed.

Although the prohibition against the immigration of Jews into Paraguay still remains legally in effect, until only a few months ago Jews were being admitted to the country after having been subjected to extortion by consular officers abroad and by the Immigration Department here upon their arrival. Abuses were frequent and newly-arrived immigrants were often stripped of any valuables they still possessed after the voyage to Paraguay (see confidential paragraphs of despatch No. 347 dated January 7, 1942). In December 1943 Colonel Juan Lisboa was appointed Director of the Department of Lands and Colonization, which includes the Office of Immigration. Colonel Lisboa was given this post by the President in order to purge this department of the scandalous notoriety associated with its name as the result of the nefarious activities of preceding directors, notably Agusto FUSTER (brother of Secret Police Chief Marcos FUSTER, and shady ex-employee of the German Legation). Colonel Lisboa is living up to the President's expectations and is effecting thoroughgoing reforms and reorganization of his department.

Consequently, since December 1943 the administration of the immigration laws has been fairly humane, just and regular. The Director's personal sympathies are not only pro-Allied but sincerely humanitarian toward the plight of persecuted minorities. When a case comes to his attention involving the racial extraction of inmates of German concentration camps or persons who have an opportunity to escape the Nazi grip, he derives genuine satisfaction in facilitating officially their immigration to Paraguay. Although he is aware of the decree prohibiting Jewish immigration, he bases his decisions on immigration applications entirely on non-racial considerations, i.e. nationality, vocation and aptitude for settlement in Paraguay.

Nevertheless, in accordance with standing immigration regulations and traditional Paraguayan policies on this subject, an effort is made to obtain a maximum number of agriculturists, with a sprinkling of other vocations for which there is a local need. Thus the practical application of the immigration laws disregards racial discrimination and emphasizes rational and reasonable factors.

When queried by a member of my staff as to the possibilities of annulling the 1936 Franco decree (in view of the incompatibility of Paraguay's official assurances tending to aid the rescue of Jews from Europe with a law forbidding Jewish immigration), the Director stated that he favored the drafting of a new decree which would unobtrusively leave the 1936 decree without effect by restating immigration requirements in accordance with the new bases on which they are being applied.

As

00024 1

As a result of the Embassy's efforts to obtain definite information as to the number and kind of refugees that would be accepted as colonists in Paraguay, the Department of Lands and Colonization has been preparing a systematic study of all the factors affecting this problem. Maps have already been prepared for half of eastern Paraguay showing lands that would be available for colonization (some 500,000 hectares), including those tracts which already have both foreign and native colonists. This work will also cover the facilities which could be offered to immigrants, including rudimentary housing, agricultural implements and farm credits. This Embassy has placed the STICA (Coordinator's Food Project) in touch with Colonel Lisboa so that the two organizations may cooperate on this problem.

In the meantime, a Note from the Minister of Agriculture transmitted through the Foreign Office has set forth the general bases for Paraguay's rapidly forming Immigration Plan. (Reference is made to Embassy's despatch No. 2093 of May 13, 1944). Point 2 of the same makes history by stating that Paraguay will not discriminate against immigrants because of race, color or creed (with the exception of the negro and yellow races). Although this categoric statement of policy is as yet contained only in a Note from a Minister, the latter has taken up the whole question in a Cabinet meeting, and it is therefore a very encouraging turn to the negotiations to bring immigrants here which have been dragged out over a period of eight years.

Additional signs of the earnestness of Colonel Lisboa's efforts to reorganize his Departamento and to shape plans for colonization by immigrants during the post-war period are various newspaper articles and radio speeches by Lisboa and the Secretary of the Departamento, which have appeared during the past few weeks. In each case an attempt has been made to restore the dignity and self-respect of the Departamento, to explain the measures being taken to reorganize it, and to point out the advantages and conditions surrounding a new flow of immigrants to Paraguay.

Further reports of the progress of specific plans for the resettlement of refugees in Paraguay will be transmitted as the work develops.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley Frost

848
GDH/wsr

000242

CONTROL COPY

No. 2093 Asunción, Paraguay, May 13, 1944

Subject: Transmitting copy and translation of plans of the Paraguayan Minister of Agriculture for the immigration into Paraguay of war refugees and displaced populations.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer further to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7 p.m. with reference to the acceptance by Paraguay of war refugees.

