Programs with Respect to Relief and Rescue of Refugees: Evacuation to Switzerland

Evacuation of Abandoned Children from France

Folder 3
F2-6

000811

7.

CONTROL COPY

San Salvador, El Salvador, May 4, 1944

No. 1531

[redacted]

SUBJECT: Admission of Jews and other War Refugees into El Salvador.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular airgram dated April 20, 7:35 p.m., and to report that I conveyed its purport to the Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs at an interview on the morning of April 25, which was supplemented by a note later the same day, a copy of which is attached hereto.

I have now received from Dr. Avila a personal letter, the English version of which is transcribed below:

"San Salvador, May 2, 1944.

My Dear Mr. Thurston:

I take pleasure in advising you that my Government views with sympathy and in principle is in agreement with the suggestion to which your esteemed letter of April 25 refers to the end that El Salvador would grant refuge to orphaned or abandoned children now within the territory occupied or controlled by the enemy, and that to this end it would construct a suitable building; but, before reaching a final conclusion it would desire to know whether the cost of the building, the feeding and education etc. of the children would be borne by the War Refugee Board; and finally all the expenses which that Board would be willing to meet for more or less 100 children.

I beg you therefore to give me this information if convenient.

For your kindness I thank you in advance.

I am, as always your affectionate friend.

/s/ A. R. Avila"

When I spoke to Dr. Avila he made no mention of the

fact

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1979

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fact that his Government might expect us to defray the cost of a building in which to lodge the refugees under consideration, but did inquire whether the War Refugee Board would defray all costs of transporting the refugees to El Salvador, maintaining them here for such time as might be decided upon, and of their eventual removal from the country. His letter makes no reference to the latter point and introduces the new one relating to the cost of the building.

Respectfully yours,

Walter Thurston

To the Department in
original and hectograph

Enclosure
1 Copy of letter to
Dr. Avila dated 4/25/44

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WT/mgm

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Enclosure to despatch No. 1531, dated 5/ /44, from the American Embassy at San Salvador, El Salvador, on the subject: Admission of Jews and other war refugees into El Salvador.

San Salvador, April 25, 1944

My dear Dr. Avila:

In confirmation of my statements this morning I take pleasure in advising you that my Government 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-occupied or controlled 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 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. 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.

Should there be private agencies in El Salvador 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 these agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education and welfare of as many children as the Government of El Salvador would be willing to admit. Should it prove necessary, funds would undoubtedly be available to meet transportation expenses from Switzerland to this country.

With respect to the foregoing, it would be gratifying were the Government of El Salvador to give assurances to the Swiss Government of its willingness to accept a certain number of refugee children in a similar manner. It is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eight to ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

Should the Government of El Salvador be willing to make this humanitarian offer, it is suggested that the Salvadoran representative in Bern issue the appropriate number of immigration visas and maintain their validity until suitable transportation facilities from Switzerland to El Salvador become available. The special representative of the War Refugee Board attached to the American Legation in Bern will

be glad

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be glad to cooperate with the Salvadoran representatives in this as well as in all other refugee matters.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency will inform me as quickly as may be possible of the attitude of the Government of El Salvador toward this question and, if the suggestion above presented is favorably received, what number of children it is prepared to admit into this country.

Cordially and sincerely,

/s/ Walter Thurston

000816

F-9

cop 4

Embassy

No. 1104

Guatemala, May 15, 1944

Subject: Evacuation of Refugee Children from Europe

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular telegram dated April 20, 7:35 p.m., 1944, outlining the Department's policy with regard to the acceptance by the United States of up to 500 refugee children under immigration visas and requesting that a determination be sought of the Government to which I am accredited that a proportionate number of children would be accepted by it in like circumstances.

The matter having been broached to the Government of Guatemala in the Embassy's note no. 154 of April 25, 1944, I have now received in reply, a note from the Foreign Office (no 6130 dated May 11, 1944), which is enclosed in copy and translation. It will be observed that the Guatemalan Government has agreed to accept up to 100 children under the conditions outlined, but would prefer that so far as it will be possible, these children be selected from French and Belgian refugees.

