

Cooperation with Other Governments: Latin American: Uruguay

000288

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

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 VISAS (IMMIGRATION) TO REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM AXIS TERRITORY
- 2 . FOR MATERIAL RE URUGUAYAN APPROVAL RE THIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO 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)

000289

CONTROL COPY

3-12 War Ref Board
(Jreas)



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Montevideo, Uruguay
August 29, 1944

No. 4743

Subject: Uruguay agrees to Admit 500 Refugee
Children from Europe.

3 War Ref Board
(Jreas)
1 War (Mrs. Bundy)
3 W R B

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

- 1/ In confirmation of the Embassy's telegram no. 817
of August 29, 11 a.m., 1944, I have the honor to trans-
mit herewith a copy of the note of the Minister for
Foreign Affairs, in which he states that authoriza-
tion will be granted for the issuance of visas to 500
refugee children from Europe, in accordance with the
conditions set forth in this Embassy's memorandum
2/ of May 4, 1944, (copy enclosed), which was based on
the Department's circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m.,
1944.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Edward J. Sparks
I Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures

1. Note from Minister for Foreign
Affairs dated August 28, 1944.
2. Embassy's note to Foreign Office
dated May 4, 1944.

848
EJS:led

(To Department in single
copy for Ozalid)

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

AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 1 to despatch no. 4743
dated August 29, 1944 from American
Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay.

MINISTERIO
de
RELACIONES EXTERIORES

Montevideo, agosto 28 de 1944.

Señor Embajador:

Con referencia al "Memorandum" confidencial de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América, de fecha 4 de mayo del corriente, relativo a la autorización a impartir a las autoridades consulares en Suiza, para la visación de documentos de menores a objeto de permitirles entrada en ese país hasta ser posible su refugio, cúpleme informar a Vuestra Excelencia, que, previas las consultas con los institutos privados competentes, se arribó a establecer la capacidad receptiva del país en el número de 500 niños.

Consecuentemente, se autorizará la visación de igual número de documentos, en las condiciones establecidas en el ya referido "Memorandum".

Reitero a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi muy alta consideración.

JOSE SERRATO

Al Excelentísimo Señor
WILLIAM DAWSON, Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos de América.

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Enclosure no. 2 to despatch no 4743
dated August 29, 1944 from American
Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay.

MEMORANDUM

The Department of State has authorized the consular officers of the United States in Switzerland to issue up to 4,000 immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age, under exceptionally liberal conditions. The purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available.

If there are private agencies in Uruguay 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 Uruguay will be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to Uruguay. It is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

If the Uruguayan Government should be willing to take similar action it is requested that it give assurances to the Swiss Government, through its diplomatic mission in Bern, that it will accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of the Government of the United States. It is further requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorize its Chief of Mission in Bern to issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to Uruguay become available. The special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the Uruguayan diplomatic and consular officers in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

Montevideo, May 4, 1944.

EJS:led

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

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No. 4556

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Montevideo, Uruguay
July 6, 1944

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RESTRICTED

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1 Mar (Mr. Bundy)
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Subject: Transmission of Letter and Report received from Uruguayan Consul formerly stationed in Pamplona, Spain, refuting Criticism reportedly voiced by Representative CELLER in House of Representatives over "Failure" of Ambassador HAYES to aid Refugees in Spain.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/
2/

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter and report just received from Sr. Gabriel DE BIURRUN, Uruguayan Consul formerly stationed in Pamplona, Spain, which he prepared after calling at the Embassy recently, highly incensed over the remarks reportedly made by Representative CELLER in the House of Representatives over Ambassador HAYES' "failure" to aid the refugees in Spain. Also forwarded is a copy of the AP despatch published by El Pais on June 23 which attracted Sr. de Biurrun's attention and which caused him to prepare his report furnishing information designed to refute the claims attributed to Representative Celler.

3/

It affords me real pleasure to forward this report since Sr. de Biurrun was evidently in an excellent position to judge the achievements of Ambassador Hayes and his staff in assisting refugees entering Spain over the French border and since he has only words of the highest praise for our representatives there.

Sr. de Biurrun has declared not only in his letter but in person that he has no objection to his report being made use of in any way the Department considers appropriate with a view to correcting any unfortunate impression Representative Celler's remarks may have made.

Needless

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AIR MAIL

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Needless to say the Ambassador has taken occasion to express his appreciation to Sr. de Biurrun for his great kindness in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

Dudley G. Dwyre
Counselor of Embassy

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Enclosures:

1. Letter from Sr. de Biurrun
2. Report from Sr. de Biurrun
3. AP despatch dated June 23, 1944

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RBJr:lmn

To Department in single copy for Ozalid
Copy to Embassy, Madrid

000294

AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 1 to despatch
no. 136 dated July 6, 1944,
American Embassy,
Montevideo, Uruguay.

Montevideo 28 de Junio de 1944

Exm. Señor Embajador de los Estados
Unidos de America

Montevideo

Exm. Señor Embajador:

Aunque tengo entendido que V.E. tiene conocimiento de mi llegada a esta Capital procedente de Navarra - España - Frontera Franco-Española - lugar en que ejerzo mi jurisdicción de Consul y donde he sido representante de la Embajada de Estados Unidos y de las demás Aliadas en España, en el importante asunto de los Refugiados que llegaban a España a través del Pirineo de los Países ocupados por Alemania, así como de los prisioneros evadidos y todo lo que de esta índole con la guerra se relacionaba.

Desde mi llegada abrigaba la esperanza de tener personalmente el honor de presentar mis respetos a V.E. para no perder el nexo espiritual que tan fuertemente me ligó en mi trabajo con vuestra Patria y de la que por mediación de vuestro ilustre Colega el Exm. Señor Embajador en España Mr. Hayes, tantas afectuosas atenciones recibí. Pero hoy al leer en la Prensa de Montevideo en esta pasada semana la noticia que adjunto, en la que se expone, a mi juicio injustamente por crítica severa, el magnífico trabajo del Exm. Sr. Embajador en España en el delicado asunto de los Refugiados, me permito Exm. Sr. fiado en su bondad, enviarle el presente Informe sobre dicha cuestión, por considerarme yo el mas capacitado para exponer la verdad sobre estos hechos.

Primeramente por ser yo persona extraña a la Embajada en España y porque mi trabajo en ningún momento fué recompensado por dinero ni ninguna merced y sí con la honda satisfacción de contribuir con mi esfuerzo y mi amor a la causa de la Justicia, a destruir las fuerzas del Mal; y por ultimo, porque siendo yo unico Representante de las Embajadas Aliadas en toda aquella extensa Frontera, soy el mas llamado a conocer este asunto y con toda libertad a exponer un juicio exacto sobre todo aquel enorme trabajo que por humanidad se hizo con verdadera eficacia, en el que culminó el magnífico esfuerzo del Sr. Embajador Mr. Carlton J. H. Hayes y de los funcionarios de su Embajada en Madrid a sus ordenes.

Este sintético Informe que tengo el honor de poner en manos de V.E. lo hago con el propósito de que el Sr. Embajador use de el con la libertad que estime pertinente

y pueda

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AIR MAIL

- 2 -

y pueda dar luz si fuere preciso en esta cuestión donde, junto con Mr. Hayes y las demas Embajadas Aliadas con mi modesto concurso, pusimos todo nuestro esfuerzo y corazón.

Tengo el honor de presentar a V.E. Señor Embajador el testimonio de mi mas alta y respetuosa consideración.

GABRIEL DE BIURRUN
CONSUL

Firmado Gabriel de Biurrun

Consul del Uruguay en Navarra

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AIR MAIL

Enclosure no. 2 to despatch
no. 46 dated July 6, 1944,
American Embassy,
Montevideo, Uruguay.

Exm. Señor:

Al elevar a V.E. el presente Informe, me permito significarle que mi deseo es hacerlo en forma concisa, suficiente para la finalidad que me anima, ya que cifras y detalles, de sobra obraran en los altos Organismos respectivos del Estado, donde existen en este momento ademas personas tales como Mr. Charles Mac Donald, en la actualidad en el Departamento de Estado, el que por su gran capacidad técnica y alta autoridad moral y por haber colaborado con el Sr. Embajador Mr. Hayes en el planeamiento y resolución de los múltiples problemas que componían el delicado y difícil asunto de los Refugiados en España, habrá dado a su debido tiempo informe y luz sobre esta grave cuestión.

En los últimos meses del Año de 1942, comenzaron a pasar la frontera los primeros Refugiados y no existiendo en Navarra mas representación Consular Aliada que el Vice-Consulado de Francia, comenzo a preocuparse sobre ello el Consulado de Gran Bretaña de San Sebastian y poco después la Embajada de Estados Unidos de America destacó a Navarra uno de sus Agregados Mr. Gilbert el que conferenció con el informante pidiéndome en nombre de su Embajada y de la de Gran Bretaña, fuera su representante para el problema que comenzaba a hacerse tangible de los Refugiados, contando para ello con la venia de mi Ministro.

