

Programs with Respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees: Other Means of
Effecting Rescues

Recognition of Latin America Passports,
Vol. 1 - Folder 2

000001

Mr. Berlin
Rec'd from Union of Orthodox Rabbis

LIST OF RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES IN LITHUANIA ✓

✓
SOUTH AMERICAN PASSPORTS HAVE BEEN SECURED FOR
THE MAJORITY OF THESE LISTED. DOCUMENTATION FOR
THE BALANCE IS IN PREPARATION.

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VILIJAMPOLE, LITHUANIA

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Wer Shapiro | Born 1872 |
| wife Sora Rachel | 1874 |
| son Dr. Nachman Shapiro | 1896 |
| wife Rachile | |
| son Ittamar | 1930 |
| 2. Abramis Grodzinskis | 1881 |
| son Leizer | 1912 |
| son Israelis Chaimis | 1914 |
| son Wolfas | 1918 |
| daughter Riva | 1926 |
| daughter Miriam | 1926 |
| daughter Leja | 1927 |
| son Itzhok | 1927 |
| 3. Zalmanas Osovski | 1878 |
| wife Paja | |
| son Judel | |
| 4. Chaimas Faivelis Hurvicas | 1900 |
| wife Sarah | |
| daughter Broche | |
| 5. Mausha Berstein | 1887 |
| wife Shifra | |
| daughter Mina | |
| daughter Rivka | |
| 6. Chaja Mere Shulmaniene | 1905 |
| son Natan | 1930 |
| daughter Ester | 1934 |
| daughter Avigajil | 1938 |
| 7. Zalmanas Permut | 1894 |
| wife Palte | |
| son Smuelis | |
| son Joseleis | |
| son Mausha | |
| daughter Taibe | |
| 8. Moishe Skaruta | 1889 |
| wife Feige | |
| daughter Chana | |
| son Feiwei | |
| 9. Jankel Cherbuchowski | 1890 |
| wife Dweira | 1900 |
| daughter Sara | 1925 |
| 10. Sholom Kalmanowicz | 1920 |
| 11. Josifa Seras | 1907 |
| wife Sarah | |
| daughter Adina | |

VILIJAMPOLE, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 12. | Symon Dubianski wife Alte son Benjamin daughter Riva daughter Seve | Born 1876 1891 |
| 13. | Simche Slema Gitelevious wife Beila daughter Sara son Aronas daughter Taube daughter Rachil daughter Chiena daughter Dvora | 1886 1897 |
| 14. | Leib Friedman wife Sara daughter Rachel daughter Shulamith | 1885 1898 |
| 15. | Dovid Perelman wife Beila daughter Peshe daughter Reize daughter Chana | 1887 |
| 16. | Boruch Lifszicz wife Sarah son Majer-Chaskiel | 1875 1888 |
| 17. | Joeslis Fauvelzonas wife Fane Children-Awigdor Gershon Chanuni Eliezer | 1894 |
| 18. | Jokubas Slioma Gurvicius wife Chaja Riva children Leiba Efraim Benjamin | 1883 |
| 19. | Iser Shur wife Rochel | 1874 1886 |
| 20. | Bendet Minster wife Ita Children-Jakov Idel Lipman Ber | 1895 1901 |
| 21. | Benjamin Ozinskis wife Sara | 1891 1902 |
| 22. | Leizeris Sulmanas wife Rivka | 1915 1915 |
| 23. | Mheine Movshowitch children-Chana Perla | 1901 |

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VILIJAMPOLE, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 24. Chyene Seresevskiene son Menachem son Cevi | Born 1902 |
| 25. Sheiga Genendel Boruchson children-Sara Lea Shlomo Nechama | 1896 |
| 26. Shlomo Korb wife Children | 1909 |
| 27. Aronas Broys wife Rachel Gitel Children-Chaim Girsh Sara | 1906 |
| 28. Samuelis Sniegas wife children | 1886 |

FOR THE ADDRESSES OF THE RABBIS AND
RELIGIOUS LEADERS MENTIONED HEREIN
(ALL RESIDING IN VILIJAMPOLE, LITHUANIA)
AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES, INFORMATION
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

Rabbi Abromas Grodzinskis
Paneru g-ve 15

Rabbi Zalmanas Permut
Linkovas g-ve 48

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TELŠIAI, LITHUANIA

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 29. Abraham Itzhok Bloch | Born 1894 |
| wife Raisa | 1899 |
| daughter Chasia | 1922 |
| daughter Chaie | 1924 |
| son Leizer | 1926 |
| daughter Miriam | 1930 |
| daughter Pearl | 1932 |
| son Joseph Juda | 1936 |
| | |
| 30. Asriel Rabinowic | 1905 |
| wife Chana | |
| son Chaim | 1936 |
| son Vigdor | 1940 |
| daughter Shoshana | 1941 |
| | |
| 31. Rebeka Bloch | 1895 |
| children-Henny | 1923 |
| Miriam | 1925 |
| Ruchama-Braina | 1932 |
| Eliezeris-Jehuda | 1936 |
| | |
| 32. Chaja Katz | 1909 |
| Children-Eliezeris, | |
| Jeshosua | |
| Eleja-Meieris | |
| Jacobas | |
| Josef-Leibas | |
| Jeruchomas | |
| Smuelis-Avigdoras | |
| Aronas | |
| Ezra | |
| Rochel | |
| | |
| 33. Zelman Smuelis Blochas | 1887 |
| wife Rachil | 1885 |
| children Eliezeris | |
| Sausana | |
| Noimi | |
| Reveka | |
| Mausas | |
| Perel | |
| Josef Leibas | |
| adopted son-Malkelis Denis | |
| | |
| 34. Avneris Oklinskis | 1893 |
| wife Mirjam | 1890 |
| | |
| 35. Avromas Vesleris | 1891 |
| wife Fruma-Reizel | 1891 |
| children-Chasja | |
| Leijexeris | |
| Noimi | |
| | |
| 36. Samuelis Denisas | 1889 |
| wife Eta-Riva | 1894 |
| Children Benoionas | |
| Chaja | |
| Miriam | |
| | |
| 37. Frojimas Gelfanas | 1908 |
| wife Jeta | 1900 |
| children Hinda-Rivka | |
| Sore-Beile | |
| Mausas Icikas | |
| Jankelis | |

TELSIAI, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 38. | Pinkus Gelfanas wife Freida-Nocha children-Boruch-Bendetas Smuelis Rochel Riva Braina Leizeris | Born 1897 |
| 39. | Isroelis Ordmanas wife Blochaite child-Shulamit | 1913 1914 |
| 40. | Seina-Leja Gelfaniene children-Berelis Ruvenas Smuelis-Ziselis | 1908 1933 1935 1938 |
| 41. | Abraham Kaplan wife Sara | 1861 1863 |
| 42. | Josef Leib Grodnik wife Chasia | |
| 43. | Mause Olswang wife children | |
| 44. | Hirsh Merkin Wife Rebeka children | |

INFORMATION FOR THE ADDRESSES OF THE RABBIS
AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS MENTIONED HEREIN
(ALL RESIDING IN TELSIAI, LITHUANIA) AND THE
MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES, INFORMATION CAN BE
OBTAINED FROM:

