Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin American Peru
FOR:

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

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

SKE1 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)
Lima, September 1, 1944.

Sir:

Subj6ct: Informally expressed attitude of Foreign Office officials concerning possibility of reception by Peru of children of Hungarian nationality.

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

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular telegram of August 13, 2 p.m., directing me to ascertain if, in addition to a limited number of refugee children of French or Belgian nationality which the Peruvian Government had expressed willingness to accept under certain conditions, the group might be expanded to include refugee children of Hungarian nationality.

In the above regard I am able to inform the Department that, while a written communication on the subject was promptly addressed to the Foreign Office (August 15, 1944) to which no reply has yet been received, operations were taken by the Counselor of the Embassy in the course of a call on the Ministry's Secretary General on another matter, to make inquiry concerning any decision in regard to the Hungarian refugee children which the Peruvian Government might have taken during the past fortnight.

Dr. Correa stated in reply that he did not believe his Government would find itself in a position to extend acceptance of refugee children to include those of Hungarian nationality. Not only were facilities for the accommodation of such children distinctly limited in Peru, but it was felt that it would be wise to limit acceptance of refugee children to persons whose nationality indicated they might be readily assimilable into the Peruvian population.

Should a more formal expression of view be communicated to the Embassy, I shall not fail to inform the Department thereof.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Jefferson Patterson
Counselor of Embassy
Lima, June 30, 1944.

No. 721

Subject: Publicity given to announcement of establishment by President Roosevelt of refugee station at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

The Ambassador has the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of June 16, 1944, repeating the text of a War Refugee Board cable relative to the announcement of President Roosevelt on June 9 of the establishment of an emergency refugee shelter at the Army camp of Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, as well as other action being taken in the refugee field.

Responsive to the Department's desire that the airgram should be brought to the attention of the Peruvian Government, the Ambassador immediately upon receipt of the airgram in question acted in this sense. As a result of his concurrent request for appropriate press publicity, the enclosed announcement appeared in the Lima newspapers of June 29.

Attachment:

Clipping from La Prensa of June 29, 1944.

711
JP bw
UNRESTRICTED

No. 664

Subject: Dissemination in Peru of President's message concerning United States efforts to rescue victims of enemy oppression.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airmgram of June 19 directing transmission to the Peruvian Government of the text of the President's special message to the Congress relative to efforts taken by the United States Government to rescue the Jews and other victims of enemy oppression as well as in regard to measures establishing an emergency refugee shelter in the United States.

Following receipt of the instruction under reference an appropriate note transmitting the text taken from the Radio Bulletin of June 12 was promptly forwarded to the Foreign Office.

However, as the attached press clipping from the preponderantly important Lima daily "El Comercio" would indicate, the President's message has received excellent publicity in the news columns, even though editorial comment has been lacking.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

/s/
JEFFERSON PATTERSON
Jefferson Patterson,
Counselor of Embassy.

Enclosure:

Clipping from "El Comercio".

711
JP/ds
Enclosure to dispatch No. 684 dated June 24, 1944, from the American Embassy, Lima, Peru:

ROOSEVELT envió al Congreso Norteamericano un informe sobre la atención a los refugiados de guerra

REVELA QUE AL ACERCARSE LA HORA FINAL DE SU DERROTA, LOS NAZIS CONTINUAN SU PLAN DE EXTERMINIO

Informa que mil refugiados serán llevados a los EE. UU.

(Especial para "El Comercio")

Washington, 12. (ap) El Presidente de los Estados Unidos, señor Franklin D. Roosevelt, envió al Congreso norteamericano un informe sobre los arrebatos hechos para la atención de los refugiados de la guerra, en el cual expresa que, no obstante que se aproxima el final de la derrota nazi, continuará sin disimular los deseos inusuales del nazismo para aniquilar en Europa a la raza judía. Agrega el Presidente que muchos grupos cristianos son también asesinados, pues considera que Hitler, ante la inminencia de su derrota militar, quiere conseguir la victoria de los principios nazis y llegar a su fin su programa de exterminio.