Respectfully yours,

Boaz Long

Enclosures:

1/2/: Copy and translation of Foreign Office note no. 6130, May 11, 1944.

BLB
WCA/ja

Original and hectograph to Department

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

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

Translation:
SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
DIPLOMATIC SECTION
No. 6130

Guatemala, May 11, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have had the honor of receiving Your Excellency's courteous note No. 154 of April 25, 1944, in which you informed me of the willingness of the Government of the United States to receive in its territory four thousand refugee children, from those who are now abandoned or orphaned in Europe as a consequence of the hardships of war.

I have taken due note of the conditions of this acceptance, which Your Excellency is good enough to set forth in your courteous communication.

Your Excellency is good enough to transmit an invitation from the United States Government to the Guatemalan Government to collaborate in this relief work and to receive, in a similar manner, a specified number of these children, victims of war; and, to this end, offers the contribution and necessary help of the War Relief Board.

I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the Government of Guatemala gladly accepts participation in the humanitarian work of aiding these helpless children, and is willing to receive in its territory a number proportionate to that accepted by the United States.

In consequence I am pleased to beg Your Excellency's valuable cooperation so that arrangements necessary may be made for the Swiss Government to give provisional refuge to one hundred children, who will be brought to Guatemalan territory as soon as possible.

I courteously beg Your Excellency to note that, even though in this participation the Government of Guatemala does not wish to make nationality distinctions, or any of race or religion, it would appreciate it if the hundred children to be given refuge in this Republic might be selected, preferably, from French or Belgian children.

In due time this Secretariat will give appropriate instructions to the Guatemalan representative at the place indicated for the issuance of the necessary visas on the documents of these children.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. Ambassador, to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

CARLOS SALAZAR

His Excellency Boaz Long
Ambassador E. and P. of the United States,
Guatemala.
hss.

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CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 4 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

AIRGRAM

[redacted]

FROM:
Tegucigalpa Honduras.
NO: A-165
DATED: April 27, 1944, 3 p.m.
REC'D:

SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

A-165, April 27, 3 p.m.

My A-163 of April 25, 5:30 p.m. concerning refugee children under sixteen years of age.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that President Carias appears willing for Honduras to receive a maximum of fifty (50) children, and that information as to the sex and age preferred may be supplied later. I gathered that some preference as to racial origin (which may possibly mean that Polish, French, or some other class of children would be more acceptable than Jews) might also be expressed. Acceptance of refugee children would be on the condition that all expenses of transportation and of maintenance be met by other than Honduran agencies.

Since Honduras has no diplomatic or consular representatives in Switzerland at the present time, perhaps the Department can suggest some practicable form of visa procedure.

Clarification on the following point would be helpful: are the children expected to remain in Honduras the rest of their lives, or would they be returned to their countries of origin after termination of the present war?

FAUST

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JBF:hk

Transmitted via courier pouch closing 1:30 p.m., April 28, 1944.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 2 1944
AIRGRAM COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

[redacted]

FROM:
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
NO: A-163
DATED: April 25, 1944, 5:30 p.m.
REC'D: May 1 9:00

SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

A-163, April 25, 5:30 p.m.

Department's circular airgram of April 20, 1944, 7:35 p.m. concerning refugee children under 16 years of age.

The matter was discussed with the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning. He appeared to be personally sympathetic to the suggestion, but stated that decision must rest with President Carias, whom he promised to consult.

(As the Department is aware, all matters of any importance are referred to President Carias.)

According to the official census of 1940, some 52.4 percent of all Hondurans over 7 years of age are illiterate, and 54.5 percent of the total population are illegitimate. These facts, coupled with the general poverty, result in an enormous number of neglected children; in fact, I have never seen any country where children receive less care and attention. Some years ago a group of charitable women founded an orphanage known as the "Casa del Nino", where inmates now number 69, all under 13 years of age. This institution receives a small subsidy from the Government, but is, of course, unable to care for more than a very small percentage of the needy children.