Rabbi Abraham Itzehok Bloch
Rabbi Asriel Rabinowic
Telsiai, Lithuania

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VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 45. Henach Elges | Born 1864 |
| 46. Shyja Zelig Ruch | 1878 |
| wife Esther | 1888 |
| daughter Perel | |
| 47. Lejzer Kaplan | 1876 |
| wife Dobrusza | 1895 |
| children Frejde | 1920 |
| Hirsh | 1923 |
| Rashe-Perl | 1926 |
| Michel | 1928 |
| Naftoli-Chaskel | 1931 |
| Abram | 1930 |
| 48. Joshua Levinson | 1881 |
| wife Liba | 1898 |
| children- Frejda | 1921 |
| Rachela | 1925 |
| Hirsh | 1923 |
| Aron-Jochok | 1928 |
| Naftoli | 1931 |
| Perla | 1935 |
| Zlata | 1930 |
| Chaim-Abram | 1924 |
| 49. Elia Garber | 1876 |
| wife Rochel | 1881 |
| 50. Jona Karpilow | |
| 51. Chaim Walkin | 1896 |
| wife Beila | |
| Daughter Dreiza | |
| Daughter Chaja-Leja | |
| 52. Josef Berkowicz | 1894 |
| wife Masza Liba | |
| daughter Rochel Mirel | |
| 53. Szloma Garkawa | 1890 |
| wife Fredla | 1890 |
| children-Aron | 1922 |
| Rachel | 1924 |
| Jzack | 1924 |
| Szejna | 1928 |
| Necha | 1929 |
| Enta | 1933 |
| 54. Breina Hindus | 1893 |
| son Shyja | |
| daughter Judith | |
| daughter Rachel | |
| 55. Isaac Kosciukowski | 1906 |
| wife Chaya Frayde | 1911 |
| son Joseph Noach | 1938 |
| son Moshe Aron | 1940 |

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VILNIUS, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 56. | Yosef Shub and family | Born 1893 |
| 57. | Ita Gordon (daughter of Rabbi Ichiel Mordche Gordon) Juda Leib Gordon(son " " " " " ") | 1921 1926 |
| 58. | Israel Lwowicz wife Chama daughter Lea son Mejer daughter Ruchoma | Born 1894 1904 |
| 59. | Jacha Grodzenski (Widow of C.O. Grodzenski of Vilna) | 1882 |
| 60. | Jakob Josef Rozowski wife Ester son Aron daughter Ruchama | 1897 |
| 61. | Michael Katz wife Dina children-Judita Golda | 1894 1902 1930 1932 |
| 62. | Joel Kleinerman wife Chaja Riwka children-Estel Aron Rachel Frejda Liba | 1890 1900 |
| 63. | Mojshes Rajz wife Rachela children-Chawa Leja Bejla Yezsua Basia-Gitla | 1891 1899 |
| 64. | Chaim Shloma Shkolnik wife Hanna son Calel daughter Keila son Itzok-Yankel son Abram-Leib daughter Lea son | 1878 1889 1909 1914 |
| 65. | Wolf Segalis wife Chaja son Eljo daughter Chana | 1895 |
| 66. | Mowsza Karelio wife Children | 1886 |

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 67. | Ber Levine wife Sara son Shlomo son Arye Leib | Born 1890 1911 1936 1938 |
| 68. | Aron Lazovik wife Sara child Slioma | 1909 1913 1938 |
| 69. | Aronas Berekas wife Sjna children Risel Miriam Abram Leja | 1894 |
| 70. | Rachmiel Magid | 1913 |
| 71. | Elia Gvirc wife | 1913 |
| 72. | Iser Malin wife Rochel son Josef daughter Chaja daughter Ester son Chaim | 1873 1883 |
| 73. | Zalman Rhones wife Brocha son Joel | 1894 1906 1936 |
| 74. | Abram-Ioko Stern wife Marian Etka children Devora Elka Syma Exter Gitla Mejer Szimon Chaja Sheina | 1885 1884 |
| 75. | Smuelis Frydas wife Fejga-Lea children Chaim Hillel | 1868 |
| 76. | Mirel Leibowicz son Jehoshua daughter Riwka | 1898 1926 1924 |
| 77. | Issek Gelbach wife Ghoma | 1919 |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 78. | Aron Agulnik wife Sara children Masha-Leja Hersh-Leib Ischek-Ajzyk Josef-Jrachmiel | Born 1892 1899 |
| 79. | Elyias Libman wife Rochel-Bella | 1910 1910 |
| 80. | Aron Dovid Voronovsky | 1885 |
| 81. | David Goder wife Malka son Nochim | 1904 1915 1940 |
| 82. | David Mosze Mowazowicz wife Daughter | 1889 |
| 83. | Elia Wiszluk wife Ester | |
| 84. | Ischok Hersz Margolis wife Cywia | 1899 1909 |
| 85. | Ischok Korniks wife Judis children Sora Jakob | 1908 |
| 86. | Hersz Meyer Levin wife Chaja | 1909 |
| 87. | Hersz David Grynszpan wife Chaja children Abram Aron Leib Jankiel Feiga Golda | 1905 1909 1935 1936 1937 1939 |
| 88. | Calal Shkolnik wife Keile son Izak Yankel son Abram Leib daughter Leah son | DAVID WISZLUK WIFE RAICHAWISZLUK DAUGHTERS, DWOJRA RIWKA SONS, LESZAJA 1909 1888 1914 1899 1963 1924 1935 1927 1938 1929 |
| 89. | Elchanan Ostrow wife Chaya child | 1911 1912 |
| 90. | Lejzer Egulski wife Rochla children Izrael-Leib Efraim | 1909 1913 1940 1940 |

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA (CONT'D)

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 91. Israel Yustman wife child | Born 1914 | |
| 92. Israel Halpern wife Liba daughter Zelda | 1895 | |
| 93. Zelman Feigelman wife Raja | 1908 | |
| 94. Chaim Szumon Topp wife Children | 1877 | |
| 95. Morduch Leib Bornik | 1904 | |
| 96. David Chazonowitz wife children | 1918 | |
| 97. Chaim Moishe Kalir wife child | 1909 | |
| 98. Aria Malinski wife child | 1912 | |
| 99. Peretz Siletzki wife Children | 1916 | |
| 100. Meyer Finkel wife Zlirer daughter Sara son Chaim Yankel | 1909 1914 | (previously from Warsaw) |
| 101. Hirsch Glicksan daughter Leifsha son Leib | 1884 1926 1924 | (previously from Warsaw) |
| 102. Avram Hirsh Kanin wife Sara (previously of Mir) | 1884 1884 | |
| 103. Chaim Izkook Kaplan wife Miriam | 1909 1909 | |

INFORMATION FOR THE ADDRESSES OF THE RABBIS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS
MENTIONED HEREIN (ALL RESIDING IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA) AND THE
MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES, INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:
Rabbi Josef Rozoski
Zavalnia 34
Rabbi Yosef Shub
Dzidzoj 6

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 104. | Elchonon Wasserman son Naftoli wife Miriam son Hirsh wife Rachel | Born 1875 1914 1916 |
| | Similiski, near Vilnius | |
| 105. | Israel Lubozanski wife Fejga adopted daughters Estera Wejcel | 1877 |
| | Similiski | |
| 106. | Josef Zussmanovicus wife Leah daughter Golda son Moshe Mordchai | 1893 |
| | Ukmerge | |
| 107. | Josef Rosenthal wife Fruma son Abraham Nosen | 1907 1919 1938 |
| | Ukmerge | |
| 108. | Jerachmiel Shulman wife Sheyna-Chaja children Abram Shulom Lipe-Motel Israel-Meyer | 1882 1896 |
| | Ukmerge | |
| 109. | Srol Garten wife Beile Children Libe Miriam Samuelis Jankel Ester Ruvim Boruch Menashe Gedalias | 1890 1910 1932 1933 1934 1935 1939 |
| | Ukmerge | |
| 110. | Aron Bakst and family | 1869 |
| | Siauliai | |
| 111. | Shlomo Feinzilber wife and family | 1872 |
| | Kedainia | |
| 112. | Nachum Boruch Ginsburg wife Hava and Children | 1893 1896 |
| | Yonava | |
| 113. | Faigel Leibowitz daughter Risha son Simcha | 1881 |
| | Raseiniai | |
| 114. | Daniels Movsovicus wife children | 1881 |
| | Kelme | |