In this connection there are transmitted herewith a copy and translation of a communication received from the Foreign Office on May 12 embodying a letter prepared by the Paraguayan Minister of Agriculture stating the policy to be followed by Paraguay on immigration. Comment will follow in a subsequent despatch.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley Frost

Enclosures:
Copy and translation of a communication from Foreign Office, as described above.

848
WF/wsr

Original (carbon reversed) to Department by air mail.

61001
PS/CH

000243

Enclosure to despat . No. 2093 of May 13, 1944 from the American Embassy, Asunción, Paraguay

(COPIA)

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Y CULTO

Asunción, 28 de Abril de 1944.

Señor Embajador:

Tengo el agrado de transcribir a Vuestra Excelencia la siguiente comunicación recibida del Ministerio de Agricultura, que dice:

S/No.351.- Asunción, 25 de Abril de 1944.- Señor Ministro: Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a V. E., rogándole se sirva ofrecer a consideración del Gobierno de los EE. UU. de Norte América, por intermedio de su Embajada en esta Capital, un resúmen del proyecto sobre inmigración del Paraguay en el futuro, elaborado por este Departamento de Estado, y cuya ejecución se halla asegurada con la buena acogida de nuestro Gobierno como una forma de colaborar con la alta labor humanitaria que las Naciones Unidas de América, bajo el patrocinio del gobierno Norteamericano tiene el proposito de realizar en beneficio de las poblaciones europeas. Con el ofrecimiento de colaboración queremos aliviar la situación angustiosa de las víctimas de la guerra, proporcionándoles un porvenír de paz y trabajo en las fértiles tierras de nuestro país, con la seguridad de que encontrarán el ambiente de respeto y hermandad necesarios para su felicidad futura. Las bases generales de nuestro Plan de Inmigración son las siguientes: 1)Nuestro país puede recibir, posiblemente, más de cien mil familias; 2) el Paraguay no hace cuestión en cuanto a razas, color ni credo, de los inmigrantes, con las siguientes excepciones: se excluyen las razas negras y amarillas; b) se excluyen a los mutilados, sordos, mudos y ciegos; c) se excluyen a los mayores de setenta años de edad; 3) A los presuntos grupos inmigrantes se ofrecería bajo este programa el establecerse en colonias parcialmente desarrolladas, proporcionándoles terrenos cultivables en el primer año, con acceso a los mercados del país, y facilitándoles los créditos financieros para estimular el desarrollo y operación de las chacras; 4) El Plan general del desarrollo de colonias contempla la unión de agricultores paraguayos con inmigrantes para asegurar la asimilación de estos últimos en el Paraguay; 5) Un medio preliminar a este programa sería la clasificación sistemática de los inmigrantes antes de embarcarse, a objeto de dar preferencia a las familias jóvenes de agricultores o de artesanos peritos de industrias pequeñas; las de comerciantes o de obreros sin talento especial, no se aceptarían. El proyecto de Colonización se halla aún en estudio, por cuanto que se deben calcular más exactamente los costos e ingresos de esta empresa. Considerando que la realizaación de esta empresa requeriría una apreciable inversión de numerarios, este Ministerioespera en consecuencia recibir las aportaciones necesarias para llevar a cabo este proyecto.- Con tal motivo, aprovecho la oportunidad para saludar al Señor Ministro con mi distinguida consideración.- FDO: Juan Plate.- Ministro".-

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para saludar a V. E. con mi mas distinguida consideración.-

A Su Excelencia
el Señor Embajador de los EE. UU. de América
Honorable Wesley Frost,
E. S. D.