Leaders of the Honduran Jewish residents (there are approximately 185 Jewish refugees in Honduras) state that they are without financial resources to care for additional children, but that they could possibly undertake to do so (perhaps in an orphanage which might be established) at a cost of approximately 20 to 25 U.S. dollars per child per month. They state that there would be little future for refugee children in Honduras, since educational facilities are very limited and economic opportunities for persons without capital are said to be lacking.

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By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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I am inclined to believe that the Honduran Government might possibly be persuaded to accept a few refugee children, provided there were an adequate advance financial guarantee. Without such guarantee, the prospects are not good.

FAUST

711 SC
JBF:hk

Transmitted via airmail pouch closing 1:30 p.m., April 26, 1944.

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10.

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CONTROL COPY AIRGRAM

[redacted]

FROM: American Embassy, Mexico City.

DATE: April 25, 1944

REC'D: Apr 29 4pm

SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

APR 25 1944

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m., with further reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent communications on refugee matters. The Department requests the Embassy to approach the Mexican Government and inform it of the substance of the airgram under reference and to endeavor to secure its action vis-a-vis the Swiss Government along preliminary lines of our own action with respect to a specific number of visas which the Mexican Government may be prepared to authorize its representatives to grant to refugee children. The Department requests a report by telegraph as to whether this suggestion is being favorably received by the Mexican Government, and if so information as to the number of children it is prepared to admit.

Although the attitude of the Mexican Government with respect to the reception of refugees has been fairly liberal, it is my belief that the Mexican Government is not particularly interested in receiving any considerable number of refugees from Europe either during or after the war. This impression I have gathered through confidential conversations from time to time with high officials of the Mexican Government when I have discreetly explored this situation. The probabilities are that the Mexican Government will be rather loath to commit itself and probably rather slow to commit itself.

In order to secure anything like a favorable reception towards the suggestion contained in the Department's airgram under reference, it will be necessary to prepare the ground carefully in the Mexican Government and among the highest officials. I am taking the appropriate steps to this end and I personally shall not fail to discuss this matter.

For reasons

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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For reasons which are too numerous to enter into in this airgram, no immediate reaction from the Mexican Government may be expected on this matter. I shall, however, not fail to take it up and endeavor to secure as receptive and as favorable an attitude as possible.

I shall give this matter my personal attention and shall not fail to keep the Department informed of any developments.

George S. Messersmith

800-Refugees

GSM:fm

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

HIS-706
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Managua

Dated August 28, 1944

Rec'd 7:58 p.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,

Washington.

538, August 28, 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
1944
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Foreign Office in note dated August 25, 1944, states that it has no objection to the 100 visas authorized for refugee children (see my 271, May 5, 4 p.m.) being issued to either Hungarian or French children. Reference Department's circular telegram of August 12, 8 p.m.

STEWART

RR

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war Ref. Grant-Miller

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Embassy, Managua

DATED: May 17, 1944

NUMBER: 212

[redacted]

Please express this Government's sincere appreciation Nicaraguan action reported your 271, May 5.

HULL

RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000829

MOSOLD CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, NICARAGUA

Please express this Government's sincere appreciation Nicaraguan action reported your 771, May 5.

****
May 16, 1944
2:55 p.m.

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable-Control Files
MStandish:lcm 5-13-44

000830

W. - Refugees
Ed (Pinto)
Pehl
Wing

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMBASSY, MANAGUA

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATED: MAY 5, 1944

NUMBER: 271

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Reference is made herewith to the Department's airgram of 7:35 p.m., April 20, 1944.

The Nicaraguan Consul in Bern has been authorized by his Government to visa the passports of one hundred children without distinction of nationality or religion in agreement with representative of War Refugee Board there and to keep these visas valid until transportation becomes available to Nicaragua.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
MAY 11 1944
RECEIVED

STEWART

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

September 15, 1944
7 p.m.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RESTRICTED

War Refugee Board

AMEMBASSY

ASUNCION (PARAGUAY)
297

S. War Rfg Bd (Mr. Pike)

The following from War Refugee Board.