000013

115. Kalman Beinesovic
and Family
Born 1879
Kelme
116. Gerszun Miodnik
Kelme
117. Levi Spioas
Taurage
118. Aria Stam
Kelme
119. Jehuda Leib Bernstein
wife Liba Sheine
1888
Birzei
120. Josel-Leib Nenedyk
son Michael
1876
Dusetos
121. Abraham Wolf Heleras
Marijampole
122. Abraham Samuel Hirshowitz
wife
Children
Skudwil
123. Aron Jofan
wife Rivka
son Itzhok Jehuda
son Yankel Mordochas
1883
Kaisodarys
124. Abraham Itzhok Perelman
and family
1886
Skaudville
125. Leizer Hirsovicus
wife
Children
1870
Virbalis
126. Kalman Baran
Panevezys
127. Fejga Kaganeman
son Jacob
son Isaac
daughter Esther
1888
Panevezys
128. Berel Haofasi
wife Fruma
children Leizer
Esther
1894
1908
Becalel, Feige, Jankel, Chasie, Motel, Mordchai
Panevezys

000014

129. Berel Rabinowitz

Panevezys

130. Shmuel Ber Panicz
wife Riwka
children-Josef Shmaja
Etka
Mirka
Chaja-Posia
Joehok-Welwel
Jakob-Shloma

1895
1902

Nementzine

131. Shmuel Maizlik
wife Tajbe

1905

Nementzine

132. Isroel Elohonon Suniakowski
wife Makla
children Josef-Eli
Shmul
Tajbe
Abram-Kalman

1900

Nementzine

133. Szepsel Wernikowsky
wife Sora
children-Golda-Frada
Dawid-Lejzer
Jehuda
Chasia
Elohonon
Ber Hirsaz
Jzrael
Mordcha
Taube

1893

Plunge

134. Leib Pruskin
wife Chana
children Chaim-Nota
Gylia
Peisach

1903
1909
1935
1936
1940

Plunge

135. Nochim Zimelewicz
wife Chaja Sara

1906
1914

Plunge

136. Dawid Rosenstein
wife Rachela

1910

Plunge

137. Israel Riff
and family

1890

Zagare

138. Arie Moishe Riff

1909

Zagare

139. Itzhok Zundel Riff
WIFE LEA.

1904
1910

Zagare

140. I. Fortmanas Born 1890
 wife Sarah
 son Benzelis
 son Simonas
 daughter Hene-Resel
 son Jakob-Elie
 son Eliezers
 Son Michel

Ziesmarial

141. Samuelis Fondileris 1876
 and family

Rietavas

142. Leiba Gersteinas 1888
 wife Golde 1890
 children Abramias
 Gitel
 Rivka

Lazdijai

143. Isakas Agulnikas * 1896
 wife Chaja
 children Mause-Michel 1927
 Pese 1929
 Biniomin 1931

Pasvalys

144. Natanel Josif Grazas 1866
 and family

Veivirzenai

145. Noehom Seras 1889
 wife Neche
 children Chaim Itzhook
 Moshe
 Chaja-Blume
 Alter
 Ester

Daugai

146. Morduch Judel Vainberg 1911

Raseiniai

147. Pesach Farfel 1898
 wife Shifra 1900
 children Mordche 1938

Sventziany

148. Iser Weisbord 1896
 wife Bashe Gutel 1898
 children Rochel Miriam 1927
 Leib Josif 1929
 Peshe Braine 1934

Darbenai

149. Michel Punas 1884
 wife Zipora 1903
 son Josef Ber
 daughter Zivel
 daughter Rywka

Penadilya

000016

| | | |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 150. | Dowid Celniker wife Ester children Hershel Sara | 1895 |
| | Nison 151. Potashinski wife Fejgel children Eitel Leja Tzharna | 1890 1906 |
| | Birzai | |
| 152. | Ioikas Begunas and family | 1893 |
| | Radviliskis | |
| 153. | Chaim Chalel Dzimitrovsky wife children | 1871 |
| | Janiskis | |
| 154. | Jakob Goldshlak wife Feiga | 1908 1916 |
| | Taurage | |
| 155. | Yakov Chaim Terushkin and family | 1876 |
| | Skudonas | |
| 156. | Leib Perskis wife Seine children Ester Aaronas Josifas | 1902 1900 1938 1930 1929 |
| | Veliona | |
| 157. | Mausha Rabinavicius and family | 1879 |
| | Kybartiai | |
| 158. | Dovid Horenstein wife Yooheved | 1913 1914 |
| | Nementchin | |
| 159. | Zwulun Hejman wife Zlate Riwe | 1903 1923 |
| | Ukmerga | |
| 160. | Gdala Romarowski wife Jtka children Ester Sara Pejsach | 1897 |
| | Nementzin | |
| 161. | Ischok Elchonon Waldshan son Dowid | 1895 |
| | Similiski Apak. Trok | |

000017

162. Ely Niselewitz Born 1898
 wife
 Children

Shukyan

163. Chaim Hirsz Niselowitz 1879
 wife Chana Yesza
 children

Vaiguva

164. Moshe Leib Milewski 1874
 wife
 Children

Darsuniskis

165. Berl Robinowitz 1909
 wife Gutel 1909
 daughter Sarah 1932

Peneveze

166. Itzko Lenczewski 1876
 wife Rivka Feigel 1879
 daughter Brina 1922
 daughter Daba 1926
 daughter Leba 1929
 daughter-in-law Zelda 1910
 son Hirsh Hankel 1939

*previously
From Tykocin*

Wilno wielka 39/29

167 Fania Berkowicz 1901
 daughter Adela 1925
 daughter Menucha 1927
 son Benjamin-David 1930

Lentvaris, Lith.

168 Jowal Buninowicz
 son David

Osmiany, Poland

169 Aron Yoselewsky
 and family

Nowy Sawiersien
Pov. Stolpce, Poland

170 Mosze Yoselewsky
 and family

Nowy Sawiersien
Pov. Stolpce, Poland

000018

File,
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 1744

August 8, 1944

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1901

In reply refer to
No. 205

Hon. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The Polish underground paper Buletyn Informacyjny, in its issue of November 25, 1943, carried the following item:

"...We received information that the Germans killed the 4000 Jews who by means of bribery had been evacuated from Poland to Bergen near Hannover. These Jews were supposed to have been considered as 'untouchable' South American citizens."

Although this information is not of recent date, I would be very grateful to you in view of the severity of the accusation it contains, if you would ask the WRB representative in Geneva to check on its accuracy and, should it prove true, to take the necessary steps.

Sincerely yours,

A. Leon Kuhowitzki
A. Leon Kuhowitzki,
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:lw

RECEIVED
AUG 9 A.M.
RECEIVED

000019

Allies Urged to Act to Sav. Jews With South American Passpo. in Nazi Camps

LONDON, August 1 (JTA) -- Urgent action by the Allied countries to save several hundred Jewish refugees possessing either South American citizenship certificates or Palestine visas was urged today by a British internee who arrived in Lisbon this week from Germany in the transport of British citizens being exchanged for German nationals.