El mensaje dice:

"Al Congreso de los Estados Unidos:
"El Congreso ha manifestado repetidamente su profunda preocupación por la situación lastimosa de las minorías perseguidas en Europa, cuyas vidas son cada día ofrecidas en sacrificio en el altar de la tiranía nazi. Esta nación está aterrada por la persecución sistemática de los grupos indefensos de la minoría por los nazis. Para nosotros el asesinato sin provocación de gentes inocentes, simplemente, por su raza, religión o credo político, es el más negro de todos los crímenes posibles. Desde que los nazis comenzaron esta compaña, nuestros ciudadanos, de todas las esferas de vida y de todas las denominaciones políticas y religiosas, han expresado nuestros sentimientos de repulsión y nuestra cólera. Es una cuestión respecto a la cual no existe ni puede existir división alguna de opinión entre nosotros.

"Al acercarse la hora final de la derrota de las fuerzas hitleristas, la fúria de su deseo inasumido de aniquilar a la raza judía en Europa continúa sin disimular. Este no es sino un ejemplo: muchos grupos cristianos están siendo también asesinados. Conociendo que han perdido la guerra, los nazis están determinados a completar su programa de exterminio. Este programa no es sino una manifestación del propósito de Hitler de salvar de entre la derrota militar la victoria de los principios nazis, esos mismos principios que esta guerra debe destruir, a pesar de que hayamos combatido en vano.

"Este Gobierno no solamente ha dado a conocer claramente
su aborrecimiento de esta inhumana y barbara actividad nazi, sino
que también, en cooperación con otros Gobiernos, ha tratado de
aliviar las condiciones de los polacos perseguidos. En enero de
este año, decidí que este Gobierno debiera intensificar sus
esfuerzos para combatir el terror nazi. De acuerdo con ello
estableció una Junta de refugiados de Guerra, integrada por los Se-
cretarios de Estado, de la Guerra y de Guerra. Esta Junta tomó
sobre sí la responsabilidad de tomar toda acción consistente en
continuar con éxito la persecución de la guerra para rescatar
las víctimas de la opresión enemiga, en peligro inminente de muer-
ta, y de proporcionar a tales víctimas todo otro posible auxilio
y ayuda. Se le conllevó el solemne deber de traducir la política
humanitaria del Gobierno en una pronta 
acción, manifestando una
vez más en forma concreta que prevalece nuestra clase de mundo
y no el de Hitler. Su propósito está directamente relacionado con
todo nuestro esfuerzo de guerra.

"Desde su creación, la Junta de refugiados de guerra, actuando
por intermedio de un personal administrativo permanente, ha atacado
en forma directa y decidida el problema. La Junta, actuando
calladamente, por intermedio de sus representantes en varias
partes del mundo ha logrado salvar las vidas de gentes inocentes,
no solamente han sido evacuados los refugiados del territorio enemigo,
sino que también han tomado muchas medidas para proteger las
vidas de aquellos que no han podido escapar. Sobre todo, los
esfuerzos de la Junta han llevado una nueva esperanza a los pueblos
oprimidos de Europa.

"Estas declaraciones no son simples especulaciones. De varias
fuentes he recibido aviso de miles de personas que cansadas de
tantos años de resistencia y, debido a sus sufrimientos, estaban
a punto de ceder en la lucha, a quienes se ha dado voluntad y deseo
para continuar gracias a la concreta manifestación del deseo de
este Gobierno de hacer todo lo posible para ayudar y rescatar a los
oprimidos.

"A los hitleristas, a sus subordinados y funcionarios y satélites,
con el pueblo alemán y a todos los demás pueblos bajo el yugo nazi, les
hemos dado a conocer claramente nuestra determinación de castigar a
todos los participantes en esos actos de salvajismo. En nombre
de la humanidad les hemos solicitado que perdonen las vidas de
esas gentes inocentes. No obstante los esfuerzos incesantes del
Gobierno, que aun continúan, el número de los rescatados de las
garras de la muerte es pequeño comparado con el número de los q todavía
están amenazados por el exterminio en el territorio alemán. Esto se debe
principalmente a que, nuestros enemigos, a pesar de todos nuestros
llamados y de nuestra disposición para encontrar lugares de refugio para 
los pueblos oprimidos, persisten en su malvada campaña de exterminio
y activamente impiden que sus víctimas sean huir para
ponerse a salvo. En vista de esta actitud de nuestros enemigos, no
podemos dejar de aprovechar de todas las oportunidades, por limitadas
que sean, para rescatar a las víctimas de Hitler.