Reference is made to your 803 of September 5. Please convey Board's appreciation to Paraguayan officials.

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

HULL
(MMV)

CONTROL COPY

WRB:MMV:OMH
9/15/44

RPA

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CABLE TO AMBASSY, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

Reference is made to your 513 of September 5. Please convey Department's and Board's appreciation to Paraguayan officials.

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

9:00 a.m.
September 15, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, Du Bois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

RA.

BAkzin/sg 9/12/44

000834

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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

Asuncion

Dated September 5, 1944

Rec'd 7:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

503, September 5, 3 p.m.

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

BEAULAC

WSB

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The Following Pages Are the Best Available

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CONFIDENTIAL

3. War Refugee Bd.

CONTROL COPY

No. 21 Asunción, Paraguay, June 17, 1944

Subject: Refugee Children to be received by Paraguayan Government

3 & War Refugee Board (Zeus)
B to N 18.3

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my confidential despatch No. 21.8 of June 3, 1944 transmitting a note from the Ministry of Foreign Relations containing the views of the Paraguayan Government with respect to the possibility of accepting a fixed number of refugee children. The foreign office note of May 21 quoted a translation from the Ministry of Education on this subject.

An cha[illegible] No. 516, June 13, has now been received from the Ministry of Foreign Relations [illegible] the subject [illegible] Ministry of Interior and Justice. A copy and translation of this note is transmitted herewith for the information of the Department.

Respectfully yours,

Leslie E. Reed
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Enclosures:
1. Copy of Note No. 516.
2. Translation of Note No. 516.

GAB:
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Original with reverse carbon to the Department

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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Enclosure No. 1 to Com. Despatch
No. 2198 dated June 17, 1944, AmEmbassy,
Asunción, Paraguay

C O P Y

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES Y CULTO

Asunción, 15 de junio de 1944.-

D.P. y D.-
No. 516.

Señor Encargado de Negocios:

Con referencia a la nota D.P. y D. No. 402, de 10 de Mayo último, tengo el agrado de transcribir a Vuestra Señoría, la siguiente comunicación recibida del Ministerio de Interior y Justicia, que dice:

"No. 126.-Asunción, Junio 9 de 1944.-Señor Ministro: Me es grato dirigirme a V.E., con referencia a vuestro oficio No. 397 de fecha 8 de Mayo ppdo., con el que acompaña una copia debidamente autenticada de la nota No. 260 recibida de la Embajada Americana acreditada cerca de nuestro Gobierno, cuyo contenido ha tenido a bién someter a consideración de este Ministerio. Al respecto del mismo cábeme expresarle, que este Departamento de Estado, concorde con los deberes de humanidad que entiende son los de todo pueblo civilizado, estima que el Paraguay debe también cooperar en la labor de dar asilo a los niños desamparados como consecuencia de la actual guerra; más como sea que no existen en el país instituciones a propósito, con locales suficientemente vastos y comodidades necesarias, con posibilidades de albergar un grupo importante de niños menester es crear los medios para tan noble propósito, para lo cual serán necesarios la construcción de locales adecuados con el necesario confort, y equipamiento.-La colaboración económica, que se ofrece podría encarar el costo de todas estas erogaciones, así como los medios para solventar la mantención y vestuario de los niños a asilarse. Por su parte el Gobierno Nacional podría coadyuvar costeando el personal docente y administrativo del internado a crearse, a los efectos de dar una educación esmerada y la atención requerida, a los precitados menores.-Aprovecho esta oportunidad para saludar a V.E., con mi consideración más distinguida.-Fdo.-Amancio Pampliega.-Ministro.-"

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

Firmado: Mario Ferrario.
Sub-secretario de Estado
de Relaciones Exteriores.

A Su Señoría
El Señor Encargado de Negocios de los Estados Unidos
de América, Doctor Leslie Reed.