This informant, who was confined together with the refugees in the Vittel camp in France, said that they were deported to Poland during April, May, and July of this year following failure by the South American countries to recognize their citizenship certificates and alleged failure by Britain to ratify the Palestine visas held by some of the internees.

The arriving internee disclosed that although information finally arrived to the effect that both the South American certificates and the Palestine visas would be honored, the camp commandant continued with the deportations. It is believed that the deportees are now confined in "Jewish extermination camps" in Birkenau, Oswiecim, Sosnowitz, Kattowitz, Fredorf, Innsbruck and others, and are in danger of execution unless the Allies can prevail upon the Germans to allow the Red Cross to assume jurisdiction over them.

The British internees in Lisbon confirm the report that many of the refugees committed suicide when they learned they would not be exchanged. Among them was Mrs. Tamara Schoor, widow of former Chief Rabbi Moses Schoor of Warsaw. In the group of 281 Jews who arrived in Palestine early this month were some who had been interned at Vittel and had witnessed the deportations.

JTA

Aug. 2, 1943

000020

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:
1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.
CI. 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-9a

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

June 26, 1944

In reply refer
to No. 119

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

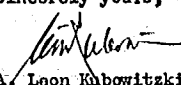
Dear Mr. Lesser:

May I call your attention to the following cable which
Dr. Wise received from Rabbi Zwi Taubos, Zurich:

"Wire address influent lawyer in Washington for
protection Central American citizens domiciled
Hungary stop lawyers fees will be covered here."

I'll take the liberty of asking your advice on this
matter during my visit next Wednesday.

Sincerely yours,


A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

JUN 22 1944

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: J. W. Pehle

We would appreciate it if there were promptly made available to us copies of all incoming and outgoing messages relating to the program of rescue hinging on the eligibility for exchange of persons holding Latin American documentation.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

L.G.L.
LSLesser:als 6/21/44

000022

Recognition of L.A. Passports ②

Treasury Department
Division of Monetary Research

Date 6/2 19 44

To: Mr. Robert L. Case - 152

From: Mr. Glavin 7D

File

V. Hel

000023

File

COPY/APP./13.4.44.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------|
| P.C. 72. POSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP | | | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | |
| TYPE OF MAIL TERMINAL AIR. | | Submission No.: 103/47921/44. | |
| | | Date: | |
| Reg. No. | Taken off S.S. at (port) | on (date) | |
| FROM: OTTO RABL, RINDOGATAN 10, STOCKHOLM. | | TO: DR. GEORGE BELA, 12 PORCHESTER COURT, PORCHESTER GARDENS, LONDON W.2. | |
| Date of letter 23.3.44. (or postmark). | | Language: German | |
| ORIGINAL LETTER: | SUBMITTED TO: | | |
| Remained in I.R.B. | Submission slip T.C.D. For action. Copy M.B.W. <i>8/10/44</i> " M.I.5. <i>TR/10/44</i> " I.B.K. " D.R.W. <i>25/10/44</i> | | |
| Seen by: Naval Adviser | Air Adviser | M.I.12 | |
| Operating Unit | Section | Examiner | Date |
| 103/44 | T.2.F.1.5 | 9/62 | 13.4.44. |

Subject: Details of Czech passport holders in Sweden in procuring passports for those in enemy-occupied territory.

Reference is made to your letter of 12.3.44. In the past we have been thinking a great deal about you, your own relations, and PARADOX ... I wrote ... immediately, enclosing an acknowledgment slip, and ... to give an answer quite soon and will forward it to ... I should there is a slight chance of helping. We have ... provided some Jews in HOLLAND - and of course had fled ... from GERMANY - with GERMAN NEUTRAL STATES passports. ... they were not reported but were put into an ... camp for foreigners in the neighbourhood of ... and many are still in camp in HOLLAND. If you ... it could be carried out in your relatives' case - I ... don't know of course what regulations may exist there or ... how quickly everything could be done - I could try from here ... to arrange things. Of course it will involve a fair amount ... of expense, but in such a case one must do all one can to ... help. A passport costs about 400 to 500 Swedish crowns ... which is roughly £25 to £30; a married couple go on one ... passport. For this purpose I need to have, above everything ... else, exact data concerning each of your relations - such ... as date of birth, place of residence, status, height, colour ... of hair and eyes, in the case of a married woman her maiden ... name, her age then - in short everything necessary for a ... passport, and photos too - I don't know whether you are ... allowed to send these but perhaps you can do so through our

000024

-2-

LCN/47924/14.

Legation which surely in this case will do everything possible to help. Then there is the question of payment - I have not sufficient friends at my disposal to pay for all the passports and hope that you can do something about this through the Legation. I have of course also written to your dear parents for photographs. You may be assured that from here I will do everything that is humanly possible and will keep you informed, too. Please get in touch immediately with my very good friend DR. VACLAV LAC. 48 Barons Keep, Glidden Street, W.14, who will surely be able to be of help to you.

FOR MINISTRIES ONLY. Recommendation for Disposal of Letter and Reason.

FOR CENSORSHIP INTERNAL ACTION.

Letter Condemned

Return to Sender

Released

000025

LONDON

June 1, 1944

Aguha informed internees Vittel transferred to deportation
camp branch. Urge steps to save them.

Anglo Jewish Association

Seston Tenkin, Secretary.

Dictated over 'phone by Mr. Marcus Cohn, June 2, 1944.

000026

Mr. McCormack

June 1, 1944

L. S. Lesser

I would appreciate it very much if you would find out for me as soon as possible what the practice of the Department of State is with respect to the expiration of American passports held by persons within enemy-occupied areas. In other words, is the period of validity of such passports extended through the protecting power or is any other action taken? For your information, the answer to this question is relevant in determining whether we should ask the Latin American countries whose passports are held by persons in enemy-occupied areas to authorize their protecting powers to extend the validity of such passports after the expressed date of expiration has been passed.

LSLesser:als 6/1/44

000027

Mr. McCormack

June 1, 1944

L. S. Lesser

As I understand what you told me the other day, the Provost Marshal's office has a list of internees on which "American" is given as an individual's nationality without regard to the particular American republic of which he is a national. Do you think it possible to get a more detailed breakdown on this score from the International Red Cross and, if so, do you think it advisable to ask them for such a breakdown?

LSLesserials 6/1/44

000028

MAY 27 1944

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: J. N. Pehle

You will recall our discussions in your office and on the telephone with respect to the possibility of securing passports of the Dominican Republic for persons in enemy-controlled Europe who are subject to enemy persecution. You suggested that when there was made available to you a short list of the names of such persons, you would undertake to see, on an experimental basis, whether obtaining such passports for such persons was feasible. Attached hereto is a list of fifteen families, together with such biographical data as is available to us.

We have been advised by apparently well-informed persons that insofar as people in Poland are concerned it is of the utmost importance that no word of the issuance of such passports should reach the German authorities, and that if passports are to be made available to such persons, they should be transmitted through secret channels which are known to us and, I daresay, to you. Since the same caveat may also be applicable to persons in other countries, I would appreciate your advising me when, as and if the passports are available, but before any effort has been made to get them to the persons listed.

(2) J. N. P.

L.S.L.

LSL:serials 5/25/44

No attachments when
received by files

000024

MAY 10 1944

TO: Mr. Berle

FROM: Mr. Pehle

Reference is made to the efforts which have been made to date by your Department and the War Refugee Board to try to save the lives of persons in enemy controlled territory holding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries.