000244

TRANSLATION

Asuncion, April 28,1944

D.P. y D.-
No. 363

Mr. Ambassador:

I have pleasure in transmitting to Your Excellency the following communication received from the Ministry of Agriculture which states: "S-351, Asuncion, April 25, 1944.
Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in addressing Your Excellency to request you to kindly present for the consideration for the Government of the United States of North America through the intermediary of its Embassy in this Capital, a summary of the project regarding immigrants into Paraguay in the future, drawn up by this Government Department, the execution of which is assured with the good reception of our Government, as a form of collaborating with the high-minded humanitarian work which the United Nations of America under the auspices of the North American Government for the purposes of carrying out for the assistance of the European peoples. With the offer of collaboration, we wish to alleviate the difficult position of the war victims furnishing them a future of peace and work on the fertile lands of our country with the assurance that they will find an atmosphere of respect and brotherhood necessary for their future happiness. The general bases of our plan of immigration are the following:

1. Our country may receive possibly more than 100,000 families.

2. Paraguay raises no question with respect to race, color, or religion of the immigrants, with the following exceptions:

   a. The black and yellow races are excluded.
   b. There are excluded and mutilated and deaf, dumb, and blind.
   c. There are excluded those of more than 70 years of age.

3. The proposed immigrant groups will be offered under this program (by right) to establish themselves in colonies partially developed. Arable lands will be furnished them in the first year with access to the markets of the country and financial credits will be facilitated to them in order to stimulate the development and operation of the farms.

4. The general plan for the development of colonies contemplates the union (mixture?) of Paraguayan farmers

with

with immigrants in order to assure the assimilation of the latter in Paraguay.

5. A preliminary step to this program would be the systematic classification of the immigrants before they embark for the purpose of giving preference to young families of farmers or artisans skilled in small industries; those of merchants or of workmen without special talent would not be accepted. The project of colonization is still being studied because the expense and receipts of this enterprise should be calculated more exacting. Considering that the carrying out of this enterprise will require the assurance of a considerable number of officials, this Ministry hopes in consequence to receive the necessary allotments to carry out this project. In this connection, I take this opportunity to salute the Minister with my distinguished consideration. Signed: Juan Plate. Minister."

I take this opportunity to salute Your Excellency with my most distinguished consideration.

/s/ Horacio Chiriani

Your Excellency
Mr. Ambassador of the United States of America,
Honorable Wesley Frost

000246

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2052 Asunción, Paraguay, May 5, 1944.

Subject: Polish nationals who hold Paraguayan passports in German concentration camps.

[redacted]

The Honorable
The Secretary of States,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my Airgram No. A-148 of April 29, 10 a.m., 1944, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a Note which has been delivered to the Paraguayan Foreign Office under date of April 25, 1944 from the Polish Minister at Buenos Aires, M. Miroslaw ARCISZEWSKI, with reference to 52 (approximately) Polish israelites confined in the German concentration camp at Vittel, and one confined in the camp at Compiegne. This was furnished me by the Polish Consul at Asunción, Señor Raul Daumas LAROCCE.

RECEIVED
MAY 4 1944
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I am informed by the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs that the Paraguayan Government will adopt a favorable attitude with regard to the request of the Minister of Poland.

It is noted that the Minister indicates that the persons in question need not necessarily be accepted for entry into Paraguay, because they are holders of permits to enter Palestine. As the Paraguayan Government has given its approval to negotiations by the United States Government for the exchange of all persons holding passports from any American republic, it would appear that the cases of the Polish nationals mentioned by the Polish Minister could be taken up by the United States Government; so that the Polish Minister's démarche may be supererogatory.

On the 3rd instant, the Foreign Minister of Paraguay informed me that he was about to sign a Note addressed to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Asunción for transmission to the German Government, admonishing the latter that Paraguay expects the Paraguayan passports held by prisoners in German concentration camps to be fully respected, so that any drastic measures against those prisoners would be regarded as an offense

against

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

000247

against Paraguay. On May 4, however, the Undersecretary informed me that he had already sent such a note two days previously, to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires over his own signature at the instruction of the Foreign Minister. There seems to be some confusion between the Undersecretary and the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and as soon as it can be cleared up a further report will be made to the Department.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley Frost

Enclosure:
Copy of Note from Polish Minister in Buenos Aires and translation.

801.2
WF/ajl

Original with reverse carbon to the Department.

000249

C O P I A

POSELSTWO
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Buenos Aires, Abril 25 de 1944.