"Nos encontramos frente a una situación sumamente urgente. Por
tal razón deseo informar sobre las medidas que he tomado en un esfuerzo
para salvar vidas adicionales y que estoy seguro merecerán vuestra aprobación. Estoy seguro que apreciaréis la medida, no solamente consistente en proseguir con éxito la guerra, sino de que es esencial actuar sin demora.

"Aun desde antes de que los aliados desembarcaran en Italia, existía ya un importante movimiento de personas perseguidas de varias razas y nacionalidades hacia este país. Este movimiento estuvo indudablemente impuesto por el hecho de que, a pesar de todos los esfuerzos de los fascistas para incitar a la intolerancia, el cordial pueblo italiano no podía olvidar su vieja tradición de tolerancia y humanitarismo de tantos siglos. Con el desembarco de los aliados aumentó esta corriente de gente perseguida que huía, buscando amparo detrás de los canones de las Naciones Unidas. Sin embargo, en vista de la situación militar en Italia, el número de refugiados que podían ser atendidos allí era limitado. Las fuerzas militares aliadas, en vista de sus primordiales responsabilidades, no estaban capacitadas, hablando en forma general, para alejar la huída de refugiados del territorio enemigo. Esta infortunada situación, impidió la huída del mayor número posible de refugiados. Como el número de refugiados que viven en el Sur de Italia aumenta, su atención constituye una carga adicional e importante para las autoridades militares.

"El cuidado de los refugiados en el Sur de Italia se ha hecho tan recargado que, a menos que muchos de los refugiados que han conseguido huir a esa zona y que llegan diariamente en particular de los países balcánicos puedan ser prontamente trasladados a lugares de refugio en otras partes, la huída de refugiados a esa zona desde el territorio ocupado por los alemanes, será seriamente obstaculizada.

"Es evidente que es necesario actuar con rapidez para hacer frente a esta situación. Muchos refugiados en el Sur de Italia han sido y están siendo trasladados temporalmente a refugios en el territorio de otras naciones unidas y amigas. Sin embargo, en vista del número de refugiados que se encuentran todavía en el Sur de Italia, el problema no sería resuelto a menos que se encontraran refugios temporales para ellos en otras zonas.

"En vista de esa situación sumamente urgente, ha sido indispensable que Estados Unidos, manteniéndose al nivel de nuestra herencia y de nuestros ideales de libertad y justicia, tome medidas inmediatas y la responsabilidad para hacer frente al problema. De acuerdo con ello, se han hecho arreglos para traer inmediatamente a este país a mil refugiados que han huido de sus países en el Sur de Italia, los cuales al terminar la guerra serán devueltos a sus patrias. Esos refugiados son predominantemente mujeres y niños. Serán alojados a su llegada, en un campamento desocupado del ejército en la costa del Atlántico, donde permanecerán bajo las restricciones de seguridad convenientes. El ejército tomará las necesarias precauciones de seguridad y el campamento será administrado por autoridades militares designadas. La Junta de refugiados de guerra tendrá la responsabilidad total de este proyecto".
8:40 p.m.
May 1, 1944

AMERICAN MISSION,
LIMA (PERU).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

With reference to your 543 of April 24. The nationalities represented in the prospective emigration of children cannot be stated definitely by the War Refugees Board. The belief is however that they would be principally Polish, French, Belgian and stateless of German and Austrian origin. This humanitarian aspect of the action suggested to the Peruvian Government should be given emphasis.

HULL

HULL

[Signature]

WILLIAMS,
6/1/44

[Signature]

DECLASSIFIED:
State Dept. Letter 61172
By R. H. Parker Date: SEP 14, 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Lima
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: April 21, 1914
NUMBER: 641

Reference is made herewith to your confidential circular airgram of April 16.

A note has been requested by the Foreign Minister

Speaking offhand he thought that no specific private agency for this purpose in Peru and infant mortality high in Foreign colonies might possibly be willing to take certain number of their own nationals. Please cable, therefore, what nationalities in prospective child emigration are represented.

WIRE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Dated SEP 4 1972
CIRCULAR ALIEN

FOR THE PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADORS AT PANAMA, HABANA, CIUDAD TRUJILLO, BOGOTA,
LIMA, SANTIAGO, MONTevideo AND MEXICO, D.F.