S/D.-

000038

Enclosure No. 2 to Conf. Despatch
No. 2198 dated June 17, 1944, AmEmbassy,
Asunción, Paraguay.

TRANSLATION

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

With reference to Note D.P. and D. 402 of May 10 last, I have pleasure in quoting to you the following communication received from the Ministry of Interior and Justice, which says:

"126, Asunción, June 9, 1944: Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in addressing Your Excellency with reference to your No. 397 dated May 8 last, with which there was transmitted a duly authenticated copy of Note No. 260 received from the American Embassy accredited near our Government, the contents of which you were good enough to submit for the consideration of this Ministry. With respect thereto, I have to inform you that this Government Department, in accordance with the humanitarian duties which it understands are those of every civilized people, considers that Paraguay ought also to cooperate in the work of giving asylum to the children homeless as a result of the present war; but as there do not exist, in this country, institutions for this purpose with buildings sufficiently large and the necessary facilities with possibilities of housing a considerable group of children, it is necessary to create the equipment for such a noble purpose, for which there would be necessary the construction of adequate buildings with the necessary comfort and equipment. The economic collaboration which is offered might cover the cost of all such items, as well as the means to pay for the maintenance and clothing of the children to be given asylum. For its part, the National Government might collaborate, paying the teaching and administrative staff of the institution to be created for the purpose of giving a thorough education and the necessary attention to the minors referred to. I take this opportunity of saluting Your Excellency with my most distinguished consideration. Signed: Amancio Pampliega, Minister."

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

Signed: Mario Ferrario.
Under Secretary of Foreign Relations.

The Honorable
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America,
Dr. Leslie Reed.

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CONTROL COPY

3 Nat Refugee Bd (Freas)

No. 2148 Asunción, Paraguay, June 3, 1944

Subject: Paraguayan Government willing to receive refugee children

3 WRB
3 Transfer Refugee Fund
(Freas)
(Mrs Emerson)

[redacted]

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to [illegible] confidential circular airgram of April 24, [illegible] to certain Embassies, stating that the [illegible] refugee children [illegible] friend to [illegible] visas be refused children [illegible] to approach the Paraguayan Government [illegible] obtaining its consent to admit a [illegible] refugee children and giving assurances to the Swiss Government of such willingness.

There has now been received a note from the Ministry of Foreign Relations on this subject, in reply to this Embassy's note of May [illegible] 1944. Copies and translations of these notes are transmitted herewith. It will be noted that the Paraguayan Government is willing to cooperate in this [illegible] if adequate financial assistance is available for this purpose.

As respects the notification by the Paraguayan Government to the Swiss Government concerning which nothing is said in the Paraguayan note, it should be mentioned that the Paraguayan Government does not maintain a diplomatic mission in Switzerland.

Respectfully yours,

Leslie E. Reed
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:
1. Copy and translation of Embassy's Note No. 260 of May 5, 1944.
2. Copy and translation of Note No. 461, May 21, 1944, from Ministry of Foreign Relations.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

843.
LER/ajl
Original with reverse carbon to the Department.

Miss Hadell

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Enclosure No. I to Despatch No. 2148
American Embassy, Asuncion, Paraguay
June 3, 1944

Note No. 260 Asuncion, May 5, 1944

Excellency:

With reference to previous conversations with Your Excellency and with your distinguished predecessor regarding the possibility that Paraguay may participate in the humanitarian work of giving asylum to some of the unfortunate refugees from Europe, I have the honor to inquire concerning the attitude of your Government with respect to receiving some refugee children.

It is estimated that there are in France alone, 8,000 to 10,000 abandoned or orphaned refugee children, and the War Refugee Board is endeavoring to make arrangements for their care in the future. My Government has decided to permit the immigration to the United States of up to 4,000 children under 16 years of age irrespective of their nationality, religion or stateless status and has authorized the granting of the necessary visas by American consular officers. These visas will remain valid or may be renewed until such time as transportation facilities to the United States may be available.