As you know, our efforts to date have been designed to convince the Germans that the passports held by these people should be recognized as valid and that the people holding such passports are eligible for exchange. It has been our hope that these people might be saved from death if the Germans were convinced that they were exchange material.

Our efforts to date have been designed primarily to establish that these people are exchange material, rather than to actually effect an exchange of these people. Private organizations, however, have been pressing the War Refugee Board to attempt to effect an actual exchange of at least some of these people. As you will recall we discussed this problem over two weeks ago and you indicated that, although there were difficulties involved, you would look into the matter.

The position of the War Refugee Board on the question of effecting an actual exchange is as follows:

(1) We believe that if a few of these people were actually exchanged for Germans in the Western Hemisphere, the effect of such an exchange would be a substantial factor in convincing the Germans that all of the people involved

000030

- 2 -

are exchange material and might, therefore, result in saving the lives not only of the people exchanged but of all the people in the same category.

(2) In view of the fact that the actual effectuation of such an exchange is the responsibility of your Department, and in view of the further fact that the War Refugee Board is not in possession of sufficient facts to warrant forming a judgment as to the advisability of taking such action from the standpoint of over-all exchange negotiations, the War Refugee Board is not in a position to request your Department to take the proposed step. Thus, for example, if it is true that to actually exchange some of these people would interfere with the exchange of wounded Allied airmen, the War Refugee Board obviously would not favor taking such a step.

In view of the above, I would greatly appreciate if you would give prompt consideration to this whole matter, bearing in mind that if it is feasible from the standpoint of over-all exchange negotiations to effect an actual exchange of some of these people, such action may result in saving the lives of all of these people.

(Signed) J.W. Peble

jsd R.C.
5-10-44

000031

From - Recg. of L.A. Passports - (2)

670



W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. ☒
Initial _____
Date _____

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

No. 581/42.

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

May 6, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I beg to acknowledge your esteemed letters of April 28, 1944, and May 2, 1944, and assure you that the Holy See will continue to support the approaches of the United States to Latin American countries in view of securing recognition by these republics of consular documents of Jews in German-held territory.

In this connection I shall notify the Vatican of the assurance that the recognition of passports and other documents will not necessarily involve immigration and that, in the event of exchange, havens for the holders of such documents will be found elsewhere.

I trust that future efforts in this matter will meet with greater success.

With sentiments of esteem and every best wish, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

000032

copy of R.A.P. reports (2)

MAY 5 1944

My dear Archbishop Cicognani:

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 26, 1944 No. 581/42.

The information contained in this letter is of the utmost interest to the Board, and I should like to reiterate the Board's deep appreciation of the Holy See's interest in the fate of the Jews in German-occupied countries.

It is understood that the information contained in your letter will be treated as confidential, in accordance with your request.

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Asieto Giovanni Cicognani,
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia,
The Apostolic Delegate,
Washington.

Original signed by
Mr. Du Bois

Copies to:-
Admiral ~~Amery~~

BAK:inals 5/3/44

B.A. JTD

000033

638



5/5/44

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No 581/42.

THIS NO SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 26, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

For the information of the Government I wish to communicate to you the substance of a message recently received from the Cardinal Secretary of State.

The assistance of the Government of Spain has been sought by the Holy See through the Apostolic Nuncio in Bern in an attempt to avert any new measures against the Jews interned at Vittel. Through representatives in Berlin and Vichy the Spanish Government sought to delay such feared measures pending a possible exchange of Jews for Germans interned in America. Since March thirty-first this activity has been carried on.

Relative to this matter a report from the Apostolic Nuncio in Madrid stated that the Government of Spain has frequently shown concern for and has taken steps in behalf of Jewish people living in countries occupied by the Germans. However, the German Government has made clear that it is not pleased with these overtures of the Spanish Government. Berlin admits Spain's right to act in behalf of Spanish Jews but questions such acts in behalf of any other Jews. However, the Nuncio adds that despite this the Spanish Government will continue, in view of a possible exchange of Jews for interned German civilians in America, to take whatever steps are best calculated to be of assistance to the Jews in Vittel.

000034

2.

I trust that the information contained in this letter will be considered as confidential. I do not believe that anything would be accomplished by the communication of its contents to leaders of Jewish organizations here in the United States of America.

With assurance of highest personal regard and with sentiments of esteem, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

A. G. Cicognani

Archbishop of Laodicea
Apostolic Delegate

000035

הסתדרות העולמית, אגודת ישראל
Agudas Israel World Organization
 THE UNION OF UNIVERSALLY ORGANIZED ORTHODOX JEWRY
 (WORLD-AGUDAH OF ORTHODOX JEWS INC.)

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE: LONDON - BRANCH OFFICES: JERUSALEM AND NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
 226 WEST 97TH STREET
 NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

May 5th, 1944

Mr. John W. Fehle, Executive Director
 War Relocation Board
 U.S. Treasury Building
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

Referring to the conversations with our collaborator, Dr. I. Lowmy, concerning the issue of some test-passports by the Government of San Domingo, I should be extremely grateful, if you could provide, even if the Vaad Hahatzala has already submitted a sufficient number of addresses, for one more passport, for the family mentioned at the foot of this letter.

Until late 1943, they had been living in liberty in Brussels, 16 Rue des Vierges, but since December 1943, no further message from them was received. The passport may protect them from deportation.

Thanking you in anticipation, I remain

Yours faithfully,

JACOB ROSANHEIM
 President

SALAMON, Herman
 born, August 9th, 1877 in
 Mukaveco (Czechoslovakia)

SALAMON, Serena (his wife)
 neo Klein
 born March 18th, 1886 in
 Mukaveco, (Czechoslovakia)

Both living in Brussels, Belgium, 16 Rue des Vierges.

000036

*Recognition
3 L.A. Reports
(2)*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

File
DATE May 3, 1944

TO Mr. Abrahamson
FROM Mr. McCormack

Attached are copies of paraphrased cables received by the Department of State from Bern, Switzerland, transmitted to the American Red Cross for informational purposes.

I had been asked to secure this information from either the American Red Cross or the American Red Cross delegation concerning the Drancy camp by Mr. Akzin, in connection with the 238 civilian internees who had been removed from Vittel. It had been reported that some or all of these internees had been removed to Drancy.

I have informed Mr. Akzin of the contents of the attachments and pass them on to you only as exemplifying that State, following a long established practice, makes such information available to American Red Cross with regularity but does not see fit to make the same information available to War Refugee Board. It must have been at least somewhat obvious to State that we were concerned with the movement of internees from bona fide civilian internment centers to camps such as Drancy and Belsen-Bergen which are not in the civilian internment category.

It might be that you would wish to bring this matter to the attention of Mr. Hann, so that in the future the Board will receive information of this nature whenever it relates to our work.

EM

Attachments.

000037

Copy of cablegram received by
Department of State from Bern
(Switzerland) and transmitted
to American Red Cross for
information March 15, 1944

February 24, 1944

Secretary of State

Washington

1123, 24th

AMINTERESTS FRANCE

Legation's airmail 6149, September 18 and 6509, November 8.

Foreign Office note February 21 states Swiss legation, Berlin
(repeat Berlin) reports February 11 French police under orders
Germans proceeded night January 21-22 massive arrest Jews various
nationalities especially American without age limit. In general
French police immediately sealed apartments vacated.