With further reference to the Department's circular
telegram of January 25, 7 p.m., and to subsequent
communications on refugee matters, you are informed that
the Department has now authorized the American consular
officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota
immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years
of age, without regard to religion, nationality or
stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy,
enemy-controlled or occupied territory, or to the
availability of means of transportation to the United
States. The purpose of this authorization is to
facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or
abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss
Government that these children will not remain in Swiss-
land after the termination of hostilities in Europe.
The authorization contains provisions for the continued
renewal of the visas until such time as adequate
transportation facilities to the United States become
available. Private sources have posted bond with the
Attorney General of the United States to
assure this Government that the immigrating children will not
become public charges.

If there are private agencies in the country to which you
are accredited, willing and able to undertake a program for the
care of refugee children, the War Refugee Board is confident
that it can make arrangements to provide those agencies with
adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as
many children as the Government of that country would be willing
to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be
available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to
that country.

Kindly approach appropriate officials of the Government to
which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing
and request them to give assurance to the Swiss Government through
their diplomatic mission in Bern that they will accept up to a
fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of
this Government. For the information of the Government to which
you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there
are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned
refugee children. Should that Government be willing to make this
humanitarian offer, please request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
to authorize the chief of mission in Bern to issue the appropriate
number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until
suitable
suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country become available. The Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular officers of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Please report by telegram whether this suggestion has been favorably received by the Government to which you are accredited and, if so, the number of children it is prepared to admit.

Miss Chayney for the Sec'y Abrahamson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Frieden, Gantou, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessar, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormick, Paul, Polke, Pollak, Rains, Savory, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Voinstein, R. P. White, Files.
From
LIMA
Dated April 10, 1944.
Read April 7, 3 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A. 357. April 10, 3 P.M.

References Department's circular secret airgram dated
March 31, 11:05 p.m. in connection with passports of doubtful
validity issued to nationals of Latin American countries in-
terned in Axis countries. Embassy's confidential telegram no.
108, dated January 22, 3 P.M., and dispatch no. 8568 of Janu-
ary 28, last.

The Secretary General of the Foreign Office stated that
the Swiss Government, some three months since, had submitted
a list of some 48 names of persons interned in Axis countries
who had Peruvian passports and inquired as to whether the
Peruvian Government would honor the same. The Peruvian
Government having replied in the negative as far as those
48 persons are concerned, the matter is closed.

In reply to my earnest recommendation that if in the
future doubtful cases of this nature arose it might be possible
to give such answer as would on humanitarian grounds tend to
protect the persons affected, while in the grip of the Axis,
the Secretary General expressed sympathy with this suggestion.

The Secretary General stated that while there had been
some Peruvian passport irregularities in Romania as well as
in Switzerland, he did not consider that any doubtful Peruvian
passport cases would arise in Sweden.

White

VTL
JCM by

cc: See y. Abramson, Akin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedmann, Gaston, Hadel, Laughlin,
Lasser, Laxfield, Mann, Mann, Marks, McDermott, Paul, Pollock, Rains, Sargent, Smith,
Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Fehle, Fyfes.
No. 3245

Subject: Expression of view concerning attitude in south Peru regarding war refugees.

Lima, March 16, 1944.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatch no. 3203 of March 10, 1944, and to the Embassy's despatch no. 9017 of February 11, last, responsive to the Department's circular airgrams of January 26 and February 29, 1944, concerning the situation of war refugees, actual and potential, in respect of Peru.

Supplementing and in essence confirming the data already submitted, there follows an excerpt from a letter of March 7, received from the American Vice Consul at Arequipa, Jack G. Dwyre. This text indicates a feeling of remoteness on the part of the population of south Peru to questions relating to victims of Axis oppression, coupled with apprehension over the extension of refugee, especially Jewish, economic influence in Peru:

"Reference is made to the Embassy's letter dated February 1, 1944, asking for any comment there might be regarding the contents of the Department's airgram of January 26, 1944 with respect to the Government's policy in the rescue of the victims of enemy oppression.

"In the above connection it is believed that the contents of the Department's airgram has little application in southern Peru since any action that may be taken in regard to the admission of victims of Axis persecution will stem from Lima, and not be subject to direct control upon the part of local officials.