SEÑOR MINISTRO:

Por orden de mi Gobierno tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia para someter a su elevado criterio lo a continuación expuesto:

La magnánima actitud tomada por el H. Gobierno Paraguayo respecto a cierta cantidad de israelitas polacos portadores de pasaportes paraguayos, internados en los campos de concentración alemanes (Nota de S.E. el Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, doctor D. Luís A. Argaña, dirigida al que suscribe, N-o.D.A.C. y L. - 2.-, fecha 3 de Enero de 1944), condujo a que los mencionados han podido hasta la fecha gozar de una seguridad condicionada por la posibilidad de acreditar su pertenencia paraguaya. Empero la situación de las mismas personas tiende a empeorar a medida de entrar el conflicto bélico en su fase culminante.

Por el intermedio de factores neutrales se ha sabido que las autoridades germanas ordenaron la deportación de una parte de ciudadanos extranjeros internados en el campo de concentración en Vittel, haciendo saber al mismo tiempo que los extranjeros internados que acreditan su pertenencia suramericana quedarán reconocidos como extranjeros tán sólo en el caso en que las respectivas Repúblicas americanas consientan de canjearlos contra ciudadanos del Reich residentes en las mismas Repúblicas. En caso contrario estas personas dejarán de gozar del trato acordado a extranjeros, lo que, vista su condición de hebreos, equivale al exterminio de ellas.

El Gobierno de Polonia se encuentra en posesión del informe exacto que en el campo de concentración en Vittel permanecen cerca de cincuenta personas /menores inclusivamente/, y en él de Compiégne - una, con documentación paraguaya. La nómina de ellas se adjunta a la presente nota.

Aduciendo conceptos de orden humanitario, el Gobierno de Polonia recurre nuevamente a la acostumbrada generosidad del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, solicitandole con la mayor atención, quiera disponer se estudie la posibilidad de la inclusión de los internados en cuestión en la lista de personas que ese H. Gobierno estaría dispuesto a canjear con él de Alemania, contra un número de ciudadanos alemanes u otros extranjeros, según lo indicaría el Gobierno del Reich.

El Gobierno de Polonia se da cuenta de las dificultades con las cuales tropezaría la realización del canje aludido; sin embargo en el momento político actual, el simple hecho de indicarse las personas susceptibles de ser canjeadas podría sin duda alguna reforzar el estado de seguridad de las mismas.

Para el caso de lograrse el canje, los internados en cuestión no tendrían que ser necesariamente aceptados en el territorio de la República del Paraguay, pues los mencionados disponen de permisos de ingreso a Palestina.

A SU EXCELENCIA
EL SEÑOR DOCTOR DON HORACIO CHIRIANI,
MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO,
PALACIO DEL GOBIERNO, A S U N C I O N.

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Confianco en el inmutable humanitarismo del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, en presencia del que tán sólo los impedimentos de orden superior podrían obstaculizar un gesto como aquel que forma el objecto de la presente encarecida solicitud, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle, Señor Ministro, las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

/-/ Miroslaw Arciszewski

ANEXO.

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A N E X O — Lista de personas con documentación paraguaya internadas en el campo de Vittel.

1.		Josef FRAENKEL
	y esposa	Paula o Perl FRAENKEL
2.		Alexander FRAENKEL
	Esposa	Jochwet FRAENKEL
	e hijos	Ruda, Matel o Mata, Leibusch, Pinkas
3.		Mathilde FRAENKEL
	e hija	Doris o Debora
4.		Mendel FRAENKEL
	y esposa	Rose
5.		Schabse o Sami RAPAPORT
	Esposa	Gitla o Guta
	e hijos	Matel y Estera
6.		Israel RAPAPORT
	Esposa	Dewora
	e hijo	Jacob
7.		Chajim-Leib BERGLAS
	y Esposa	Alta
8.		Abraham WEINGORT
	Esposa	Mathilde
	e hija	Rosa
9.		Leo-Osias WEINGORT
	y Esposa	Estera
10.		Samuel o Sami WOLF
	e hijos	Saul, Leo i Erna
	Esposa	Rosa
11.		Jacob RAPAPORT
	e hijas	Anna y Rosa RAPAPORT-
	y su hijo/o-hija/	

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12.		Saul RAPAPORT
	y Esposa	Mina
13.		Jacob RAPAPORT
	Esposa	Rywka-Lea
	e hijos	Abram-Hirsch-Majer e Izchok
14.		Simon o Symche RAPAPORT
15.		Aron RAPAPORT
	y Esposa	Rywka
16.		Josef LIEBER
	Esposa	Frymeta
	e hijos	Henryk y Frajdla
17.		Ssyja o Szaja EISENZWEIG
	y familia	