Acepté gustoso por creer era un deber de caridad Cristiana y de humanidad el aceptarlo, aunque nunca pude pensar pudiera alcanzar las proporciones gigantes que después alcanzo.

Posteriormente volvió Mr. Gilbert con el Secretario de la Embajada Mr. Le Bond y planeamos las medidas a tomarse por si el problema se agudizaba. Visitamos a las autoridades a las que les presente y comencé mi labor, no sin, antes pedir al Vice-Consul de Francia Sr. Londa su ayuda, la que ofreció incondicional, aunque en un principio fue prácticamente negativa, a pesar de su magnífica buena voluntad, por negarse los Franceses Refugiados a que interviniera por temor a que fuera afecto al Gobierno de Vichy.

El primer problema serio llegó pronto a la vista al recibir orden el Sr. Gobernador de Navarra de que todo Refugiado que pasara la frontera ingresara en la Carcel de Pamplona; y en pocos días solo e mujeres hubo en la Carcel unas cuarenta, algunas, grandes damas de la mas alta significación social de Francia e Inglaterra.

Comienza

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AIR MAIL

- 2 -

Comienza ya el trabajo intenso y de enlace de mi Representación con la Embajada Norte Americana particularmente, pues ella en un principio es la que lleva el peso de la tramitación y de la distribución de fondos los cuales fueron colocados por esta Embajada, en Pamplona en cantidades suficientes y a mi nombre.

La afluencia de Refugiados comienza a ser alarmante y los planes anteriores de organización tuvieron que ser modificados a fondo.

La Embajada de Gran Bretaña envia tambien sus funcionarios.

La Cárcel ha llegado a su pleno; y Mr. Hayes trabaja ante el Gobierno Español para que modifique su orden y puedan los Refugiados trasladarse a Hoteles. La Embajada Inglesa secunda este trabajo valiosamente y se logra este justo deseo, aunque condicionado, a pesar, de las grandes presiones de Alemania.

A todos se atiende; se les da ropa a los distribuidos en los Hoteles; se les paga su pensión, médico y medicinas etc., se organiza todo y por cuenta de la Embajada Americana presidida por Mr. Hayes corren toda clase de gastos, mientras sus funcionarios beneméritos sin conocer un instante de tregua ni descanso trabajan junto a mí vera ante aquel alud de Refugiados que pasan por la Frontera perseguidos por las patrullas alemanas lo que hace que muchos lleguen heridos mientras otros quedan muertos en la nieve del Pirineo.

La Cruz Roja Francesa en España, a cuya sombra están los Representantes del General De Gaulle estando en su dirección Monseñor Boyer las, me pide tambien los Represente y así mismo el Sr. Ministro de Yugoslavia lo que como es natural acepto.

De acuerdo las Embajadas Aliadas, se comienza, como era justo una nueva distribución tanto en los enormes fondos que se gastan como en la distribución de trabajo: cada Embajada pagara a los suyos y protegidos y se hace una clasificación según las Patrias de los Refugiados.

Mi esposa, la que desde el primer momento puso todo su entusiasmo en mi ayuda lleva junto conmigo la contabilidad y distribución de fondos, cada vez mas difícil por el gran numero de capitulos a atender, pero aun tenemos animos para rechazar la ayuda que en personal nos ofrecen las Embajadas y hay veces que vemos amanecer haciendo cuentas, pero con alegría de trabajar por tan excelsa Causa.

La Cárcel,

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AIR MAIL

- 3 -

La Cárcel, y los numerosos Hoteles de Navarra estan llenos.

Cada Refugiado recibe aparte de ser pagados sus gastos de manutención y cuidados sanitarios, un haber semanal para sus gastos personales, distintos segun estan en el Hotel, Cárcel u Hospital, estando todos perfectamente atendidos.

Su estancia en el Hotel o Cárcel, después de vencer las Embajadas las grandes presiones Alemanas sobre el Gobierno Español, depende segun sea su sexo, edad, si fué herido o prisionero, etc...

El número de Refugiados es ya abrumador, al extremo de que hubo momento en que los funcionarios de la Policía de Pamplona que hacían las fichas de los Refugiados que acababan de llegar, pasaron 48 horas sin dormir.

Los Refugiados llegaban después de una odisea por los montes perseguidos por las patrullas Alemanas, incluso con perros al efecto, en estado lamentable. A su llegada se les atendía cuidadosamente se curaban sus heridas y se les daban ropas y alimentos.

Urgía entonces el grave problema de la Cárcel donde llegaron a estar 1.200, hacinados y durmiendo en el suelo.

Planteado este grave problema, el que era avivado por la rapidez del paso de los Refugiados, ya que hubo día de pasar 180; se presento en Pamplona Mr. Charles Mac Donald, Delegado de la Cruz Roja Norte Americana en la Embajada de Madrid y estudiamos el citado problema y el que pudiera presentarse en el futuro procediéndose inmediatamente a la organización de este serio aspecto con tal celeridad y con tal acierto que a los pocos días dormían todos los Refugiados en la Cárcel cada uno en su cama recibiendo víveres suficientes para su alimentación.

Al efecto, recibí el número necesario de camiones y varios camiones de víveres, formando con estos un grande y bien organizado Deposito el que mas tarde se amplió donde semanalmente se distribuían a cada Refugiado de la Prisión, una cantidad fija por persona de carne, leche, sopa en polvo, avena, manteca, jarabe de maiz y una pastilla de jabon.

De todo ello llevábamos contabilidad y controlábamos semanalmente su entrega con visitas personales a la Cárcel.

La cantidad y calidad de los víveres era tan excelente que suscitaba envidia aun en las personas mas acomodadas de la Ciudad, sujetas a las restricciones alimenticias de España.

La organización

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AIR MAIL

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La organización era en lo que cabe humanamente perfecta, funcionando todo cual fue previsto y cada problema que surgía lo resolvía personalmente si era posible, o en relación con las Embajadas, si era problema que había que solucionar con las Autoridades Ministeriales de Madrid.

Se llegó hasta los extremos mas delicados tales como a los niños pequeños traídos por las Refugiadas y a los que nacieron en el exilio, tuvieron siempre leche y cuidados necesarios para su manutención y desarrollo, al punto que no falleció ninguno y se repusieron todos de las grandes penalidades sufridas.

Y hasta se llegó a la gentileza de que cuando hubo casamientos entre los Refugiados, que se celebraron varios, no faltó en la comida de Bodas un detalle de parte de las Embajadas que sirviera de matiz simbólico en aquel día feliz, rodeado de tantas tristezas.

Pero en el fondo de aquel insolito enjambre de Refugiados, pues por mis manos pasaron mas de 5.000, había que hacer en su fondo y a la vez un grande y grave trabajo que no podía salir a la superficie.

Era el paso callado de las graves noticias sobre los diferentes aspectos de la guerra, con sus secretos militares, detalles planos emplazamientos, noticias de posiciones, Jefes de Guerra con misiones secretas, Aviadores Evadidos, gentes que a la llegada eran aparentemente apacibles comerciantes que huían y que después conocida su personalidad eran personas que había que hacer llegar a su importante destino, a dar cuenta de su alta misión.

Y si todas las Embajadas Aliadas prestaban a tan grande asunto sus mayores atenciones, refiriéndome en este Informe a la Embajada de Estados Unidos, puesto que ahora de ella se trata, solo puedo decir que su organización y su trabajo fue maravilloso.

La presencia de persona de interés tan pronto como era señalada por mí, a cualquier hora del día o de la noche, recibía de la Embajada inmediata respuesta con las órdenes debidas y enseguida, lo mismo en plena madrugada del invierno, con 10 o mas grados bajo cero y temporal de nieve que en pleno mediodía con el calor sofocante del verano se ponían en camino para Pamplona y cuantas veces en mi casa, un ponche caliente en la estación fría o una limonada fresca en verano era lo primero que tomaban después de cientos de Kilómetros de carrera desenfrenada y penalidades sin cuento.

Con

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AIR MAIL

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Con tan grave motivo y por haberse convertido Pamplona en el centro de mayor actividad por los Refugiados y por este aspecto que estudiamos venían continuamente el Agregado Militar de la Embajada Coronel Stephens, el Mayor Mr. Clark y el Agregado Naval Mr. Guilmaud y otros.

Pero entonces había que vencer otra gran dificultad; y era la constante vigilancia de la Policía y la de la Gestapo; y eran verdaderos milagros los que se hacían de habilidad y de astucia en la Carcel, en los Montes, en los Hoteles y donde fuera preciso entrevistarse con las personas que traían alguna importante misión o entrega de documentos.

A esto debe añadirse el servicio especial organizado para la recepción de Militares y Aviadores caídos en Alemania y Países Ocupados y evacuados después a los que se les atendía especialmente hasta que se lograba por las Embajadas respectivas trasladarlos a lugar con veniente para ser repatriados después.