"However, in an effort to determine what might be the reaction of the public in general locally to the possible admission into this region of Jewish refugees, the subject has been broached casually to various Peruvians. The consensus of opinion would seem to be that locally commercial circles would not favor any general influx of Jewish refugees into commerce in southern Peru. One person attributed the disproportionately high cost of living in Bolivia to the influx there of so many European Jewish refugees."
"When it was remarked that there seemed to be vast regions on the eastern slopes in southern Peru, it was pointed out to me that Europeans could not survive the conditions of living in those regions in their present undeveloped state, and that nothing could be done to keep European refugees from drifting into Arequipa and other commercial centers as long as the 'montaña' regions were so completely undeveloped in respect to transportation, communications and other means of deriving a livelihood from the admittedly abundant natural resources which they contain.

"It was also pointed out that the western slopes of southern Peru were already highly overcrowded and could not possibly sustain any large influx of colonists until vast irrigation projects opened up more thousands of hectares of cultivable soil. Frankly, the attitude locally seems to be quite indifferent to the fate of victims of Axis oppression, and the implication is that if the region is to be opened up to any appreciable number of European refugees, money must come from outside sources to develop the country's natural resources with which to sustain such colonists.

"Since persons in southern Peru have apparently thus far given little thought to the possibility of the admission of European refugees, it is not known what influence the reaction of Sureños might have upon legislation in Lima."

Respectfully yours,

Jefferson Patterson
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Lima, March 10, 1944.

No. 9203

Subject: Oral expression of view by a Foreign Office official concerning admissibility into Peru of war refugees.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's circular airgram of February 25, 1944, 7:30 p.m., wherein, with reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, 7:00 p.m., the President's War Refugee Board through the Department requested the Embassy to make clear to the Peruvian Government the position of the United States Government in regard to war refugees and to explain the desire for cooperative action.

Since no reply has as yet been received from the Foreign Office to this Embassy's note no. 1652 of February 1, last, sent in compliance with the Department's above-mentioned circular airgram of January 26, I took occasion to invite the attention of the Secretary General of the Foreign Office, on calling on him on March 9, to the continually deep interest of the United States Government in alleviating the situation of sufferers from enemy persecution and to the hope of my Government that cooperative action might be forthcoming from the Peruvian and other governments.

Dr. Correa recalled the Embassy's note and stated that the Peruvian Government was and had long been deeply sympathetic with the tragic situation of victims of persecution as well as of the incidence of war on innocent populations.

However, the situation confronting the Peruvian Government in respect of its obligations to the Peruvian people had not appreciably changed since 1938 when the Government had informed the Refugee Committee at London of the ability of Peru to absorb solely refugee agriculturalists. It was unfortunate that so few of the refugees appeared to fall within that category.

Moreover, now that a war was on, all immigrants to Peru would have to be especially carefully scrutinized to avoid the admission to the territory of the Republic of dubious persons who might prove to be Axis agents.

While
While the foregoing statement would not seem to constitute a definitive reply to the Embassy's above-mentioned note, it does tend to confirm to a certain extent the opinion expressed in the Embassy despatch no. 9019 of February 11, 1944, to the effect that any reply to be received from the Ministry would be delayed and that it might prove noncommittal or negative.

Respectfully yours,

Jefferson Patterson
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
CONTROL COPY

No. 9017

LINE, February 13, 1944.

Subject: Peruvian Attitude toward Rescue and Relief of the Jews of Europe and Other Victims of Enemy Persecution.

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

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular telegram of January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., I have the honor to report regarding the Peruvian attitude toward the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The substance of the Department's telegram under reference was communicated to the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship in the Embassy's note no. 1665 of February 1, 1944. After outlining the action taken by President Roosevelt, it was stated in the note to the Foreign Office that the Government of the United States would appreciate an expression of the views of the Peruvian Government concerning this question, especially with reference to (a) the extent to which war refugees from Europe are permitted to enter Peru, (b) the extent to which Peru encourages and cooperates in the entry of these refugees into Peru, and (c) the limitations, if any, which Peru imposes on the entry into the country of war refugees from Europe.

The reply of the Minister for Foreign Affairs will be communicated to the Department as soon as it is received. It is anticipated, however, that such reply will be delayed and that it will be noncommittal or negative.