<u>Internado en el campo de</u>

<u>concentración en Compiégne:</u>

18. Josef RAPAPORT.

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Enclosure to despatch No. 2052 dated May 5, 1944 from the American Embassy, Asunción, Paraguay

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TRANSLATION

POSELSTWO
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Buenos Aires, April 25, 1944

Mr. Minister:

By order of my Government, I have the honor to address Your Excellency and to submit to your elevated judgment the following:

The magnanimous attitude taken by the Paraguayan Government with respect to a certain quantity of Polish israelites, holders of Paraguayan passports, interned in German concentration camps (Note of His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Dr. Luis A. Argaña, directed to the undersigned, No. D.A.C. y L. - 2.-, dated January 3, 1944), made it possible for the above-mentioned to enjoy up to the present security conditioned by the possibility of accrediting that they belonged to Paraguay. However, the situation of these same persons tends to worsen as the war enters its climactic phase.

Through neutral elements, it has been learned that the German authorities ordered the deportation of a part of the foreign nationals interned in the concentration camp at Vittel, making it known at the same time that the foreigners interned who accredit their South American nationality will remain recognized as foreigners only in the case that the respective American republics consent to exchange them against German citizens resident in the same republics. If not, these persons will stop enjoying the treatment accorded to foreigners, which, since they are hebrews, is equivalent to their extermination.

The Government of Poland is in possession of an exact report that in the concentration camp at Vittel, there are about fifty persons, including minors, and in the camp at Compiegne, one, with Paraguayan documents. Their names are attached to this Note.

Adducing humanitarian concepts, the Government of Poland recurs again to the accustomed generosity of the Paraguayan Government, soliciting with the greatest attention, that Paraguay be disposed to study the possibility of including the internees in question in the list of persons that Your Excellency's Government would be disposed to exchange with German Government, against a number of German citizens and other foreigners, as indicated by the German Reich.

The Polish Government realizes the difficulties which would be met in the exchange alluded to; however, in the actual political moment, the simple indication of persons susceptible to exchange would be able without any doubt to strengthen the state of security of the same.

In the event the exchange is made, the internees in question would not necessarily have to be accepted into the territory of the Republic of Paraguay, as they have permits to enter into Palestine.

Having

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Having confidence in the unchangeable humanitarianism of the Paraguayan Government, in the presence of which only impediments of a superior order could place obstacles before a gesture such as forms the object of the present earnest petition, I take this opportunity to reiterate to you, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my most high and distinguished consideration.

MIROSLAW ARCISZEWSKI

List of persons with Paraguayan documents interned in the concentration camp at Vittel.

1. Josef FRAENKEL and wife Paula or Perl FRAENKEL.
2. Alexander FRAENKEL, wife Jochwet FRAENKEL, and children Ruda, Matel o Mata, Leibusch, Pinkas.
3. Mathilde FRAENKEL and daughter Doris or Debora.
4. Mendel FRAENKEL and wife Rose.
5. Schabse or Sami RAPAPORT, wife Gitla or Guta, and children Matel and Estera.
6. Israel RAPAPORT, wife Dewora, and son Jacob.
7. Chajim-Leib BURGLAS and wife Alta.
8. Abraham WEINGORT, wife Mathilde, and daughter Rosa.
9. Leo-Osias WEINGORT and wife Estera.
10. Samuel or Sami WOLF, wife Rosa, and children Saul, Leo and Erna.
11. Jacob RAPAPORT and daughters Anna and Rosa RAPAPORT, and her son or daughter.
12. Saul RAPAPORT and wife Mina.
13. Jacob RAPAPORT, wife Rywka-Lea, and children Abram, Hirsch, Majer and Izchok.
14. Simon or Syrone RAPAPORT.
15. Aron RAPAPORT and wife Rywka.
16. Josef LIEBER, wife Fryneta, and children Henryk and Frajdla.
17. Szyja or Szaja EISENZWEIG and family.

Interned in the concentration camp at Compiegne

18. Josef RAPAPORT.

[redacted]

BY [redacted] COURIER

FROM
Asuncion
Date April 29, 1944
Rec'd May 10 8 a.m.