Debo señalar en todo este gran trabajo la magnífica colaboración de Mrs. Stephens esposa del Coronel agregado militar y dama Americana de precioso talento y de una actividad rayana en el sacrificio, que estaba en todo consolando, animando, visitando Carceles, Hospitales, Hoteles, Campos de Concentración, ayudando en la magnífica organización establecida por Mr. Mac Donald, en los cuidados sanitarios y reparto de víveres entre tantos miles de Refugiados.

Pues bien, Excm. Señor; en toda esta magnífica organización en pro de los Refugiados donde en todo momento se palpó el resultado de la pericia rectora junto con el enorme trabajo y sacrificio de toda la Embajada de Estados Unidos en España, fué Mr. Hayes su cabeza visible y el coordinador de aquella complicadísima red de trabajos, practicamente de tan felices resultados.

Y mucho tendríamos que decir de las veces que en situaciones gravísimas, es la intervención personal de Mr. Hayes en unión de su colega el Sr. Embajador de Gran Bretaña, la que sabe vencer la enorme presión alemana, salvando de la muerte segura a cientos de Refugiados.

En los meses de Marzo y Abril de 1943, Alemania con ánimo de invadir a España, o de ejercer una definitiva presión sobre ella, desplegaba en la frontera un inusitado alarde de fuerzas junto con una cantidad formidable de material.

Todos

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AIR MAIL

- 6 -

Todos los que allí vivíamos pensamos y temimos a una invasión cierta.

Por entonces se organizaba el primer convoy de envío de Refugiados para África, los que a mi salida de España estaban ya organizados y en marcha.

Había ya dos grandes barcos preparados para recibir a los Refugiados de acuerdo entre las Embajadas Aliadas y el Gobierno Español, cuando el Embajador Alemán pidió al General Franco ostensible ayuda en número considerable para la División Azul, de la que hasta entonces había prestado, a lo que se negó el General Franco; contestando entonces el Embajador Alemán que a su vez ellos no consentirán el paso del convoy de Refugiados ya preparado; y en efecto este no tuvo lugar.

Continuaron las presiones Alemanas a la vez que aumentaban el número de fuerzas en la Frontera y esta vez lograron del Gobierno Español una medida insolita, contraria al Derecho Internacional y al Derecho de Gentes: El cierre de la Frontera al paso de los Refugiados.

Yo tuve la fortuna de enterarme de esta medida en el momento en que recibían de Madrid las Autoridades de Navarra la orden de dicha brutal disposición. Inmediatamente avisé a la Embajada Americana y pocas horas después Mr. Hayes, con el Sr. Embajador de Gran Bretaña y el Sr. Muncio de S.S. conferenciaban con el Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Español. Allí me consta que Mr. Hayes usó de toda su energía personal para deschacar tan barbara medida y en efecto, dentro de las 24 horas de haberse dado la orden de cerrar la Frontera al paso de los Refugiados, se dio contra orden, evitando la muerte segura de varios cientos de Refugiados que se encontraban en los montes y que sin salida hubiera sido fácil para los Alemanes apresarlos y fusillarlos después como hacían con los que detenían a su paso.

Me permito hacer presente a V.E. que si señalo aquí noticia como la que indico, es por que yo la sabía, no por los funcionarios de las Embajadas, los que en todo momento guardaban la mayor discreción la que yo nunca traté de quebrantar, sino por ser de fuentes mías propias, debidas a que desde el momento en que yo acepté el cargo que desempeñé, movilizé todas mis amistades de confianza, desde los guardas de las selvas de El Irati en la Frontera por mí conocidos, hasta las que se encontraban en los mas altos medios sociales, para redundar en bien de la obra humanitaria que emprendíamos.

De todo

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AIR MAIL

- 7 -

De todo ello se desprende Exm. Señor, la falta de base que asiste a Mr. Emanuele Celler en la acusación que acaba de hacer contra el Exm. Sr. Embajador Mr. Hayes de haber sido remiso y haber demostrado ningún interés por las vidas y problemas de los Refugiados en España.

Mas no dudo de que si el contradictor de Mr. Hayes conociera aunque solo fuera el fondo de este sintético Informe y es hombre de buena y leal voluntad, sera el primero en presentar a Mr. Hayes, su homenaje de respeto y reconocimiento por la acertada y magnífica labor al frente de la Embajada de Estados Unidos en España.

Y por considerarlo de estricta y elemental justicia y estimar ser yo unas de las personas capacitadas para ello, precisamente por el cargo representativo de las Embajadas Aliadas que ocupé y a las que nada me une de reconocimiento material, pues de ellas no recibí remuneración alguna por mi trabajo y sí la honda satisfacción de haber colaborado con ellas el pro del Bien y del verdadero Derecho Humano, es que hoy en plena libertad, sin consejo ni concecion de nadie, deliberadamente y por me propia voluntad, entiendo el presente Informe, en la Ciudad de Montevideo a 28 de Junio de 1944.

GABRIEL DE BIURRUN

Firmado Gabriel de Biurrun

Consul del Uruguay en Navarra

Exm. Señor

Embajador de los Estados Unidos de America - Montevideo

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Enclosure no. 3 to despatch
no. 45 dated July 6, 1944,
American Embassy,
Montevideo, Uruguay

EL PAIS

Junio 23 de 1944

SOLICITUD DEMOCRATA

WASHINGTON, 22 (AP) — El representante Emanuele Celler, demócrata de Nueva York, solicitó que se retire de Madrid al embajador señor Carlton Hayes, por haber "rehusado repetidamente" el pedir ayuda al gobierno español para la evacuación de refugiados de guerra europeos.

Celler denunció a Hayes como "franquista", agregando que se hubieran podido salvar las vidas de miles de refugiados, si Hayes hubiera cooperado con la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra.

Señaló que, en la mayoría de los países neutrales, se han establecido puertos libres, pero "como una isla solitaria en el inmenso mar, Madrid es una excepción. España también hubiera podido participar en el establecimiento de tales refugios, si el embajador Hayes se hubiera acercado al gobierno español para solicitarlo".

000304

2 - War Ref
ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Montevideo
DATED: June 10, 1944
NUMBER: 335

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(able)
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Reference is made to your 457 of May 17. Readiness of Uruguayan government to cooperate is appreciated. Please advise Department to what extent action has been taken along the lines indicated in Department's A-194 of May 1 and circular airgrams of May 1 and May 11.

If positive action not yet taken, please urge need for extreme speed in carrying out the measures suggested.

STETTINIUS
(Acting)

OS 11 MA 11 JUL 1944

RECEIVED
MR. HINGLICH D.C.
MR. BELMONT BOULD

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

000305

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Reference is made to your 457 of May 17. Readiness of Urugusyan government to cooperate is appreciated. Please advise Department to what extent action has been taken along the lines indicated in Department's A-194 of May 1 and circular airgrams of May 1, 7:35 p.m. and May 11, 7:50 p.m.

If positive action not yet taken, please urge need for extreme speed in carrying out the measures suggested.

June 8, 1944
5:15 p.m.

Ba. L.S.
BAKzin:ar 6/8/44

000306

*War Refugee Board
Mr. Peble*

P R PHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Montevideo
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 457

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RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
INTELLIGENCE
BOYD
MAY 18 1944

Reference is made herewith to Department's airgram of May first No. 194, which was received on May 12 by the Embassy.

Government of Uruguay has expressed its readiness to cooperate fully in all the various ways which were suggested in your airgram under reference.

DAWSON.

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

000307

CONTROL COPY

File

No. 4311

Montevideo, Uruguay
May 6, 1944

38 WRB
3 Mar (Refugee Board)
1 Mar Mr. Einar
CM

Subject: Transmitting copy of letter, reporting conversation of Mr. David ZAGHA with the Uruguayan Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs regarding the rescue and relief of refugees of Europe.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

1/ With reference to the Embassy's airmail no. A-183 of March 30, 12 noon, 1944, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the letter which Mr. David ZAGHA, Special Agent for the War Refugee Board, addressed to Mr. J. W. PEHLE in Washington, in which he summarized his conversation with Dr. Eduardo Albanell MacColl, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Zagha recently furnished this copy stating that he had sent the original by open air mail as he had not understood that the pouch facilities of the Embassy were available for this purpose.

It will be observed that Mr. Zagha reports that the Under Secretary was well informed on immigration matters and that he said that any plan or suggestion which the War Refugee Board might submit, "would be received and studied with the best of good will and understanding". Mr. Zagha received the impression that everything would be done by Uruguay to help and cooperate with the Board.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

Edward J. Sparks
I Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Copy of letter by Mr. Zagha to Mr. J.W. Pehle.

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EJS:led

(To Department in single copy for Ozalid)

840.48 REFUGEES/6002

PS/CH

000308

AIR MAIL

Enclosure to despatch no. 4311
dated May 6, 1944 from American
Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

March 1944

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I had an interview with Dr. E. Albanell MacColl, Sub-Secretary of Foreign Relations, who has a great knowledge of the immigration question in this country and talked about the possibility of getting a large number of refugees as soon as the circumstances would permit. As far as I can see, everything will be done in this country to help and cooperate with the War Refugee Board.