Copies of the Department's telegram were transmitted to the American Vice Consuls at Arequipa and Iquitos with a request for comment on the situation in those two districts. This information will be transmitted to the Department in a subsequent despatch.

The background of the Peruvian attitude toward Jewish political refugees still is an accurate reflection of the feeling in Peru today. Although at the time of the Evian Conference in 1938 the Embassy at Lima reported in its telegram no. 11, March 26, 7 p.m., 1938, that Peru would be glad to cooperate in assisting German and Austrian political refugees, and that substantial numbers might come to Peru provided they were not tainted with Communism, the reaction in Peru was unfavorable. The Embassy's dispatch no. 366, dated March 30, 1938, reported upon an editorial in El Comercio of Lima. The paper, incidentally, was referred to as "pro-Fascist".

El Comercio

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. LOT 51-11-73
By H. Parks Date, SEP 14 1972.
El Comercio expressed alarm at the prospect of large numbers of Jewish or communist immigrants coming to Peru. Other press comment was along similar lines. In July of 1936, La Crónica of Lima editorially opposed the entry of thousands of political refugees, on the grounds that Peru had internal problems and that charity begins at home. The Embassy had reported in its telegram no. 42 of June 29, 11 a.m., 1936, that Peru was prepared to admit substantial numbers of refugees but preferred intellectuals and agriculturalists, and would not accept merchants. Later in 1936, as reported in telegram no. 58, November 24, 2 a.m., the official attitude was much less favorable. According to the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Peru then was willing to accept a limited number of political refugees provided they were (1) agriculturalists, (2) specialists of various kinds, or (3) industrialists with substantial capital. The Foreign Minister also stated that he had issued orders one month previously to withhold visas from Jewish immigrants in order to stop an avalanche of such refugees from reaching Peru. He said that he later had relaxed the restrictions to permit the entry of a few and that 176 Jewish immigrants had been admitted into Peru during the four months prior to November, 1936.

Consular report no. 143, dated September 17, 1936, also reported that Peru had excluded Jews by means of a confidential circular, dated September 9, 1936, addressed to Peruvian consular officers. In dispatch no. 673 of September 30, 1936, the Embassy reported regarding the attitude of the Peruvian Government toward the immigration of Jews. The report indicated a definite uneasiness about the subject on the part of the Peruvian authorities.

In his report B.N. No. 25, dated December 22, 1936, the Commercial Attaché reported on developments in Peru relating to Jews. His report reflected a decided anti-Jewish feeling in commercial circles.

Peru, however, is a member of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. Mr. Francisco Garcia Calderón, then Peruvian Minister to France, was the Peruvian representative at the Evian meeting in 1938. Mr. Alfredo Benavides, then Peruvian Minister to Great Britain, represented Peru as the delegate to the Executive Committee at the London meetings which were held at the time of the Evian Conference.

Turning to the situation that exists at the present time, the recent news concerning Polish Jewish refugees in Germany involves security factors, as well as a reluctance to admit those Jewish refugees into Peru, and so is not a clear indication of the Peruvian attitude toward such refugees. Reference is made to the Embassy's despatches no. 4629 of December 29, 1943, no. 4669 of January 22, 1944, to telegram no. 81, January 21, 11 a.m., from the Department, and to the Embassy's telegram no. 105 of January 22, 5 p.m.

It is not a matter of record how closely Peruvian consular officers adhered to the restrictive instructions issued in 1936, but
but about three years later, with the passage of various emergency laws, all immigration applications had to be referred to the Foreign Office for approval and each case was handled on its own merits. It is extremely doubtful if the restrictive policy has been relaxed.

There have been instances of anti-Semitic agitation in Peru during the past year, including a bill introduced in Congress which would restrict the commercial activities of Jewish merchants. While the Jewish problem in Lima is not as acute as it is understood to be in La Paz, for example, there is no doubt that there is an incipient anti-Semitic sentiment in the country. In connection with reports on post-war political problems, it was noted that almost all Peruvian concern about immigration was to the effect that Peruvian policy probably will be restrictive, that Peru wants white immigrants of good agricultural and artisan types (probably Catholics preferred), and that a merchant class of immigrants which might take business from Peruvians, as the Japanese have done, would not be welcome. Reference also is made to the Embassy's dispatch no. 2001, February 9, 1944. The governing class in Peru fears Communism, dislikes Jews, and does not want to admit into the country any elements that might aggravate racial, religious and social problems. These views will determine the immigration policy of Peru.