All arrestees sent DRANCY camp which serves allocation center
where neither (repeat neither) correspondence, packages nor visits
permitted; competent German authorities assured Swiss Consulate
Paris persons whose documentation in order would be transferred
camps SAINT DENIS, COMPIEGNE or VITTEL.

Swiss Legation, Berlin for its part, has made representations
German Foreign Office to obtain liberation Americans detained
DRANCY or their transfer internment camp; Swiss promised report
results representation.

HARRISON

cc The Chairman
Mr. Allen
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Fute
Mr. Cuttis
Miss Brooks

000038

Copy of cablegram received by
Department of State from Bern
(Switzerland) and transmitted
to American Red Cross for
information.

Dated April 24, 1944

Secretary of State

Washington

2616, twenty-fourth

Swiss note April 21 states Swiss Consulate Paris
wrote March 29 DRANCY camp which formerly administered
by French under German control, has for more than six
months been completely in German hands.

HARRISON

000033

MAY 2 1944

My dear Archbishops:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 27, 1944 (No. 581/42), which largely confirms the information referred to in my letter to you of April 28.

I wish to express my entire agreement with the suggestion of the Cardinal Secretary of State that the interest and cooperation of the governments of Latin America be enlisted. To this end, the Government of the United States has already, in the manner outlined in my letter of April 28, made approaches to Latin American countries concerned.

I take this opportunity again to express the Board's deep appreciation of the continued warm interest which the Holy See is taking in this matter and the hope that the Holy See will find it appropriate to support the approaches of the United States to the Latin American countries referred to in my letter of April 28.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
Washington.

BA. L. S. L.
BAKainiLSLesser/jp 4/29/44

Original sent by
J. W. Pehle
Copy to: Mr. Glavin

000040



624

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

3339, Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.

No 581/42.

THIS NO SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

* April 27, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Within the past few months I received requests from Dr. Michael G. Tress, President of the Agudath Israel Youth Council of America, Dr. Isaac Lewin, Director of the Agudath World Organization, Dr. Schabse Frankel, Director of the Agudath Israel of America, and from Dr. A. Kalamanawitz of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis in favor of Jewish persons interned in France who hold South American and Latin American documents, and in particular the Jews interned at Vittel.

In reply to my appeal the Cardinal Secretary of State has given me the following information.

For some time the Vatican has sought to interest the various South American and Latin American Countries in the Polish Jews interned at Vittel and has brought to the attention of the various Governments the matter of passports.

The Government of Peru has responded that it cannot recognize the passports because they were granted in a form that was entirely illegal. The Apostolic Nunciature in Haiti states that in that country it is impossible to do anything in the sense desired. The governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica have declared that they are ready to recognize the passports of a maximum of eight families, after having had precise notification of the families or individuals involved, in order to grant the necessary authorizations to their Consulates. It is added that, if these families are not industrialists or agriculturists, they will be permitted to remain only for the duration of the war.

000041

Brazil is prepared to recognize the passports of four certain Jews since they were born in Brazil. Steps have been taken with the Apostolic Nuncio in Bern to have these certified. Uruguay will consider the individual cases. Chile replies that instructions have already been given to representatives in Switzerland for similar cases to identify the persons and to recognize issued passports. The responses of Cuba, Panama, Guatemala and Panama were in the negative.

Through the Apostolic Nuncio in Bern the cooperation of the Swiss Government has been enlisted.

The Government of Spain has been called upon and is well-disposed to render every assistance within her power.

Finally, the Cardinal Secretary of State adds that Bolivia will recognize the passports of three Jews but asks to have news of them first. This information is being sought through the Nunciature in Bern.

His Eminence points out that, although everything possible is being done on the part of the Vatican, it might be suggested to those who are concerned about this matter, that they seek to enlist the interest and cooperation of the Governments of South and Latin America.

I shall keep you informed of the further developments in this matter and would appreciate hearing from you regarding the suggestion of the Cardinal Secretary of State mentioned above.

With assurance of highest personal regard and with sentiments of esteem, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

+ A. G. Cicognani
 Archbishop of Ladicea
 Apostolic Delegate

*John A. ...
Papers 4*

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:

1834 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.
10019

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

[Signature]
May 1, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I call your urgent attention to the following cable which we received from Mr. Itzhak Gruenbaum, a Jerusalem member of the Jewish Agency in Palestine:

"Ignatz Schwarzbart London cables according information Polish authorities Vittel internees deported 20/3 only way to save is by exchange proposed by involved countries stop Richard Lichtheim Geneva confirms this information presuming internees already been sent to transit camps though their final fate unsealed stop Agudas representative Berne cabled time pressing stop At our request agency London approached colonial office asking inform officially protecting power that certificates already allotted and reserved for all Vittel internees also to request South American governments insist enabling exit stop Please do utmost your end Cable."

I would be extremely obliged to you for informing me of the present stand in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

000043

APR 23 1944

My dear Archbishop:

Permit me to draw your attention to the danger confronting groups of Jews, in large measure of Polish origin, who hold passports and consular documents issued in the names of various Latin American republics. About two thousand of them are variously reported to have been interned by the Germans in camps at Vittell, Compiègne, Tittmoning, Liebenau, Bergau, Belsen-Bergen, and it is possible that a number of persons outside these camps may also hold similar documents. In the past, the German authorities were reported to have given some recognition to such documentation and, for the most part, the persons involved were spared deportation to Poland and death which, as you know, has been the fate of so many other Jews in German-held territory.

Last December, upon being informed that German authorities were questioning the validity of Paraguayan documents held by some of these Jews, this Government and the Intergovernmental Committee requested Paraguay to abstain, for the duration of the war, from questioning the validity of such documents. Paraguay replied that it had not cancelled and did not intend to cancel such papers. More recently, information began to reach the Board that the German authorities intended generally to disregard Latin American documents held by Jews and were preparing to deport the holders thereof to Poland. To cope with this situation, American missions in Latin America were instructed to approach the governments concerned with a request similar to that addressed last December to Paraguay.

Thereafter, new information reached the Board that over two hundred Latin American passport holders had been removed from Vittell. Instructions were thereupon sent to our missions in Latin America to request the governments concerned to consent to this Government approaching Germany, through appropriate channels, for the purpose of initiating negotiations for an exchange of nationals on a hemispheric basis, for which persons in German-controlled territory holding passports and consular documents issued in the names of Latin American countries would be eligible. The Latin American countries were assured that, in the event of an exchange, they would not be expected physically to admit any of such persons and that this Government would make arrangements to route them elsewhere.

000044

We also asked the Latin American countries concerned to approach Germany through their protecting powers and demand that persons holding passports and other documents issued in their names be accorded no less favorable treatment than Germany expects its nationals in this hemisphere to receive. Simultaneously, our missions in Madrid and Bern were instructed to request the Spanish and Swiss governments to inform Germany that the United States was entering into discussions with the Latin American governments concerning arrangements for an exchange and that the United States considered all persons holding passports and other documents issued in the name of Latin American countries to be properly eligible for exchange.

The American Minister at Bern now advises us that he has just been informed that recent efforts of the Holy See, similar to our own, did not meet with any large degree of success. Apparently, however, this may be attributed to the fact that in the Holy See's approaches to the Latin American countries the recognition of passports and other documents was coupled with the actual immigration of the holders thereof. I should like to express, on behalf of the War Refugee Board, our deep appreciation of the efforts already made by the Holy See in this matter. Had we learned earlier of the Holy See's endeavors, we would have supported them by assurances that the recognition of passports and other documents did not necessarily involve immigration and that, in the event of exchange, havens for the holders of such documents would be found elsewhere.