If there are private organizations or agencies in Paraguay which are willing and able to care for a group of refugee children, it is believed that the War Refugee Board can provide such agencies with adequate funds for the maintenance, education, and welfare of as many children as your country would be willing to admit. Should it be necessary, funds would also be available to cover their transportation expenses from Europe to Paraguay.

If your Government is willing to participate in this work, and a suitable agency in Paraguay is disposed to assume the care of such children, your Government may desire to so inform the Swiss Government. Upon receiving information of the attitude of Your Excellency's Government in this matter, I shall be glad to furnish further details of the arrangements which are being made, if such information is desired.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

His Excellency
Dr. Horacio Chiriani,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship,
Asuncion.

848
LER:ps

00084 1

(Traducción no-oficial)

Asunción, Mayo 4 de 1944.

Excelencia:

Con referencia a conversaciones anteriores mantenidas con V. E. y su distinguido predecesor sobre la posibilidad de que el Paraguay pueda participar en la humanitaria tarea de dar asilo a algunos de los infortunados refugiados de Europa, tengo el honor de averiguar sobre la actitud del Gobierno de V. E. con respecto a recibir algunos niños refugiados.

Se calcula que solamente en Francia hay de 8,000 a 10,000 niños refugiados, abandonados o huérfanos, y la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra está tratando de arreglar el cuidado de ellos en el futuro. Mi Gobierno ha decidido permitir la inmigración a los Estados Unidos de hasta 4,000 niños menores de 16 años, prescindiendo de su religión, nacionalidad o carencia de esta, y ha autorizado la emisión de las visas correspondientes por los funcionarios consulares Americanos. Estas visas serán válidas o podrán ser renovadas hasta que hayan disponibles facilidades de transporte para los Estados Unidos.

Si hay en el Paraguay organizaciones o agencias privadas dispuestas y capaces de hacerse cargo de un grupo de niños refugiados, se cree que la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra podría proveer a tales agencias los fondos adecuados para la manutención, educación, y bienestar de tantos niños como el Paraguay quisiese admitir. Si fuera necesario, se proporcionaría tambien fondos para los gastos

A S.S.

El Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores,

Dr. D. Horacio Chiriani,

Presente.

000842

de transporte desde Europa el Paraguay.

Si el Gobierno de V. E. está dispuesto a participar en este trabajo, y una agencia apropiada en el Paraguay está aquente para hacerse cargo de tales niños, el Gobierno del Paraguay puede desear avisar al Gobierno de Suiza en este sentido. Y si desea mas detalles acerca de los planes que se estan haciendo, yo los proporcionaría gustosamente despues de estar enterado del punto de vista del Gobierno de V. E. en este asunto.

Dignaos aceptar, Excelencia, las renovadas seguridades de mi mas distinguida consideración.

000843

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 2148,
AmEmbassy, Asunción, dated June 3, 1944.

C O P Y

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES Y CULTO
Asunción

Señor Encargado de Negocios:

Con referencia a la nota D.P. y D. No. 402, del 10 del corriente, tengo el agrado de transcribir a Vuestra Señoría la siguiente comunicación recibida del Ministerio de Educación, que dice:

"No. 536.-Asunción, 26 de mayo de 1944.-Excmo. Señor Ministro: Tengo el agrado de dirigirme a V.E. para acusar recibo de la nota de esa Cancillería No.398, del 8 de mayo del corriente, así como de la copia autenticada del oficio 260, de la Embajada Americana, que le acompaña. Con relación al contenido del oficio de referencia este Ministerio cumple en manifestar su entera conformidad en colaborar en el alivio del dolor de la niñez europea desrojada de hogar por la actual guerra, aceptando el numero de refugiados que, en conocimiento y con la previa determinación de nuestras posibilidades, se determinare. Para hacer posible tan noble propósito, este Ministerio se permite adelantar la necesidad de que la colaboración económica ofrecida contemple la construccipon de un internado adecuado al proposito perseguido, y su equipamiento, así como los rubros necesarios para mantención y vestuarios de los niños refugiados. Este Ministerio correría con los gastos del personal administrativo y docente del internado, de modo de asegurar a los pupilos los beneficios de una educación lo más acabada posible. Dentro de estas líneas generales, este Ministerio quedará a la espera de nuevos informes y proposiciones sobre la materia. Reciba V.E. las expresiones de mi especial consideración. Fdo: Juan Darío Quiróz, Ministro".-

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

(sello) Fdo: Mario Ferrario,

Sub-Secretario de Estado
de Relaciones Exteriores.