An article in the Catholic weekly newspaper *Verdades* of November 20, entitled "Latin America and European Refugees", gives a view which probably is fairly representative of Catholic, conservative opinion in regard to the question of receiving refugees in Peru. Describing as laudable the endeavor to help innocent victims of the European war, the writer thinks that such endeavors should not provoke new problems for other countries by extending hospitality to elements that might endanger the "solid bases of our Ibero-American personality, our Catholic tradition, and the intransigency of our respective nationalities". Being even more specific, the writer states that "under no circumstance should we accept any of the following: offering asylum to foreigners of contrary religious beliefs, or excessive liberal customs, and of moral norms different from our own". To do so would bring about a grave problem for the country's religious unity and its national ideals.

With specific regard to the points raised in the Department's letter, it may be said that, for all practical purposes, Jewish refugees are not permitted entry into Peru. So far as is known there is no restrictive policy operating against other non-Asian nationals, but in actual practice all applications for visas are closely scrutinized for security reasons. Secondly, Peru gives no encouragement to the entry of political refugees, particularly Jews. Its cooperation in this problem has been limited to a routine participation in the activities of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees. In the third place, regarding the failure of Peru to cooperate in the entry of political refugees, Peru might take the position that its cooperation is unnecessary in any material way, since such refugees could find safe places of residence in countries much closer and more accessible than Peru.

Peru might make some small contribution to an international fund for the relief of refugees or might agree to accept temporarily, if not permanently, a limited number of immigrants. It is likely
that there would be so many reservations that in actual practice
Jewish immigration still would be discouraged. The plain fact
remains that Jews are not welcome, and most victims of Nazi oppres-
sion who are urgently in need of assistance supposedly are Jews.

There is enclosed a memorandum prepared by Mr. Rolland Welch,
Second Secretary of Embassy, regarding the Jewish colony in Peru.
While the information elicited by Mr. Welch from the Jewish leaders
with whom he talked indicates that Jews are not welcome in Peru, it
also fails to give evidence of serious persecution of the Jews or
unusual hardships suffered by them.

This Embassy is of the opinion that little assistance or even
real sympathy can be expected from Peru in the problem of relieving
the Jews of Europe.

Respectfully yours,

George H. Butler
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosures:
Memorandum by
Mr. Welch

731-Nafgesen
E.F. 513-76

To the Department in
original and holograph.
Jewish Colony in Peru

There are about 3,000 Jews in Peru, according to information received from the three different Jewish organizations. There is the Sociedad de Beneficencia Israëlica de 1890, which has a membership of 500 persons; of which 400 came from Germany and the rest from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and nearby countries. Walter Neisser is the president of this organization. Although the society dates back to 1890, Mr. Neisser told me that it did not have more than ten members before 1926. By 1935 there were 68 members and all of the others came to Peru after 1935 and up to the outbreak of the war.

There is also the Unión Israelita del Perú, the president of which is Max Holler. Mr. Holler has told me that most of the members in his organization are from Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and some from Austria. This association has 500 members but it takes in only the heads of families and Mr. Holler estimates that these 500 families probably number 2,000 persons.

The third Jewish organization is the Sociedad de Beneficencia Israelita Sephardi, of which Jacobo Franco is president. This society is made up of Jews from the Near East, with a handful of Jews from Spain. Mr. Franco has told me that there are 200 members and that this includes members of families.

The presidents of all three of these organizations have a long list of complaints about the anti-Jewish attitude of the present Peruvian Government and they lay most of the blame for their troubles at the door of Dr. Solf y Marc, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The presidents of the organization claim that Jewish immigrants were welcome during the Leguía administration, somewhat restricted during the Sánchez Cerro régime, treated with liberality during the Bemúdez administration until after 1933, but given almost no consideration by the Fredo Government after 1939. They claim that the anti-Jewish propaganda spread by the German Government and by the Nazi Party in Peru has been responsible for the growing dislike that high Peruvian officials have had for Jews. It will be obvious that their remarks do not seem to be borne out by their figures. That is to say, Mr. Neisser claimed that most of the members of the society of which he is president came to Peru in 1926 and 1927.