In view of all that has transpired it would appear that the active support of the Holy See for our approaches to the Latin American countries would be most helpful to the solution of this grave problem of mutual concern, and to that end, we earnestly seek your good offices. In this connection, please be advised that the American Representative at Vatican City is also being asked to address a similar request to appropriate authorities.

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

His Excellency
The Most Reverend
Amleto Giovanni Cicognani
Archbishop of Laodicea di Frigia
The Apostolic Delegate
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Ra. LSL

BAK:msl:LSL:als 4/28/44

000045

*Let the American
Board take
Refugees*

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NEW ADDRESS:

1934 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.
CL 6-1900

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vasad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I think you will be interested in the attached photo-
static copy of a cable which was received by one of our
friends from her lawyer, Edmund Goetschel, who is in
Basle.

I think that this cable throws some light on the recent
movements of the internees with Latin American passports.

Dr. Horowitz and Mr. and Mrs. Lindenbaum have recently
been granted Palestine certificates. They are in possession
of Costa Rica passports.

Mrs. Lindenbaum was previously in Vittel. It could be in-
ferred from the fact that she was moved to Tittmoning (not,
of course, Tittneouing) that the latter is a transit camp
for people taken into account for the Palestine exchange.

I would be very grateful to have your opinion and the infor-
mation you have on this subject.

May I also ask whether your Board would be prepared to take
up with the Costa Rica Government the question of the prolonga-
tion of the passports which are in possession of Dr. Horowitz
and Mr. and Mrs. Lindenbaum.

I attach a list of other internees who, to our knowledge, also
have Costa Rica passports. You may want to present their case
at the same time.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki
Head, Rescue Department

ALK:bg

Files

April 26, 1944

*Could not
be done
B.G.*

*Talked to ALK
5-3-44*

000046

| | COSTA RICA DOCUMENTS & interned at Camp Vittel | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Mrs. Tamar Schorr | • | • | • | • | • |
| Mr. Schwalobart Chil, wife Perla and son Martin | • | • | • | • | • |
| Julius Grunstein | • | • | • | • | • |
| Salomon Szejn & wife Eleonora and his father | • | • | • | • | • |
| Solomon Isaak Zukier & wife Melka Fajgel and son Bernard and daughter Regina | • | • | • | • | • |
| Oskar Lichtman & wife Anna Rozalja and daughter Regina | • | • | • | • | • |
| Max Brandel | • | • | • | • | Tittmoning |
| Mrs. Brandel | • | • | • | • | Vittel |
| Dr. Szyja Fakler, his wife Stefania and son Henryk | • | • | • | • | • |
| M. Wetstein & wife | • | • | • | • | • |
| Henryk Roshendler & wife | • | • | • | • | • |
| Mr. & Mrs. Lindenbaum | • | • | • | • | Tittmoning |
| Dr. Horowitz | • | • | • | • | • |
| Mr. Willner (from Lwow) | • | • | • | • | • |
| Mr. Adolf Mendelbaum | • | • | • | • | • |
| Miss Helena Sylvia Mendelbaum | • | • | • | • | Vittel |
| Golda Kahn | • | • | • | • | Belsen-Bergen am Oell near Hannover |
| Uri Dan Kohn | • | • | • | • | • |
| Adela Suchestow | • | • | • | • | Vittel |
| Ela Suchestow | • | • | • | • | • |

000047



FORM 113-611-10-35
RECEIVED AT

TEL. CIRCLE 7-6210
7 CENTRAL PARK WEST NEW YORK, N.Y.

APR 2 1944

STANDARD TIME

CL29 SZ1303 XL BASEL 40 23 1648

NLT ROSE HOROWITZ 840 WESTENDAVE NEWYORK

DO NECESSARY THAT GOVERNMENT DOES CABLE TO PROTECTING

POWER THE FACT THAT PASSPORTS OF HUSBAND HOROWITZ

BROTHER LINDENBAUM AND HIS WIFE ALL IN TITTNEQJING

GERMANY ARE PROLONGATED AND IT DOES INFORM GERMANAUTHORITIES

EDMUND GOETSCHEL

TELEPHONE HANover 2-1811

To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R. C. A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

000048

APR 25 1944

Dear Mr. Rosenheim:

The following very confidential message for you from Mr. Sternbuch was received from the American Legation, Bern, under date of April 19, 1944:

"Formerly such papers were issued by the following Consulates: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Only from the San Salvador Consulate are these documents now available. In order to save people in Hungary it is of first importance that Consulates in Switzerland be authorized to confidentially issue to us passports or citizenship documents to be distributed to refugees free of charge. Traffic in false passports would be ended by this measure. The responsibility would be assumed by the Committee that passports would be used only for temporary protection and when the emergency is past they would be returned to the issuing states."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Rosenheim,
President,
Agudas Yisrael World Organization,
226 West 97th Street,
New York 25, New York.

PH:lab 4/26/44

000049

Mr. Pehle

April 24, 1944

L. S. Lesser

The attached eleven dispatches to various Latin American countries, Bern, Madrid and Vatican City are in connection with the Vittel problem and were inspired by Bern's 2282 of April 13, 1944, dealing with the Vatican's activities in this connection. Additional dispatches to Chile, Cuba and Uruguay (with whom we have not heretofore communicated on this subject as we did not know of any passports issued in their names until we received Bern's 2282) and a letter to the Apostolic Delegate here are now in the course of preparation.

*dated April 28, '44
filed in this book.*

LSLesser:als 4/2/44

*in 27th March 1944
received in office
(from Lesser file)*

000050

April 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

J.W.P. and L.S.L. discussed the matter of Dominican passports with Assistant Secretary of State Berle on April 22. Mr. Berle was advised of the conferences with Dr. Levin, Sr. Henriquez and Snra. Trujillo, and a copy of a draft form of letter acceptable to the latter was left with him. Mr. Berle seemed sympathetic to the program but expressed the opinion that the General would probably want something more than a letter - an invitation to the White House, for instance. Mr. Berle made an engagement for the afternoon of April 24 with the Dominican Ambassador in furtherance of this plan. He is to report back.

122

000051

4/20/44

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Warren has advised me that he is in receipt of two airgrams concerning the Latin American passport situation.

No. A-357 of April 10, 5 p.m. from our Embassy in Peru states that it has learned from the Peruvians that some two or three months ago the Swiss, as the protecting power, gave the Peruvians the 48 names of persons holding passports alleged to have been irregularly issued and when asked whether these were to be honored the Peruvian Government replied in the negative. Accordingly, our Embassy says that the matter is closed in so far as these 48 are concerned. However, the Embassy urged the Peruvians on humanitarian grounds to recognize such passports in the future and the Peruvians expressed themselves as being sympathetic to this proposition. According to the Peruvians there are some doubtful passport cases in Switzerland and Rumania but none in Sweden.

No. A-205 of April 12, 11 a.m. from Haiti is encouraging. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is reported to be wholly in sympathy with the considerations outlined in our circular airgram of March 31. However, he stated that he couldn't be specific as to what Haiti would request of the protecting power but gave assurances that Haiti would not withdraw the so-called invalid passports. As he put it, he felt that the naturalization laws could be protected and the humanitarian cause supported at the same time.

Given [unclear] [unclear]

000052

589

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONDON
55 New Cavendish St., W 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vaad Leumi, P.O.B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Director, War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

April 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Lesser:

We received from Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, of the Polish National Council, the following cable dated April 6:

"After official investigation caused by me Romer got confirmation that people in Vittell deported March according to this information the only way to save them is an exchange to be proposed by the involved countries your effort should be concentrated in this direction my government instructed already their concerned legations irrespective steps already undertaken by other governments cable developments."