A Su Señoría
El Señor Encargado de Negocios de los Estados Unidos de América, Señor don Leslie Reed,
S/D.-

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6.

TRANSLATION OF ENCLOSURE NO. 2

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

With reference to Note D.P. & D. 402 of the 10th instant, I have pleasure in quoting the following communication received from the Ministry of Education, which states:

"536, Asunción, May 26, 1944. Most Excellent Mr. Minister: I have pleasure in addressing Your Excellency in order to acknowledge receipt of Note 398 of May 8 of the present year from your Chancellery, as well as the authenticated copy of document No. 260 from the American Embassy which accompanies it. With reference to the contents of the document referred to, this Ministry desires to announce its complete conformity to collaborate in relieving the affliction of European childhood deprived of homes by the present war, accepting the number of refugees which may be fixed in view of, and with previous determination of our possibilities. In order to make possible this noble activity, this Ministry ventures to point out the necessity that the economic collaboration offered contemplate the construction of a building (internado) adequate for the purpose desired, and its equipment, as well as the amounts necessary for the maintenance and clothing of the refugee children. This Ministry would bear the cost of the administrative and teaching staff of the asylum, in order to assure the pupils the benefits of the most complete education possible. Within these general lines, this Ministry will remain in the expectation of further information and proposals on the subject. Receive, Excellency, the expressions of my special consideration. Signed: Juan Darío Quiróz, Minister."

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

Signed: Mario Ferrario

Subsecretary of State of
Foreign Relations.

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3 War Refugees and Crea

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lima, June 28, 1944

[redacted]

3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board (Treas)
1 War Com. Sandy

No. 711

Subject: Bringing Refugee Children from Europe into Peru

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

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m., directing me to approach the Peruvian government with the view to inquiring as to the acceptance of refugee children below the age of sixteen without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, and to my telegram no. 866.

1/ I have the honor to enclose herewith the translated text of the note of the Foreign Minister expressing willingness to receive up to fifty children, under certain specified conditions.

In my telegram no. 541, dated April 24, I advised the Department of the reaction of Doctor Solf y Muro, which was to the effect that in the absence of adequate organizations for taking care of children he would have to depend upon the different foreign colonies. The text of the note leads to the supposition that the Belgian and French colonies have expressed willingness to assist in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

J. C. White

JCW:fw
711.5

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000847

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RA-787
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Lima

Dated June 28, 1944

Rec'd 7:58 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CONTROL COPY
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State

Washington

866, June 28, 4 p.m.

Reference your confidential circular airgram April 15, 7 p.m., regarding refugee children.

The Peruvian Government notwithstanding aerdg(?) adequate organizations or suitable establishments is willing to receive up to 50 children provided that (one) they are of French or Belgian nationality and (two) the Government's responsibility should begin at the Port of Callao.

WHITE

HTM:EMB

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CONTROL COPY

A-330

6:40 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 3 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

May 1, 1944

AMERICAN MISSION,

LIMA (PERU).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [redacted] INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

With reference to your 541 of April 24. The nationalities represented in the prospective immigration of children cannot be stated definitely by the War Refugee Board. The belief is however that they would be principally Polish, French, Belgian and stateless of German and Austrian origin. The humanitarian aspect of the action suggested to the Peruvian Government should be given emphasis.