I suggested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here should get in touch with you, so that a reasonable plan could be worked out together. Dr. Albanell liked the idea and said that he would do so at the earliest possible moment so that relief would be given soon.

Dr. MacColl said that any plan or suggestion made by you, would be received and studied with the best of good will and understanding.

Kindly find herewith copy of the instructions given to the Uruguayan delegates, to the "Congreso Demografico Interamericano" held in Mexico.

This copy was taken from the "Boletín del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores" (Segunda Época) tomo 16 No. 4, a copy of which was forwarded to the State Department.

These instructions show a definite understanding on the part of the Uruguayan Government of the problem concerning us.

Dr. Albanell was justly proud to show me the underlined paragraph.

Probably a copy of said paragraph might interest W.J.C.

I was kindly introduced to Dr. Albanell by the Secretary to the Embassy in Montevideo, Mr. Edward Sparks


Yours very truly

D. Zagha

000309

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO: Secretary of State Washington
DATED: May 6 1944
NUMBER: 427



On May 3 we received circular airgram from the Department dated April 15 regarding visas for refugee children entering Switzerland. The Under-Secretary handles refugee questions and the matter was immediately presented to him by Sparks. The Under-Secretary's personal reaction was favorable and he promised to expedite the Uruguayan Government's consideration of the matter.

DAWSON

cc: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, Aksin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luford, Mann, Kannon, Marks, McCormack, Fehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H.D. White, Files

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

000310

April 11, 1946
7 p.m.

CIRCULAR

CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] 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
airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent
communications on refugee matters, you are informed that
the Department has now authorized the American consular
officers in Switzerland to issue up to four thousand quota
immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years
of age without regard to religion, nationality or
stateless status, to close relatives residing in enemy,
enemy-controlled or occupied territory or to the
availability of means of transportation to the United
States. The purpose of this authorization is to
facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or
abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss
Government that these children will not remain in Switzer-
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 be-
come available. Private sources have posted bond
with the Attorney General of the United States to
assure this Government that the immigrating children will not
become public charges.

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

Kindly approach appropriate officials of the Government to
which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and re-
quest them to give assurance to the Swiss Government through
their diplomatic mission in Bern that they will accept up to a
fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of
this Government. For the information of the Government to which
you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there
are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned
refugee children. Should that Government be willing to make this
humanitarian offer, please request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
to authorize its chief of mission in Bern to issue the appropriate
number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until
suitable

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

000311

-2- CIRCULAR, April 15, 7 p.m.

suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to its country become available. The Government may be informed that the special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American legation in Bern will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular officers of the other American Republics in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

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

HNLL

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

100312

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

Standard

FROM Montevideo^v

Dated March 30, 1944

Rec'd *Apr 5 2P*

Secretary of State,

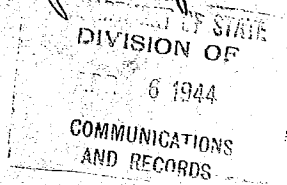
Washington.

A-189, March 30, 12 noon.

Reference is made to the Embassy's airgram A-183, March 28, 12 noon, relative to the possibility of the issuance by the Uruguayan Government of a declaration of policy with respect to the rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe.

Mr. David Zugha, who travels on a French passport, called at the Embassy this morning in order to confer with the "representative of the War Refugee Board". He presented a letter dated March 4, 1944, and signed by Mr. J. W. Penle, Acting Executive Secretary, War Refugee Board, Washington, appointing him Special Agent for a period of three months and requesting representatives of the Board to extend him appropriate assistance.

Upon



100313

A-189/Montevideo, March 30.

2 -

Upon being informed that the Embassy was unaware of the appointment of a representative of the Board in Uruguay, Mr. Zagha stated that he desired information as to the attitude of the Uruguayan Government with respect to the rescue and relief of refugees before proceeding to Europe, and he inquired which Uruguayan official he might consult. Mr. Zagha was informed of Uruguayan policy on immigration as indicated in the Embassy's airgram under reference, and that the Government now has under consideration the issuance of a declaration of policy regarding European refugees. Since this matter is being handled by the Under Secretary an appointment was made and Mr. Zagha called on him this afternoon. Mr. Zagha reports that he had a very satisfactory interview and that he will give the details of his conversation in a letter to Mr. Pehle which the Embassy will transmit in the airmail pouch.

DAWSON

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2 - War Refugee Bd
(Mr. Sehl)
CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

FROM Montevideo

Dated March 28, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

APR 5 1944

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-183, March 28, 12 noon.

x
In compliance with the Department's circular airgram of February 29, 7:30 p.m., 1944, relative to possible measures for the rescue and relief of the refugees of Europe, Mr. Sparks explored with the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs the possibility of the issuance by the Uruguayan Government of a declaration of policy similar to that made by President Roosevelt, and the issuance by the Foreign Office of instructions to its representatives in other countries comparable to those contained in the Department's airgram of January 26.

The Under Secretary stated that he believed a declaration of policy might be issued. In this connection he referred to the instructions to the Uruguayan Delegate to the First Inter-American

Demographic

2 - Montevideo
A-183

Demographic Congress held in Mexico in October of last year. These instructions, which were published in the "Boletín del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Segunda Época) Tomo XVI Número V, Noviembre de 1943", are in effect a declaration of the policy of Uruguay with respect to immigration. While they do not cover the particular question of the speedy rescue and relief of refugees of Europe, it will be noted that the Delegate was instructed that he should oppose, on the ground of the constitution and national traditions, "any distinction, favorable or unfavorable, which may be attempted on the basis of racial prejudices and doctrines; reject the race theory in all its forms; not accept the classification of immigration by nationality or country of origin...."

On March 23 in response to an inquiry the Under Secretary informed Mr. Sparks that an officer of the Foreign Office had been directed to prepare an appropriate statement.

DANSON

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EJS:rvm

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DRAFT OF CABLE TO URUGUAY

American Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay

Reference your despatch 3926, February 17 and Airgram A-96, February 22.

The comprehensive report submitted on the Jewish situation in Uruguay, as well as the suggestion offered for the guidance of the War Refugee Board have been carefully reviewed by its staff and are deeply appreciated.

Neutral countries adjacent to Axis-controlled territory are carrying a heavy refugee load. No doubt these countries would be in a position to admit many additional persons if they could be assured that at the earliest possible moment steps would be taken to relieve them of a portion of their burden. With this in mind, the United States ~~is~~ has now instructed its consular officers in Switzerland to issue during the present quota year in the aggregate up to 4,000 immigration visas aiding refugee children who shall have arrived in Switzerland from France on or after January 1 of this year and before July 1 of this year. The visas are to be issued without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status and without regard to the question of availability of means of transportation to the United States.

Making visas available to refugees who have reached neutral countries and maintaining the validity of visas issued is a concrete plan for aiding refugees in which all sympathetic countries can participate.

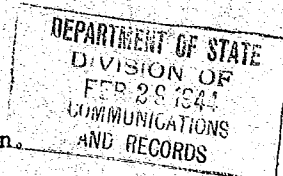
Should a further plan present itself in which the Uruguay Government could render assistance, it will be submitted to you for your consideration and comment.

URU

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2: War Refugee
FROM Mor video
Dated February 22, 1944
Rec'd Feb. 28. 44



Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-96, February 22, 12 noon.

Reference Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944, concerning War Refugee Board and action for rescue and relief of Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

Reference also Embassy's despatch no. 3926 of February 17, 1944, reporting inter alia delivery to Uruguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs of memorandum setting forth policy expressed in President's Executive Order of January 22.

Embassy received yesterday in reply a memorandum dated February 17 in which the Foreign Office states:

In reply the Ministry is pleased to state that its Government is disposed in principle to cooperate in the noble work referred to in the Embassy's memorandum;

but

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Montevideo -96, Feb. 22, 1944

- 2 -

but it would be grateful if the Embassy would furnish it the plan or program which the Government of the United States of America will surely have drawn up regarding the matter, in order to enable the Uruguayan Government to make the definitive decision which in its opinion may be pertinent.

This confirms the Minister's verbal statement (reported in my despatch no. 3926) to the effect that, before considering the form which Uruguayan cooperation might take, he would be interested in receiving suggestions from us and information as to the measures we ourselves contemplate.

In the penultimate paragraph of my despatch no. 3926 I suggested that in my opinion the first step with a view to obtaining Uruguayan cooperation should be to indicate to the Uruguayan Government at least in a general way what the War Refugee Board would like to see it do.

DANSON

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MD:rvn

000319

No. 3926

Montevideo, Uruguay,
February 17, 1944.

Subject: Rescue and Relief of Jews and other Victims
of Enemy Persecution; Conversations with
Foreign Minister with regard to Uruguayan
Cooperation; Report on existing Situation
prepared by Mr. Ezequiel D. Salinas.