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-126, April 29, 10 a.m., 1944.

Referring further to the Department's circular airgram A-118, 11:25 a.m., April 11, 1944, I have pleasure in reporting hereby that the Foreign Minister informs me orally but officially that his Government will be glad to have the United States Government negotiate for an exchange of persons from American countries, or holding passports of such countries, including Paraguay, now detained in German concentration camps. He took pains to state that this is on the assumption that persons holding Paraguayan passports who are not in fact Paraguayans shall not be sent to Paraguay unless the latter decides from their qualifications that they would be desirable immigrants.

The Minister likewise stated that he has been instructed to take affirmative action in addressing the German Government through the Spanish Charge d'Affaires in Asuncion to state that Paraguay is interested in the fate of persons confined by Germany who hold Paraguayan passports. I hope within a few days to be able to confirm the fact that this action shall actually have been taken.

He reiterated that his attitude in correspondence with the Spanish Charge is that while the passports were not legally issued, full recognition for them will be maintained until peace supervenes.

The Minister asked that special attention be paid to the case of two girls aged fifteen and sixteen years, born in the town of Pedro Juan Caballero in Paraguay of a German father, Fredrick MACKE and a Paragrayan mother named Anita LEZCANO. They reside in a town named Osterden in the province of Hanover, Germany. His Government urgently desires that these girls be included in any exchange arrangement, as they are native Paraguayan citizens with influential Paraguayan family relations through their mother. The Minister inquired whether there is any possibility of including Dutch nationals in the exchange, as the Paraguayan Minister of Agriculture has close relatives in Holland whose egress he is anxious to secure. I shall be grateful for information as th these matters.

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

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

Asuncion, Paraguay

Date April 22, 1944

Rec'd: May 1 8 a.m.

[redacted]

The Secretary of State

Washington

A 189 April 22 10 00 a.m. 1944

I took up with the Foreign Minister on April 20 the points raised in the Department's recent circular airgram A 118 11 35 a.m. April 1 1944 (whose special directions have received compliance.)

The Minister at first stated that he was unaware of any inquiries from the Spanish Government with regard to eastern Europeans in German concentration camps who hold Paraguayan passports. He was familiar with the general question however and affirmed that his Government will steadfastly recognize the validity of such passports until the war shall have terminated.

The Minister provisionally took a favorable attitude with regard th securing an exchange of persons holding Paraguayan passports for persons of German nationality interned in the United States or elsewhere in the Americas. He accepted the view that this may bring the possibility that Nazi agents in Paraguay, some of whom are apparently about to be interned here, could eventually be repatriated to Germany. He made written note of the fact that if any bona fide Paraguayan citizens are found in the German concentration camps they will be given preference in any exchange, and also that persons holding Paraguayan passports who are not in reality Paraguayans will not be sent to Paraguay. (On this latter point he assumed that in case any such persons were shown to be skilled agriculturists Paraguay could and would receive them.) He also clearly understood that this proposal is being made by our Government to the governments of the other Latin American countries involved. He stated that if the Spanish Government on behalf of the German authorities should submit lists of persons holding such passports, the reply would be that the passports are being maintained.

The Foreign Minister likewise inscribed in his notes the request that the Paraguayan Government affirmatively approach the German Government, by addressing a note to the protecting power, Spain, through its Charge d'Affaires here, to demand that the Paraguayan passports be honored and the

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

[redacted]

and the holders respected as regards their lives, rights and privileges.

My visit was timed to precede immediately a Cabinet meeting; and the Foreign Minister promised to take up the matter with the President after the Cabinet meeting. He stated he was confident of receiving the President's permission to give definitively favorable responses on all the points raised (especially (a) the approval of negotiations by the United States with Germany for exchanges and (b) the making of an admonitory remonstrance by Paraguay to Germany).

Dr. [illegible] then summoned the Undersecretary [illegible] the problem for some months past. [illegible] his office and showed me [illegible] the file and from the Undersecretary's [illegible] the following situation was [illegible]

By Decree No. 207 of [illegible] 1943 the Paraguayan Supreme Court decided (a) that Dr. Rodolfo HUGLI Paraguayan Honorary Consul at Berne, Switzerland, should be dismissed from his position and (b) that the passports which he had issued to eastern Europeans showing them to be Paraguayans should be annulled.