The presidents of the associations are able to cite a large number of specific cases where the Peruvian Government, after the outbreak of the war, showed animosity to the Jewish people. They told me that in 1940 the Jewish societies asked the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to permit them to bring into Peru 200 children of Jews in countries occupied by the Germans. They said that many of these were the children of Jews in concentration camps or were orphans.
orphans of Jews. The three societies planned to place these children in Jewish homes in Peru and they were willing to guarantee to the Peruvian Government that the children would not become public charges. Their request was refused and they claimed that some official in the Foreign Office said that it was too bad that they could not accommodate the children but that the difficulty was that the little ones would eventually grow up into Jews. They said that Dr. Frederick Loehmann, noted archaeologist from Palestine and the possessor of a British passport, endeavored in 1942 to obtain a temporary visitor's visa which would enable him to spend fifteen days in Peru. The Foreign Office denied the request until the British Government intervened and after the exchange of some official notes Loehmann was permitted to come here for fifteen days in 1942.

They told an instance where a Jew travelling from Chile to Buenos Aires endeavored to obtain a transit visa for Peru but that this was refused by the Foreign Office. As a matter of fact this trip was made anyway when the traveller learned that no transit visa was required by persons travelling by plane and stopping over night in Lima.

Mr. Hailer showed us a letter from the Koh-J-Noor Peniail Company of New York in which Mr. Hailer was requested to obtain from the Peruvian Government permission for one of their travelling salesmen, William Danjazok, a Czech citizen and the bearer of a Czech passport, to remain four days in Peru in transit to Bolivia and Chile. Mr. Hailer said he made the request but that the Foreign Office had refused it. It was Mr. Hailer's opinion that the visa was not granted because the man's name was Jewish. Mr. Hailer admitted to us, however, that he did not know if this salesman was Jewish.

In 1939 the Jewish society told the Peruvian Government that they would bring to Peru from Czechoslovakia a large and important factory owned by five Jews. They said that the factory would be moved here lock, stock and barrel and that the owners would bring with them ample finances. Although the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and certain other branches of the Peruvian Government were anxious to see the factory brought here, the presidents of the societies claimed that the Minister for Foreign Affairs intervened and stopped the negotiations.

The societies have wanted to open a school here and to bring from Buenos Aires an educator who is Jewish but the Peruvian Government has refused to give them a license for the operation of the school or a visa for the teacher.

The presidents of the societies say that they have tried to bring in at least one Jewish Rabbi so that they could open their own synagogue but that the Peruvian Government has stopped that and there is now no religious meeting place, although all three societies have their own club rooms.
The heads of the organizations cited many other instances similar to those given above, but I made no notes of them.

Incidentally, they complained that the Lima High School, an American institution, also had a quota for Jewish students and that it was practically impossible for Jewish residents to get their children entered in this educational institution.

In discussing these matters with the heads of the Jewish societies I, of course, made no references to the Department's wiregram or to any other instructions or to negotiations with the Peruvian Government. Most of these men have long known that I have been interested in all of the various foreign colonies in Peru.

Rolland Welch

RW to BW
Paraphrase by M.J.M.

January 21, 1944
11 a.m.

AMBASSADOR,
LIMA.

81

Reference is made to your despatch 8665 December 29, 1943 re Jews of Polish nationality possessing passports of Peruvian Government which were improperly issued and which the Peruvian Government refuses to recognize as valid. Although it is not clear from your despatch whether you are referring to Polish Jews in Europe or those residing in Peru, it is assumed that the Polish Jews in Europe are being referred to.

Inasmuch as the Department would not wish to endanger the persons concerned, you are requested to ask Peruvian officials concerned to grant the Polish request on humanitarian grounds. This action is recommended for the reason that the situation of refugees in possession of Peruvian passports is no doubt better than those without passports or any other papers. The latter frequently are sent to concentration camps where they undergo even more hardship and suffering. The Peruvian Government ought not to have strong objections to recognizing the validity of the passports in question inasmuch as the Polish Government does not expect US to grant to these refugees, once the war is over, any of the normal privileges attaching to Peruvian citizenship.

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