The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 1944 concerning action taken by our Government for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution, and to report as follows regarding the Embassy's efforts to comply with the directives contained therein:

(1) Pursuant to the Department's instruction, the matter has been discussed with the Uruguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs with whom I left a memorandum setting forth the policy expressed in the President's Executive Order of January 22 and pointing out that the President had not only stressed the urgency of action to forestall the plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe but had also stated that he expected the cooperation of the United Nations and other Governments in carrying out the difficult but important task.

In the conversation in question, which took place on February 8, Sr. Serrato said that Uruguay was opposed to persecution of any sort, that it would cooperate to the full extent of its ability, and that he would so state in a reply to my memorandum. Having failed to receive the reply, I reverted to the matter again in a conversation this morning. Sr. Serrato said that he regretted the delay but would see to it that I received a reply shortly.

I took occasion to inquire whether he had given any thought to the manner in which Uruguay might collaborate. He said that he had not and that for the time being he could merely state that the Uruguayan

Government

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 14 1972

SEP 14 1972

000320

Government agrees fully in principle with the policy expressed by President Roosevelt and will be glad to cooperate. He remarked that, before considering the form which Uruguayan cooperation might take, he would be interested in receiving suggestions from us and information as to the measures we ourselves contemplate. He said that if it were a question of granting asylum to additional numbers of refugees the matter would have to be studied. He remarked in this connection that, while the Government and he personally do not share the feeling, there exists in certain quarters in Uruguay an antipathy toward Jews.

1/ (2) With respect to the Department's instruction that a report be rendered concerning the actual situation today in Uruguay, I enclose a detailed memorandum which has been prepared by Mr. Ezequiel D. SALINAS of my staff. The preparation of this report has required considerable time and investigation and it is perhaps more comprehensive in scope than was contemplated in the Department's instruction. It is believed, however, that the complete background information assembled by Mr. Salinas will prove useful to the Department and to the War Refugee Board in appraising the situation in Uruguay.

As brought out in the report, it would appear from Mr. Salinas' investigation that little is being done in Uruguay to rescue the Jews and other persecuted minorities from Hitler. According to information obtained from Jewish sources it would seem that the local Jews are not showing as great a willingness as might be expected of them to help their unfortunate brethren. As respects the Uruguayan Government, it is not at present encouraging and cooperating in the entry of war refugees whose admission into the country is subject to prior approval of the Foreign Office and to the posting of a 5,000 peso bond. On the other hand, Mr. Salinas reports a tolerant and humanitarian attitude on the part of the Government and its authorities towards refugees who have entered the country illegally or temporarily.

It is to be hoped that the Uruguayan Government will be disposed to cooperate by admitting victims of persecution for whom the War Refugee Board may wish to find an asylum here. I believe that such action on the part of the Government would have the support of the important Batllista and Independent Blanco parties. Any further large influx of Jewish refugees would however meet with criticism and opposition in certain quarters. As Minister Serrato remarked to me this morning, it is unfortunately only too true that there is a growing antipathy towards Jewish residents. This is due very largely to the circumstance that so many of them have settled in Montevideo where they are making their presence increasingly obvious in business, in certain residential districts, and in other ways.

(3)

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(3) As instructed in the Department's airgram, the Embassy will of course cooperate with public and private agencies whenever occasion offers. In the course of his investigation and in collecting information for his report, Mr. Salinas has been in touch with Jewish leaders and organizations. In fact, his report is based very largely on Jewish sources. He has obtained and attached to his report (Appendix B) a statement in which the Central Jewish Committee sets forth its recommendations as respects rescue and relief measures which might be taken. It is believed that the Department and the War Refugee Board may be interested in this statement as reflecting the views of local Jews. The statement was obtained of course without any indication on the part of Mr. Salinas that it was desired for other than informational purposes.

(4) As respects recommendations to be made by the Embassy as to what can be done with a view to obtaining the cooperation of the Uruguayan Government, it should be pointed out that in view of its lack of shipping facilities and its present difficult fiscal position, it is doubted if Uruguay can be counted upon for much effective assistance other than through granting asylum. As already indicated it is to be hoped that the Government will be disposed to cooperate in this manner. The first step to obtain such cooperation should be in my opinion to indicate to the Uruguayan Government at least in a general way what the War Refugee Board would like to see it do along this line.

In conclusion, it should be noted that, while the emphasis in the present despatch is on Jewish refugees, this does not mean that the Embassy has overlooked or will overlook other victims of enemy persecution.

Respectfully yours,

/
 William Dawson

Enclosure:

Memorandum prepared by
Mr. Salinas concerning
existing situation in
Uruguay .

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WD:rvm

Original and hectograph to
Department.

000322

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 3926
Dated February 17, 1944 from
American Embassy, Montevideo,
Uruguay on Jewish Immigrants

MEMORANDUM

To: The Ambassador
From: E. D. Salinas
Date: February 16, 1944
Subject: The Actual Situation as it Exists in Uruguay With
Reference to the Rescue and Relief of the Victims
of Enemy Persecution.

Reference is made to the Department's circular airgram
of January 26, 1944, 7:00 p.m. requesting a report on the
above subject/1.

JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN URUGUAY

War Refugees:

Approximately ten thousand Jewish refugees fleeing
from Nazi persecution in Europe entered the Republic of
Uruguay from 1936 through 1942. Of these, roughly 65%
came from Germany, 18% from Poland, and the remainder from
various other European countries./2

It is generally estimated that 30% of these refugees
are very wealthy/3, that about 40% have ample means, and
that about 30% are in difficult circumstances and in need
of employment or relief. Two hundred families of the latter
are enrolled for assistance in the local Asociacion
Filantrópica Israelita/4.

A small

1. Since the number of non-Jewish war refugees is negli-
gible, the present study is made exclusively of the Jewish
victims of Nazism.
2. See Appendix A for tables showing the annual Jewish
immigration from 1936 through 1942 and the country of origin.
3. Several refugees are understood to have sums of money in
excess of one million dollars. Banking circles state that
Jewish capital has been gradually coming out in the open and
that Jewish refugees are moving funds in substantial amounts.
See despatch no. 466 of December 15, 1938.
4. This assistance originates from funds remitted from the
United States by the Joint Jewish Distribution Committee.

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

000323

A small number of persons within this immigration group were engaged in the professions prior to their evacuation from Europe but they are now unable to adapt themselves to the professional life of Uruguay because of language difficulties and legal prerequisites to obtaining a license. They have therefore entered the business field looking for profitable investments and opportunities. By far the largest proportion have filtered into the commercial life of Montevideo engaging in various pursuits ranging from peddling wares on the street to small shops and money-exchange houses. Few have devoted themselves to the pursuit which might bring them the most good-will in Uruguay: farming. Further income for a large number of these families is provided by older children who go to work as clerks or minor employees in offices and business establishments.

The majority of these refugees have entered Uruguay with the necessary papers in proper order but the remainder, roughly estimated at about one thousand, arrived on tourist and traveling salesman permits and then have remained indefinitely; others were admitted in transit on their tourist permits and passport visas to Paraguay and were compelled to remain in Uruguay when immigration measures barred them from the neighboring republic.⁵ A small number of the latter have been able to obtain certificates of residence issued by the Ministry of the Interior⁶ but the majority still continue

living

5. When the powers of Uruguayan consuls abroad to issue visas were restricted, certain consular officers began issuing "tourist" and "traveling salesman" permits: these consuls were subsequently suspended.

6. The Minister of the Interior whose term expired in March 1943 simply issued a certificate decreeing that applicant's residence was from then on and henceforth legal. This was an irregular procedure, without authority of law. The new Minister, Dr. Juan José Carbajal Victorica, has employed the Uruguayan immigration law which prescribes that an applicant's petition for admission into the country must be decided upon within three months and that no resident of Uruguay may be "expelled" after three years' residence if he has no police record. Where the applicant proves a three-year residence and has no criminal record, Minister Carbajal issues the following "Resolution": "I resolve that, applicant having been within the country longer than three months, I am powerless to decree no-admission in the case and since it has been proved that applicant has been within the country for more than three years and no police record against him exists, I am also powerless to expel him from the country." With this certificate, immigrants can acquire identification cards and enjoy permanent residence unmolested. There are about two hundred of these applications pending.

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living in fear and doubt as to the permanency of their new homes. Uruguay, however, has adopted a benevolent attitude toward these victims of Nazi Germany and no cases of deportation, once the immigrant was within the country, are known.

It is believed that some refugees have migrated clandestinely to and from Argentina, but no estimates even approaching a reasonable guess are available.