Hull

(glw)

HULL

WRB:MMV:KG
5/1/44

ARA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000849

PROPOSED TELEGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LIMA, PERU

Reference your 541, April 24. War Refugee Board cannot state definitely nationalities represented in prospective immigration of children but believes they would be chiefly Polish, stateless of German and Austrian origin, French, and Belgian. Please give emphasis to the humanitarian aspects of the action suggested to Peruvian Government.

April 29, 1944
1:58 p.m.

S. Lesser

M. Gendlewitz
4-28-44

000850

Wash Refugee Bd
Mr Pelle
1 copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Lima

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: April 24, 1944

NUMBER: 541

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Reference is made herewith to your confidential circular airgram of April 15.

A note has been requested by the Foreign Minister.

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

WHITE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[redacted]

No. 4743

Montevideo, Uruguay
August 29, 1944

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In confirmation of the Embassy's telegram no. 817 of August 29, 11a.m., 1944, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy
1/ of the note of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he states that authorization 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 of May 4,
2/ 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.

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EJS:led

(To Department in single copy for Ozalid)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000853

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

MEMORANDUM

[redacted]

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 Seitzerland 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

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y.), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pohle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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2 cvrs Ref Bd - Pile

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Montevideo

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: August 29, 1944

NUMBER: 817

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Reference is made herewith to Department's Airgram of April 15 and Embassy's cable of May 6, No. 427.

The Government of Uruguay has agreed formerly to the admittance of 500 refugee children. By airmail we are sending details.

DAWSON

DCR:VAG:MLM 9/1/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000859

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Montevideo

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 13, 1944

NUMBER: 571

[redacted]

With respect to the children mentioned in Embassy's cable dated May 5, 1944, no. 427, Sparks was orally informed by the Undersecretary today that a favorable reply is being drafted.

[illegible] 6/13/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

000856

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMEMBASSY, MONTEVIDEO

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 6, 1944

NUMBER: 427

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

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

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks, Date SEP 19 1972

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CIRCULAR

CONFIDENTIAL

April 20, 1944
7:35 p.m.

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [redacted] INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADORS AT SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, TEGUCIGALPA, MANAGUA, QUITO AND ASUNCION.

With [illegible] reference to the Department's circular airgram of January 28, [illegible] p.m., and to subsequent communications [illegible] on refugee matters, [illegible] advised that the Department has now authorized the American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to four hundred [illegible] immigration visas to refugee children up to sixteen years of age [illegible] without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status, [illegible] relatives residing in enemy, enemy-occupied or [illegible] territory, and to the availability of means of transportation to the United States. The purpose of this authorization is to [illegible] to Switzerland abandoned or abandoned children [illegible] 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 [illegible] of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General of the United States to assure this Government that the immigrating children will not become public charges.

[illegible] private agencies in the country to which you are accredited [illegible] to undertake a program for the care [illegible] the War Refugee Board is confident that it can [illegible] provide these 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 [illegible] funds would undoubtedly be available to meet [illegible] from Switzerland to that country.

You may approach appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited, inform them of the foregoing and request them to give assurance to the Swiss Government of their willingness to accept up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to this Government. For the information of the Government to which you are accredited, it is conservatively estimated that there are in France alone eighteen ten thousand abandoned or orphaned refugee children.

Should the Government be willing to take this humanitarian [illegible] the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to authorize [illegible] to issue the appropriate number of [illegible] and to maintain their validity until adequate [illegible] 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 Berne will be glad to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, Daniels, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Lexford, Mann, Menton, Marks, McCormack, Paul, Pehle, Pollak, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Stimson, Stewart, Weisstein, H. D. White, Files

000860

AIRGRAM SENT

MJB

April 15, 1944

7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
APR 17 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

CIRCULAR

[redacted] 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 Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe.

The authorization

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 19 1972

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The authorization contains provisions for the continued renewal of the visas until such time as adequate transportation facilities to the United States become available. Private sources have posted bond with the Attorney General of the United States to assure this Government that the immigrating children will not

become

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become public charges.

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

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

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number of immigration visas and to maintain their validity until 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.

HULL

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