During the next three or four months, however the Paraguayan Government received appeals from Poland, Belgium and Holland through their representatives at Buenos Aires requesting that the passports not be annulled for humanitarian reasons, and late in December had the same request from this Embassy, made at the Department's suggestion. The reply given in all cases was that the Paraguayan Government had not cancelled the passports in question and did not intend to do so while the war continues. (See my telegram No. 656, December 28, 3:30 p.m., 1943.)

On January 2, 1944, the Foreign Office addressed the Spanish Charge d'Affaires at Asuncion in response to a note received from him, stating that Consul Hugli had possessed no legal right to confer Paraguayan nationality; but that while the Supreme Court had ordered him to be dismissed and the passports to be treated as null, nevertheless the latter part of this order would not be placed into effect until after the termination of the European War. It further requested the Charge to telegraph to his government asking it to inform the German Government that the passports are still recognized as valid. On January 3, the Foreign Office addressed two separate instructions to the Paraguayan Ambassador in Buenos Aires, who had been approached by the Dutch and Polish Ministers in that capital. He was told to inform the Ministers in question (1) that the passports were recognized as valid for the duration of the war and (2) that it had requested the Spanish Charge here so.....

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

[redacted]

[illegible] to inform the German Government [illegible] [illegible] the Foreign Office addressed [illegible] Charge [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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

[illegible] Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pollak, [illegible]ains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehle, Files.

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

FROM

ASUNCION

DATE - March 11, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF FOREIGN
MAR 17 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-85, March 11, 9 a.m.

The Foreign Minister has again expressed the view that the relief of the refugees of Europe, treated in the Department's circular airgram of February 29, 1944, 7:30 p.m., should be studied in connection with plans for immigration and colonization in Paraguay, and has requested me to consult with the Minister of Agriculture. The latter has been entrusted by President Morínigo with the task of promoting the transfer to Paraguay of new populations mentioned in the first sentence of the second paragraph of my airgram A-45 of February 12, 8:15 a.m., 1944.

I have today held a formal interview with the Minister of Agriculture. He stated that he in turn had entrusted the problem to the American experts of the Coordinator's Food Project here, the Servicio Técnico Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola (STICA). He is conferring with them again to urge the immediate formulation of proposals and policies which will enable a prompt response to the Department's desires. In the meanwhile I have myself conferred

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with the Economist of the STICA, Mr. Lyall PETERSON, who is just now Acting Director; and he has promised within a very few days to prepare outline recommendations for submission to and approval by the Minister of Agriculture, to serve as a basis for a reply and declaration by Paraguay on the refugee problem.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
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COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AIRGRAM

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FROM

Asunción (Mr. Pehle)

Dated February 12, 1944

Rec'd: Feb 17-4p

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-45, February 12, 8:15 a.m., 1944.

The Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944 with regard to the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution was discussed on the morning of February 9 with the Paraguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs. He immediately stated that Paraguay was greatly interested in receiving immigrants, and has presented at Washington plans for the colonization of the extensive fertile virgin areas in this country. He alluded to the suggestion made by President Roosevelt to President Moríñigo at Washington last June to the effect that Jewish immigration might constitute approximately six percent of the general immigration to American countries after the war. Paraguay is primarily an agricultural country, and her repeated recent experiments with Jewish immigrants arriving as agriculturists have not

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been regarded as successful. I gathered that he does not feel that the economy of the country offers opportunities for immigrants who are not likely, according to Paraguay's experience, to engage in agriculture.

The Foreign Minister stated that he was recommending to the President the creation of a special board to promote the transfer to Paraguay of new populations. He stated that he is very sympathetic to the needs of the victims of Axis persecution, including the Jews, and believes that his Government will consent to receive a certain percentage of Jews as indicated above. It should be borne in mind that the foregoing expressions are preliminary in nature, and represent only the ideas of Dr. [illegible] in the heat of the moment. The matter will be followed up; and meanwhile the Department may wish to ascertain whether UNRRA has any proposals for colonization (population transfers) from Europe which have been submitted to it by Paraguayan delegates. (cf. Department's strictly confidential Weekly Report on the Other American Republics, December 4 - 11, 1943, final paragraph, page 7.)

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