Jewish Population Groups in Uruguay:

Four main well-identified Jewish population groups, including the new German refugee immigration, now reside in Uruguay/7. Their language, cultural background, social and traditional customs differ; even their religion varies, some being strict Orthodox, others middle-of-the-roads, and others "liberals" professing little or no faith at all. Definite currents of antagonism run counter to each other within the local "Jewish community", and this internal feeling against each other has hampered to some extent the integration of coordinated measures to further the rescue of and help to the Jews in Europe as well as to render assistance and relief to the Jewish refugees in Uruguay. The common though frail link which symbolically associates them within the "community" is the fact that they are all the subject of persecution directed under the name of "Jews".

The Sefaradis: This population group is made up of approximately six thousand Jews who emigrated from Turkey, Syria, Greece, and North Africa during the early 1900's. They originally spoke the ancient Spanish language but have readily adapted themselves to the local economic life, if not entirely to the social environment. As a general rule, their financial condition is sound; they are well established in business. Their adaptation to the native way of life has mentally and spiritually dissociated them from the other Jewish immigration groups which came later, and it is stated that their contributions in the way of relief to the incoming immigrants or for the Jews in Europe have not been proportionate to their means.

The Eastern-European Jews: The largest Jewish community in Uruguay is made up of refugees who emigrated from Poland, eastern Russia, Rumania, Lithuania, and neighboring countries during the middle 20's. Their language is Yiddish, which is still being largely used within this group. It is estimated that they number about 20,000 persons, including children born in Uruguay. Their vocation generally has been commerce and business. They have made their living through vigorous competition and decided industriousness. While a large section of this group (who practice the Orthodox faith) feel themselves a part of the suffering Jewish population of Europe and are intensely interested in the relief

and rescue

7. See despatch no. 1976 of December 26, 1942

and rescue of the victims of Nazi Germany, many others are said to have taken the personal attitude of "let everybody paddle his own canoe" and to have been lax in the pecuniary assistance required for this program.

The Hungarian Jews: This community is composed of Jews who emigrated from Hungary during the early 30's; they number about fifteen hundred. This group has found a niche in the economic life of the country without squeezing out local labor by employing themselves in industrial and manual-work enterprises. Their financial condition as a general rule is good.

The German Jews: This community is made up of approximately six thousand war refugees who have been evacuating Germany since 1936. They may be distinguished from the other Jewish communities by a generally higher standard of life and culture; practically all of them reside in the best residential sections of the city. A good number of doctors - estimated at around seventy - and lawyers are found in this refugee group. The financial condition of the majority of these immigrants is excellent, many of them being exceedingly wealthy; approximately 30% of the German refugees are said to be in need of employment or assistance for their support.

It may be pointed out that socially there is little individual intermingling among the Jews of the various local communities, but the relations of the Sefaradi, the Eastern-European, and the Hungarian groups - as groups - have been cordial and pleasant. These relations - both individual and as a group - have not been as happy between these three communities and the new Jewish immigration arriving from Germany.

LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

In General:

About fifty local Jewish societies of minor importance and of a social or labor character manage to fulfill, separately and independently of each other, the relief needs of refugees falling within their own Jewish population groups; this assistance is financed through private collections, benefit functions or personal services. No coordinated program, however, has existed for the relief and rescue of the Jew of Europe nor for the relief of the Jewish war refugees arriving in Uruguay.

Comite Central Israelita del Uruguay:

This central committee is composed of thirteen representatives of the four local Jewish communities; each community delegates three of these representatives excepting the Comunidad Israelita de Montevideo which has a delegation of four representatives because it has by far the largest number.

This committee has been strenuously attempting for the

past

past three years to harmonize and coordinate the aims, facilities and resources of the various Jewish communities. It has achieved some measure of success in that it is able to speak for and "represent" the Jewish population of Uruguay in matters before the Government and in "foreign relations" such as maintaining contact with pro-Jewish organizations outside of Uruguay, although it labors under definite restrictions. A unanimous vote is required within the committee and "important" matters must be referred to the various community organizations themselves for approval.

Its general policies are handicapped by the conflicting interests which exist as between the various groups, as well as by the different temperaments and manners of thinking inherent in the Sefaradi, Hungarian, Eastern-Europe, and German Jews.

It has been able to collect funds through private collections made within each community for the general purpose of remitting them to organizations such as the World's Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in New York and others, but the collections made are said to be far below the capacity of the local Jewish organizations to contribute.

Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi:

This organization is composed of about 1100 householders out of a community of 6,000 persons. It is the oldest and, with the probable exception of the German community, the wealthiest Jewish organization in Uruguay, as well as the best disciplined. It is now rendering pecuniary assistance to twelve war refugee families who have recently arrived and who profess the Sefaradi faith. This organization should be able to raise a considerable sum of money for the relief of Nazi victims of Jewish faith, if its members could be persuaded to render this assistance to such victims in general.

Comunidad Israelita de Montevideo:

The membership of this organization is made up of the Eastern-Europe Jews who have been established in Uruguay since 1925 and the war refugees who have emigrated from Poland and neighboring countries; it has a membership roll of 1,300 householders out of a community of about 20,000. Its members occupy generally that place in business made up of the small shops - dry goods, furniture, jewelry, money-exchange, etc.- and a small part of them are engaged in industrial and manual work. While these have been more ready to render pecuniary assistance, their means have been more limited.

Sociedad Israelita Húngara del Uruguay:

Out of a community of some fifteen hundred Hungarian Jews, 160 householders are affiliated with this society. The means of living of the membership of this organization is the inverse of the above: the largest portion are employed in industrial and manual labor and approximately 25% are engaged in commerce. Their financial situation as a general rule is

more sound,

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more sound, but they are said to have shown little enthusiasm in coordinating programs and effectuating them with pecuniary assistance for the benefit of victims of Nazi persecution in general.

Nueva Congregacion Israelita de Montevideo:

This organization, composed of approximately 1,000 German war refugees who have recently entered the country, arose out of the characteristic differences existing between the new Jewish immigrant and the Jewish immigrant who entered Uruguay many years ago. While many of the German war refugees who arrived in the latter stages of Nazi persecution have need of relief assistance or employment, the majority of them unquestionably are well off and in many cases possessed of great wealth. Yet they have largely shirked the burden of providing for the relief of the war refugees, which has fallen to some degree on the Asociacion Filantrópica Israelita del Uruguay and which incidentally operates with United States funds remitted by the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Many of these wealthy German war refugees are accused in Jewish circles of being more interested in investing their moneys in profitable enterprises for their private profit than in making substantial donations in assistance to the Jewish cause; some of them are cherishing the hope that their real estate will be returned and their losses will be compensated when they return to Germany. It is asserted that this organization could produce much more relief for the more unfortunate victims of oppression both in Uruguay and in Europe than they have heretofore produced.

The causes which have been mentioned by leading Jewish leaders for the smallness of monetary donations for the relief of war victims may be enumerated as follows:

- (1) Large numbers of local Jews are now living in relative comfort, far removed from the war and the present persecutions and do not feel the necessity of making pecuniary sacrifices.
- (2) Many of them feel themselves dissociated from the victims who are undergoing enemy persecution and see no reason why they should make exceptional sacrifices; some betray the impression that the United States and the Allies will solve all the financial problems.
- (3) Many of them will, it is said, contribute to the Zionist or nationalist movement - rather than to the relief of the war refugees - on the idea that if a Jewish nation is established it will benefit them personally to have diplomatic representation wherever they may be; the majority of these do not have any intention of going to live in a national Jewish country.
- (4) Many of those who have substantial amounts of capital -- in the five-to-seven digit class -- are accused of investing it in profitable enterprises or of hoarding it. Many of these are reported to conceal their holdings through diverse methods; others who have purchased real estate are said to claim that they live from their rents and cannot touch their capital for relief donations.

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5. While the poorer classes employed in industrial and manual-labor work seem to be more willing to contribute but are less able to do so, the wealthier Jews - and especially the German refugees - are accused of holding their funds for their own rehabilitation in the future.

6. Evidently apparent amongst the various Jewish communities is a feeling of individualism and letting "the other fellow" make the contributions whenever the relief is to be directed to victims other than those immediately within their group.

The Central Committee has attempted to ameliorate the situation as it has existed, but much remains to be done.

With regard to the rescue of the Jews of Europe, the various communities and the Central Committee itself appear to be leaving the matter essentially in the hands of the world Jewish organizations established in the United States.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT

The Attitude of the People:

Prior to the dissemination of the German anti-semitic propaganda, there was practically no consciousness of the Jew as such in Uruguay. Around 1934 and 1935 local newspapers and radio stations began disseminating German-inspired articles and arguments tending to show "scientifically" why the Jew is an inferior race. The effect of this propaganda which increased in intensity gradually, coupled with the increasing currents of evacuated Jews which began to arrive in Uruguay in 1936 and 1937, created a sense of alarm which gave rise to a growing opposition on the part of the local population to the admission of Jewish immigrants. Business practices engaged in by some of the new immigrants as well as social customs practiced by others which ran counter to the native "criollo" way of life also contributed to the pressure exerted by large sections of the public upon the Government against the admission of more Jewish evacuees from Europe.

