Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin America; Paraguay
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 EFFECTING RESCUES

(RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS)
War Refugee Board

AMBASSADOR

ASUNCION (PARAGUAY)

297

The following from War Refugee Board.

Reference is made to your cable 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 shipment of French children to Paraguay is expected.

HULL

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

Asunción, Paraguay
September 5, 1944

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

CONTROL COPY
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 de este año, 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 enviaren— de niños franceses—y los procedentes de Hungría, mediese 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. Luego a V.E. transmita estas consideraciones a la Embajada Americana para los fines consiguientes. Reciba V.E. las expresiones de mi mejor consideración. —Pdo: Juan Darío Quiroz. 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 Heed.—

S/D.—
No. 768

ENCL 2

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 Quiroz, Minister."

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

Signed: Mario Ferrario
Under Secretary of Foreign Relations

The Chargé d’Affaires of the United States of America
Mr. Leslie Reed
Secretary of State,
Washington.

503, September 5, 3 p.m.

Paraguay. 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.

BEAUDAC

WSB
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.

Asuncion, Paraguay
July 13, 1944

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 dispatches.

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.

Sr. 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 Sr. Brugada.

He "regretfully"

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
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 S. Reed
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

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

FROM
Armuncion

Date: May 20, 1944.

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 cases of the Macle sisters and regarding the possibility of including Dutch nationals in any exchanges of prisoners.

Frost

64A.
W2/4FL

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubos, Friedman, Guten, Hadal, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Sergey, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Pehler, Files.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972
No. 2095
Asunción, Paraguay, May 16, 1944

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular air-gram 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 Morinigo 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 1939 there was considerable anti-Semitic agitation in the Paraguayan Chamber of Deputies, and a bill was introduced...
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 the 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 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 officers, notably Augusto 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 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 Colonisation 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 organisations 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 categorical 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
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:

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

Original (carbon reversed) to Department by air mail.
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/Noa35la- Asunción 9 25 de Abril de 1944a-

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 resumen 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 propósito 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 porvenir de paz y trabajo en las fértiles tierras de nuestro país, con la seguridad de que encontrarán el ambiente de respeto y bondad 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 presumidos 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 pícaros 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 realización de esta empresa requerirá una aprobable inversión de numerares, este Ministerio espera 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 Pita.- Ministro.-

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

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

Asuncion, April 28, 1944

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 22, 1944.

Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in addressing Your Excellency to request you to kindly present for the consideration of 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 cooperation 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
Amínción, Paraguay, May 5, 1944.

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

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 Israelis 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 Raúl Daumas ARCIOCE.

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
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/a11

Original with reverse carbon to the Department.
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. Luis 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. Sin embargo 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 y que no serán considerados como 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 el de Compiègne - 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, solicitándole con la mayor atención, quiera disponer se estudie la posibilidad de incluir en la lista de personas de la respectiva lista de personas que ese H. Gobierno estaría dispuesto a canjear con el de Alemania, contra un número de ciudadanos alemanes u otros extranjeros, según lo indique el Gobierno del Reich.

El Gobierno de Polonia se da cuenta de las dificultades con las cuales tropezaría la realización del canje acordado; 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 CHIRLANI,
MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO,
PALACIO DEL GOBIERNO, A S U N C I O N.
Confianza en el inmutable humanitarismo del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, en presencia del que tan sólo los impedimentos de orden superior podrían obstaculizar un gesto como aquel que forma el objeto de la presente encarecida solicitud, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle, Señor Ministro, las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

ANEXO.

1. Josef FRAENKEL y esposa Paula o Perl FRAENKEL internadas en el campo de Vittel.
2. Alexander FRAENKEL y 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 y esposa Gitla o Guta e hijos Matel y Estera
6. Israel RAPAPORT y esposa Dewora e hijo Jacob
7. Chajim-Leib BERGLAS y esposa Alta
8. Abraham WEINGORT y esposa Mathilde e hija Rosa
9. Leo-Osias WEINGORT y esposa Estera e hijos Saul, Leo y Erna
10. Samuel o Sami WOLF y esposa Rosa e hijos
11. Jacob RAPAPORT y esposa Anna y Rosa RAPAPORT-
12. Saul RAPAPORT
   y Esposa Mina
   y Esposa Jacob RAPAPORT
   e hijos Rywka-Lea
   Abram-Hirsch-Majer e Izchok
14. Simon o Symche RAPAPORT
15. Aron RAPAPORT
   y Esposa Rywka
16. Josef LIEBER
   y Esposa Fryneta
   e hijos Henryk y Frejdla
17. Seyja o Szaja EISENZWEIG
   y familia

Internado en el campo de
concentración en Compiégnne:

18. Josef RAPAPORT.
Enclosure to despatch No. 2052 dated May 5, 1944 from the American Embassy, Asuncion, Paraguay

TRANSLATION

POZSŁOTWO 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. Argera, directed to the undersigned, No. D.A.C. - 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 extirpation.

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 Compiègne, one, with Paraguayan documents. Their names are attached to this Note.

Adding humanitarian concepts, the Government of Poland recalls again to the accustomed generosity of the Paraguayan Government, soliciting with the greatest attention, that Paraguay be disposed to study the possibility of including these persons 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
Having confidence in the unchangeable humanitarianism of the
Paraguayan Government, in the presence of which only impediments of
superior order could place obstacles before a gesture such as
form the object of the present earnest petition, I take this oppor-
tunity to reiterate to you, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my
most high and distinguished consideration.