Immigration Measures:

In consonance with public opinion, Uruguay maintained an "open door" to immigration until 1932 when legislation first required Uruguayan consuls to obtain satisfactory certificates of good health, good conduct, and means of living before issuing visas. In 1936, a "politico-social" certificate aimed principally at restricting the immigration of persons suspected of engaging in subversive activities was also required.

On November 12, 1937 the Uruguayan consuls abroad were instructed to so examine the "politico-social" certificates as to make their issuance the exception. The months immediately following showed a decrease in immigration, but by the middle of 1938 an increasing influx of "tourists" began arriving in Uruguay, persons who had no chance or intention of returning to their place of origin.

On December 17,

On December 17, 1938, the Ministry of Foreign Relations issued severe instructions to Uruguayan consuls abroad (1) prohibiting them from issuing "politico-social" certificates in cases of immigration without the previous authorization of the Ministry to which each case was to be referred in the first instance, and (2) directing them not to issue tourist permits except where the traveler's return was certain, and in no case where the applicant because of political or racial persecution "such as the case of Jews coming from countries where anti-semitic policies prevail" could not return.

Irregularities continued in the Uruguayan consular offices abroad and in January 1939 the Ministry of Foreign Relations suspended its consular agencies in Vienna, Turin, Naples, Rome, Brussels, Amsterdam, Zurich and Zagreb, and took over the absolute control of the entry of foreigners into the Republic of Uruguay.

At present only career consuls can grant Uruguayan visas to war refugees and then only with the previous approval of the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations. Before consideration is given to an immigration application, five thousand Uruguayan pesos must be deposited as a bond at the Bank of the Republic. These measures are considered by the men in charge of immigration matters within the Ministry to be of questionable legality, but they justify them on the ground that they are emergency measures. They further justify their action on the ground that no legislation on the subject has been enacted even though the Ministry has requested it on several occasions.

Uruguayans are still debating the question whether immigration is to be open and unrestricted, limited by quotas, or permitted on a selective basis. It is understood that these proposals will be included in the agenda of a committee recently appointed by the Executive for the purpose of studying post-war problems.

The extent to which war refugees have been and are permitted to enter the country has been discussed. To the inquiry made in the Department's airgram as to the extent to which Uruguay actually encourages and cooperates in their entry, the answer must be that certainly no encouragement is being given at this time in favor of the immigration of Jewish war refugees. Leading Uruguayans express themselves privately in favor of such immigration on humanitarian grounds.

The Government has not cooperated in their entry; it has tried to restrict their migration to Uruguay from Europe. But once the refugees were to be found within Uruguay, the Government has cooperated in not deporting them.

The above mentioned immigration measures and the cash deposits required to be made in the Bank of the Republic tend of course to make it more difficult for prospective applicants for admission to enter the country.

Special

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Special Cases:

The most important cases where Uruguay has turned back Jewish war refugees applying for admission at the Port of Montevideo occurred before the United States declared war and Uruguay broke relations with the Axis⁸. Since then and to date, Uruguay has taken a benevolent attitude and has been permitting the "temporary" landing of small numbers of refugees; once within the country, no serious effort is made to deport them.

THE RESCUE OF THE JEWS IN EUROPE

Current Ideas on the Rescue of the Jews in Europe:

In general, the outlook of the leading Jewish individuals in Uruguay with regard to saving the Jews now in Europe is definitely pessimistic. Some take the gloomy position (claiming that they have accurate knowledge derived from frequent correspondence abroad) that excepting Hungary, where there are some six hundred thousand Jews, there are few Jews to save in Europe; that these will inevitably be exterminated before the war is over.

There is observed a certain bitterness against the Allies - more marked in some quarters than in others - for not having opened the doors of their countries to the Jews before the war started. This bitterness is most marked against Great Britain as a result of the Palestine question⁹ and the

Balfour

8. In February 1939 the CONTE GRANDE arrived with sixty-eight German Jewish refugees applying for admission as "tourists". Their disembarkation was prohibited on the ground that their documents and certificates were null and void, had been issued without authority and through the intervention of an organization which had been established in Paris for the purpose of trafficking in such fraudulent documents.

Twenty-seven refugees in similar situation arrived on the GENERAL SAN MARTIN on the same month and they were not admitted. Ten arrived on the OCEANIA in March of the same year and they were likewise turned back.

Uruguay might have accepted more war refugees than it has taken in except that the Ministry of Foreign Relations required a bond of 5,000 Uruguayan pesos as a guarantee against their becoming a public charge.

9. They recall that 800 Jews were drowned when their ship was sunk after the British had refused them permission to enter Palestine. They cite cases where Jews were thrown out of Germany and no allied country would take them.

Balfour declaration. Many of them recognize that the allied mentality before the war was not sufficiently conditioned to foresee the horrible measures which Hitler would put into effect, but the bitterness festers from their feeling that in the last analysis they were barred because of their Jewish origin.

In spite of this widespread feeling that it is now too late to do much to rescue the Jews, the following ideas have been expressed with regard to making some last-minute efforts in their behalf: (See also Appendix B)

1. More active intervention by the Vatican as soon as possible in the form of a clear-cut call to German Catholics, based on their religion, categorically directing them to stop the massacring of human beings of the Jewish faith.
2. Intervention by the Allied and neutral nations in a concerted propaganda drive directed to the German people themselves urging them to prevent the further murdering of the Jews. This drive would at first be generous but would gradually and continually become more menacing until the German population would be definitely threatened with severe reprisals after the war if the massacring of human beings continues.
3. Since Hungary is supposed to have the largest number of Jews, a concerted diplomatic campaign should be directed particularly to Hungary with the end of forcing an immediate break with the Axis; although Germany would try to take the country over, the Jews (it is alleged) would have a chance of joining in the fight and avoiding cold-blooded extermination.
4. Send arms and ammunition to Jewish communities wherever they are known to exist, as these have been sent to French patriots. Likewise, send them foodstuffs in the same manner these have been sent to Greece.
5. Have the Red Cross make stronger demands that the interned Jews be considered as civil prisoners of war, since Hitler has stated the Jews are interned "for military reasons".
6. Offer to take over all Jews transported to a convenient port and to remove them to other places such as Palestine, the United States, etc.; this would have the effect (it is alleged) of destroying Hitler's argument that he must kill the Jews out of necessity.

And several others such as the exchange of German prisoners of war for the Jews in Europe, the negotiation of an agreement with the Nazi Government providing for the removal of the Jews to Palestine, etc.

Specific Cases:

Individual efforts of private individuals seeking to rescue their friends and relatives from Nazi Europe have

come to

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come to the attention of the Embassy from time to time. Some of these failed through lack of financial resources, insufficient to make the 5,000 Uruguayan pesos deposit in Banco de la Republica as an immigrant bond; others because of the inability of maintaining communication contact between Uruguay and the refugees in Europe; and others because the Germans were requiring (ransom) payments for exit permits which the local Jews were not willing or not able to pay and which our economic warfare program was and is now blocking.

The Embassy has dealt with two cases,¹⁰ which developed through the various stages slowly and finally reached the ransom payment problem; when this was not paid, the prospective refugee immigrants to Uruguay were allegedly removed "to parts unknown".

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10. See despatches no. 3544 of November 22, 1943 and no. 3595 of December 2, 1943.

Sources: (see next page)

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SOURCES:

Embassy's General Files
Embassy's Proclaimed List files.
Embassy's Legal Attache's files.
Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations.
Immigration Department
Elias Seroussi, Pres., Comite Central Israelita del Uruguay
Samuel Kobrin, Pres., Comunidad Israelita de Montevideo
Lazaro Halfon, Pres., Comunidad Israelita Sefaradi
Luis Goldstein, Pres., Sociedad Israelita Hungara
Dr. Juan Feuereisen, Sec., Nueva Congregacion Israelita
Ludwig Rose, a Jew of the Protestant faith.
George Mayer, British Jew, editor of daily newspaper
and in charge of Sociedad Filantrópica Israelita representing the American Jewish
Joint Distribution Committee.
Ramon Kociak, Mgr., Centro Comercial e Industrial Israelita del Uruguay
Cyril Banks, Foreign Exchange chief of Banco Comercial
Numerous casual conversations with

- (1) native Uruguayans
- (2) Jewish native and immigrant persons.

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APPENDIX A

PROCEDENCIA	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	TOTALES
Germany	670	695	2285	1551	286	464	22	5973
Latvia	7	2	3			1	5	18
Lithuania	29	27	2	7	8			73
Poland	433	636	618	220	8	38	11	1964
Rumania	22	49	63	24	5	8	14	185
Turkey	14	9	1	1		10		35
Russia	2	3	3				2	10
Hungary				32	19	9		60
Italy					2	13		15
Czechoslovakia				142	17	44	5	208
Switzerland					17	34	7	58
Holland						17		17
France							59	59
Unknown				160				160
Other Countries	85	146	178	144	11	1	13	578
TOTALES	1262	1567	3153	2281	373	639	138	9413

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APPENDIX B

(The following two questions were asked of the Central Jewish Committee in Uruguay, and herewith are the answers given after the leading members of their communities had joined in consultation.)

IN YOUR OPINION, what do you believe can be done today to rescue or give relief to the Jews in Europe?

I. Rescue:

As repeatedly stated by the British World Congress (in the two memoranda presented to the Refugee Conference in Bermuda - April 1943 - and to the Committee of U.N.R.R.A. - November 1943 - whose general terms we approve), and by other Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and committees we believe that in order to procure the evacuation of Jews from Nazi Europe the following are necessary and fundamental:

A. That the United States and other allied nations insist that the neutral governments of Europe, such as Switzerland, Turkey, Sweden, Spain, and the Vatican, intercede and exert pressure upon the German government to permit the departure of the surviving Jewish communities of Europe from the territories under its control. These efforts should be made continuous and insistent. We believe that, in consonance with their own humanitarian sentiments, the neutral governments will raise no objections.

The liberated Jews would pass - in the first stage of rescue - to the territories of intermediary neutral countries. In the second stage (which might be temporary or permanent, depending on the individual cases) the refugees would be transported to the countries or territories offering them asylum or immigration: Palestine, the United States, Great Britain, and Latin America.

To make this possible it will be necessary:

1. That the neutral countries giving temporary asylum to the Jews moving out of Nazi-occupied territories receive sufficient guarantees by the United Nations that the refugees will have (through the U.N.R.R.A., International Red Cross, and other private relief organizations) the necessary assistance for their sustenance and that they will be transferred to other territories as soon as possible.

2. To absorb a part of the Jews thus rescued (even though it may be only temporarily and until the end of the war) it is necessary that the United States and Great Britain

permit

permit the entry into their respective territories, dominions, and possessions of a considerable number of refugees, thereby making their rescue feasible. The adoption of this policy by two of the most important components of the United Nations as distinguished from the savage policy of extermination adopted by the Nazis, will be another demonstration of the counter policies of the two ideologies now waging a war to the death.

3. Applying this policy, it may be necessary for the United States to request, by the proper diplomatic channels, that the Latin American republics modify their respective immigration laws to permit the admission of a large number of Jewish refugees who would be granted temporary asylum at least.

4. It is basic and imperative that the British government open the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration without restriction and upon the only condition imposed by the actual possibilities of assimilation which Palestine might offer the refugees (which are ample enough). In this connection, it may be recalled that many statesmen and distinguished political personalities prominent in the United States and in England proper have created a strong current of opinion which for some time has been advocating the establishment of a policy of open Jewish admission to Palestine, whose own Jewish population offers the most ample hospitality and which is the nearest haven, and where the Jewish victims of Nazism will be well received and where they will become better adapted to the environment rendered.

The White Book on Palestine must be abolished and the doors to Palestine must be opened wide to the Jewish refugees from Nazi savagery. While Palestine remains closed to Jewish admission, all plans and suggestions aimed toward the rescue of the Jews in Europe lack substance and value.

B. That the Jews interned in concentration camps located in Nazi-occupied lands be considered as civil prisoners of war. In accordance with the convention of July 29, 1929, held by representatives of 47 nations (including Germany) all persons who lose their liberty not for common offenses and crimes but for military reasons, have the right to demand equal treatment to that of prisoners of war. Germany has declared time and time again that the Jews are interned "for military reasons" and making this allegation she protested recently against the admission of Danish Jewish refugees by Sweden.

On this basis, the International Red Cross should intercede and demand from the Nazi Government that the

concentrated

concentrated Jews not receive the treatment given the worst criminals and that they be treated as civil prisoners of war under the protection of the Red Cross. If this could be accomplished the situation of the Jews interned in concentration camps would improve considerably since not only would they be under the protection of the International Red Cross but they could also be the subject of later exchanges with prisoners held by the allied governments.

II. Relief:

Obviously the problems of rescue and relief are closely interwoven and we consider that the success of the efforts to render relief to the Jews still alive in Nazi Germany depend upon the success of the United Nations and the Red Cross:

1. In obtaining the intervention of the neutral countries in behalf of the Jews in Nazi Europe, and
2. In the recognition of interned Jews as civil prisoners of war.

With reference to the solicitation of necessary funds for this assistance, we consider that they should be furnished by:

- a. The United Nations (either directly or through U.N.R.R.A.)
- b. Private relief organizations, which should intensify still more the great efforts which they are now making to relieve the persecuted populations of Europe.
- c. The International Red Cross.

As stated above, the funds thus obtained would reach the beneficiaries through the neutral governments and the International Red Cross.

In order that the assistance offered by private relief organizations be effective, it is necessary that the United States Government and the agencies in charge of the allied blockade authorize the transmission of food, clothes, medicine, and money directly, not only to the unoccupied territories or the liberated areas, but also and importantly to the territories actually under Nazi occupation where the danger to the lives of the suffering is greatest.

The United States Government and the allied blockade agencies should apply the same policy employed with reference to the relief destined to other peoples (such as the Greek people, to the Jews in Europe, facilitating by all means the transmission of such assistance to the Jews. The allied governments could assure themselves through the participation of the neutrals and the allied Red Cross that the transmission of necessities and funds would not reach the enemy's hands.

Obviously

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Obviously if the rescue of the Jewish communities who still remain alive in Europe is to be made possible, it is imperative that relief be given immediately and energetically in order to assure their survival until their rescue is effectuated. In the note of April 14, 1943 presented by the Jewish World Congress with its memorandum to the refugee conference of Bermuda, it is stated "The Jewish people have a right to ask in the name of the principles which the United Nations have taken up arms to defend, that action on behalf of the Jews who still suffer the Nazi policy of extermination should be swift, powerful, and on a scale commensurate with the gravity and emergency of the situation".

IN YOUR OPINION, what measures should be taken to forestall the Nazi plans of exterminating the Jews in Europe?

I. Rescue and Relief:

We believe that the most practical and effective way of preventing Hitler from carrying into effect his policy of exterminating European Judaism, begun in 1933, is to rescue with the urgency and decision which the circumstances require the largest possible number of Jews and at the same time to take to the Jews in Europe the utmost relief until they can be rescued. In the aforementioned memorandum to the Bermuda Conference, the World Jewish Congress points out: "There remain only two ways in which the total extinction of the Jewish population on the continent of Europe can be prevented:

1. The sending of supplies under the proper safeguards to places of detention and to remnants of Jewish communities which still survive.

2. To remove as many Jews as possible from Nazi controlled areas to places of refuge.

II. Arms and Munitions:

The stiff resistance made by the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto in their unequal fight against powerful German forces presents the most tragic demonstration of the Jewish peoples' determination to survive the cruel persecution they are undergoing and to prevent, even against enemies enormously more powerful, the effectuation of the Nazi plans to exterminate them.

This is why we are of the belief that in addition to sending food, medicine, and clothes, and in addition to attempting continually their rescue, the United Nations (which in many cases have stimulated resistance against the invader by sending arms and ammunition to the patriots of the Nazi occupied countries) should also send arms and ammunition to the Jews wherever it may be necessary to stimulate their fighting spirit.

On the other hand, this resistance against the Nazis, will indirectly bring favorable benefits in the military field to the allies by distracting Nazi troops and disturbing their internal organization.

War Prisoners'

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III. War Prisoners' Treatment:

We reiterate that the saving of interned Jews in Europe from extermination depends greatly on the fact that the International Red Cross achieve the results that they be considered and treated as civil prisoners of war. Efforts in this direction will never be enough. Everything to accomplish this end should be tried since, if accomplished the Jews would fall under the protection of the International Red Cross and their extermination might be prevented.

IV. Warnings and Reprisals:

For the first time in December 7, 1942 the United States and the other European members of the United Nations made a joint declaration in which they stated, after referring to the brutalities committed by the Nazi Government and condemning in the strongest terms their bestial policy of cold-blooded murder "their solemn resolution to assure that those responsible for these crimes shall not escape punishment".

Subsequently, similar declarations were made by some governments and branches of the United Nations which culminated in the resolution adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Moscow, wherein it was declared that all those responsible for the atrocities committed in Europe by the Nazis would be duly prosecuted and punished.

Up until recently these warnings and threats appeared to have no effect to dissuade the enemy from his barbarous means of extermination. But lately some of the satellite governments, facing the uncertainty of defeat on the part of their Nazi associates, have tried to reverse their anti-semitic policy, betraying thereby a high degree of nervousness and an apparent intention to come into the good graces of the future victors. For these reasons, we believe that it would be useful in forestalling the Nazi plans of extermination if the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and the United Nations would make a new, clear-cut and categorical declaration indicating that each and every one of those responsible for the persecution and massacre of Jews as well as those who carry them into effect shall be implacably searched for and severely punished, and further that reprisals shall be taken upon civilians and other nationals of the Axis interned by the United Nations. The time has arrived to speak to the barbarians in the only language which they understand.

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