MIECZSLAW ARCSZENSKI

List of persons with Paraguayan documents inter-

1. Josef FRAENKEL and wife Paula or Perl FRAENKEL.
2. Alexander FRAENKEL, wife Joachim FRAENKEL, and children Buda,
   Latal, O Lata, Leibusch, Pinkas.
3. Mathias FRAENKEL and daughter Doris or Debora.
4. Henzel FRAENKEL and wife Rosa.
5. Schabbe or Saul RAPAPORT, wife Gerla or Gut, and children
   Misa and Ester.
6. Israel FRAENKEL, wife Demona, and son Jacob.
7. Schanuel HERSCHER and wife Alta.
8. Abraham WEINSPORT, wife Mathilde, and daughter Rosa.
9. Leo-Callas WEINSPORT and wife Ester.
10. Saul or Hezzi WOLF, wife Rosa, and children Saul, Leo and Ernst.
11. Jacob RAPAPORT and daughters Anna and Rosa RAPAPORT, and her
    son or daughter.
12. Saul RAPAPORT and wife Eliza.
13. Jacob RAPAPORT, wife Rynia-Lea, and children Abram, Hirsch,
    Ezer and Emek.
14. Simon or Syron RAPAPORT.
15. Aron RAPAPORT and wife Rynia.
16. Jacob LIEBER, wife Frywula, and children Henryk and Frajda.
17. Szaja or Zsaja LIEBER and family.

Interned in the concentration camp at Compiègne

18. Josef RAPAPORT.
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-118, April 29, 1944.

Referring further to the Department's circular cir-
ger A-118, 11:25 a.m., April 11, 1944, I have pleasure in
reporting hereby that the Foreign Minister informs me
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 are not in fact Paraguayans shall not be
sent to Paraguay unless the latter decides from their qualifi-
cations that they would be desirable immigrants.

The Minister likewise stated that he has been instructed
to take affirmative action in addressing the German Govern-
ment through the Spanish Charge d'Affaires in Havana 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 Paraguayan mother named ANITA
LEJENDA. They reside in a town named Otserden 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 arrival he is anxious
to secure. I shall be grateful for information as to these
matters.

801.2
F/LP/1
Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois,
Friedman, Geston, Hotel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks,
McDermid, Pohio, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.R. White,
Files
The Secretary of State
Washington

April 22, 1944

I took up with the Spanish Minister on April 19 the
problem raised in the Department's recent circular citizen
A-119 of April 14, 1944, and whose specific situations
have received compliance.

The Minister at first stated that he was unaware of
any inquiry from the Spanish Government with regard to
the treatment of a 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 to securing an exchange of persons holding
Paraguayan passports for persons of German nationality
interred in the United States or elsewhere in the Americas.
He accepted the view that this may bring the possibility
that Nazi agents in Paraguay, whom of whom are apparently
able to be interned here, could eventually be repatriated
to Germany. He made written note of the fact that if any
paroros find 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 assured that it seems
that any such persons were shown to be skilled agriculturists
Paraguay could count and would receive them.) He also clearly
understood that this proposal is being made by our Govern-
ment to the governments of the other Latin American countries
involved. He stated that if the Spanish Government on its
half of the German authorities should submit lists of per-
sons holding such passports, the reply would be that the
passports are being maintained.

The Foreign Minister likewise inserted 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 Chargé d'Affaires
here, to demand that the Paraguayan passports be honored
and the
and the Senate refused as regards their lives, rights and privileges.

By visit was planned to precede immediately a Cabinet meeting and the Foreign Minister proposed to take up the matter with the President after the Cabinet meeting. We stated that the President was convinced of receiving the President a promises to give definitely 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 advisory reconciliation by Paraguay on Germany).

Bytelegram then summoned the Undersecretary who was the official for special communication. The telegram was handed to him. The following telegram was announced:

By Decree No. 209 of February 1, 1943, the Paraguayan Supreme Court decided (a) that the diplomatic Paraguayan Mission at Buenos Aires should be dissolved from his position, and (b) that the passports which had been issued to eastern European Jews who to be Paraguay should be annulled.

During the next three or four months, however, the Paraguayan government received appeals from Poland, Rumania and Holland through their representatives at Buenos Aires asking that the passports not be annulled for humanitarian reasons, and late in December, had the same request from the Ministry, made at the Department's suggestion. The reply given in all cases was that the Paraguayan government had not annulled the passports in question and did not intend to do so while the war continues.

On January 2, 1944, the Foreign Office addressed the Spanish Charge d'Affaires at Asunción, in response to a note received from him, stating that Samuel spelling had possessed a legal right to confer Paraguayan nationality; but that while the Supreme Court had ordered him to be dissolved 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 Chargé to telegraph the 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 Chargé here to...
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

Dr. A. Abramson, Akita, Japan
Chairman, Council on Foreign Relations

Dear Dr. Abramson,

I am enclosing a letter from the Foreign Office, addressed to our ambassador who will be completing his duties on November 16th. The letter contains a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which indicates that the situation in the country is rather critical. The government is taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the citizens and to maintain law and order.

The letter also mentions that the government is closely monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action if required. I hope that this information will be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Enclosure: Letter from Foreign Office]

[Enclosure: Letter from Ministry of Home Affairs]

The Foreign Minister has again expressed the view that the relief of the refugees of Europe, treated in the Department's circular air note 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 Vornigoe with the task of promoting the transfer to Paraguay of new populations mentioned in the first sentence of the second paragraph of my air note of February 25 of 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 Mexicano Interamerican de Cooperacion Agricola" (SMICA). 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 with...
with the Economic Adviser, Mr. Lyall Watson, who is just
not acting Director; and he has promised within a very few days
to secure 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.

PROST

[Signature]

[Handwritten text]
A-65, 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 Horinigo 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 been
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. -.-.-.- in the year of the present. 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.)