May I ask you to have the following cable sent to Schwarzbart through the American Embassy:

Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart
45 Queens Court
London, W.2, England

Just THE QUESTION OF THE INTERNEES IN VITTEL TITMONING LIEBENAU COMPIEGNE AND BEISEN-BERGEN IS GIVEN THE CLOSEST ATTENTION BY THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN AS PROTECTING POWERS TO INFORM THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ALL INTERNEES IN POSSESSION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS AS EXCHANGE MATERIAL. ~~THE SAME STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MAKE EXCHANGE MATERIAL~~

to secure cooperation of Latin American countries.
Please let me know whether this message has been forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Leon
Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head
Rescue Department

ALK:bg

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL . . CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

330 WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

Removed to
182 Broadway
FILES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: LONGACRE 5-2600

April 17, 1944

LONDON
One Harley Street, W. 1

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 2024-90

JERUSALEM
Vasad Leumi, P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY
Sonora 174-4

John W. Pehle, Esq. *
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

When I was in Washington, I spoke to you about the problem of certain individuals who are now being held in Nazi camps, who had previously acquired Haitian citizenship. Some time ago, the Haitian Government issued a regulation according to the terms of which no Haitian could claim citizenship or could consider his Visa valid unless he returned to Haiti before August 1942.

Due to this regulation, there are a number of Jews who are in danger of being deported and killed because the Haitian Government has refused to recognize the validity of their citizenship since they were unable, having been held in detention camps, to be in Haiti before the specified date.

I have taken this matter up with the Haitian Ambassador who informed me some months ago that his Government was not able to make any exceptions to this regulation, even though he pointed out that in some cases the individuals concerned went to the protecting power and registered their desire and intention to return to Haiti before the date indicated in the regulation.

In view of events which have transpired since I met the Haitian Ambassador and the establishment of the War Refugee Board, the World Jewish Congress feels that it might be possible for the Board to take up this matter again with Haitian Government and to urge, through our Ambassador in Haiti and perhaps through the Haitian Ambassador here, that this regulation be either withdrawn or so mitigated that Jews in concentration camps, who hold Haitian citizenship, will be rescued from the terrible fate which awaits them.

I shall be very grateful if you will give this matter your attention and if you will inform me as to any action which may be taken so that the World Jewish Congress can, in turn, inform the individuals who have applied to us for relatives who are in the position described above.

Very cordially yours,

James B. Gurnea

JWW:L

000054

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

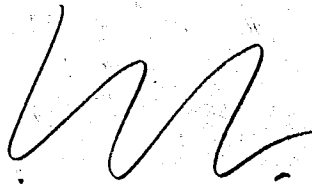
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Mann
FROM L. S. Lesser

April 15, 1944

I would appreciate it if you would find out from Mr. Warren as early as possible on Monday the numbers assigned to the April 10 cables sent to the Latin American countries, Spain and Switzerland. I would also appreciate knowing the numbers and exact date of transmission of the earlier cables to the Latin American countries incorporating Sir Herbert Emerson's report and recommendations. Finally, I should like to know if the earlier cable went to each of the following countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela and whether the April 10 cable went to each of such countries. If any of such countries were omitted, I should like to know promptly.



Reu cable 2469

of April 14 (Agendas)

states that documents were issued by

Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay,

Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Uruguay.

now - available from Salvador

R.G.

from [unclear] file

000055

April 15, 1944

Mr. Mann

L. S. Lesser

I would appreciate it if you would find out from Mr. Warren as early as possible on Monday the numbers assigned to the April 10 cables sent to the Latin American countries, Spain and Switzerland. I would also appreciate knowing the numbers and exact date of transmission of the earlier cables to the Latin American countries incorporating Sir Herbert Emerson's report and recommendations. Finally, I should like to know if the earlier cable went to each of the following countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela and whether the April 10 cable went to each of such countries. If any of such countries were omitted, I should like to know promptly.

did not have record

LSLesser:als 4/15/44

000056

file

LONDON

Received several cables indicating immediate deportation threatening internees Vittel camps STOP Understand Schwarzbart informed you details STOP We trying ascertain exact position through various channels and contact Red Cross and Intergovernmental STOP Suggest you approach State Department special intervention South American Republics insisting through protecting powers safeguard their nationals in camps.

Easterman

The above telegram was dictated over the telephone on April 13, 1944 to Mrs. Sheppe by Miss Cohen, Dr. Goldman's secretary.

Dr. Goldman's secretary
file

000057

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 11, 1944

TO Mr. Mann
FROM Mr. Akzin

The attached draft of a memorandum has been prepared by me in accordance with your request of April 10.

Enclosed: Mr. Pehle's note to Mr. Stettinius of March 25, and yellow copy of State's cable to Bern 1151, of April 5 (from your files).

Enclosures

B.A.

000050

DRAFT

TO: Mr. Stettinius
FROM: J. W. Pehle

The attention of the Department is drawn most respectfully to the following:

1. A draft of a cable to Minister Harrison was submitted by the War Refugee Board to the Department on March 25, regarding the fate of refugees interned by Germans and claiming American citizenship. Attached to the draft was a note by the undersigned stating that "It is not unlikely that the Germans will make inquiry of the Swiss concerning the status of the persons in question. I feel very strongly that the Swiss should be instructed, whenever such inquiry is made, to reply in such a way as not to put the lives of these persons in jeopardy".

Consequently, our draft proposed that Minister Harrison be instructed to advise the Swiss government to answer any German inquiries as follows:

"Upon the receipt from the Swiss government of all pertinent information available to the Germans relating to any claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within territory under enemy control, the Government of the United States will undertake fully to investigate the matter. While any particular claim to United States citizenship is under investigation by the Government of the

000059

United States and until the Swiss government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Government of the United States, the claimant must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled."

2. No action was taken in this matter by the Department until April 5. On that date, without further consultation with the Board, the Department sent, instead of our draft, cable 1151. This cable entirely ignored the matter of jeopardy to the lives of the persons concerned, but addressed itself exclusively to the issue of financial assistance. The substance of the cable was to instruct the Minister "in the future, when it is considered by the Legation that the proof of citizenship is not sufficient to establish the eligibility of such persons to be granted assistance of a financial nature as outlined in the Department's no. 1202, instead of disapproving the application the Legation should merely advise the Government of Switzerland that the application has been referred to the Department and that financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended until the application has received further consideration from the Department and until the Legation has been advised of the decision reached by the Department."

3. Since the instruction given in the above cable provided that in the matter of financial assistance to these persons, the only issue with which the Department saw fit to deal in the cable,

000060

these persons should not be treated as American citizens pending further investigation, it is difficult to perceive to what extent the cable could serve what we understand was to have been its principal purpose, namely to safeguard the lives of the persons concerned.

4. In the meantime, Minister Harrison cabled on April 7 the receipt of a report that 4 American citizens, as well as 234 South Americans of the category in question were evacuated from the interment camp at Vittel on March 31 to some prison the location of which is unknown.

5. The reluctance of the Department of State to take action on the lines suggested by the Board on March 25, besides possibly being responsible for the jeopardy of life of people who may, after all, prove to be American citizens, is especially embarrassing since the Department has already asked several Latin American governments to take affirmative protective action with regard to persons in German-controlled territory claiming to be the nationals of those countries.

It is difficult to see how our request to our neighboring republics can be reconciled with the evasive and near-negative stand taken by the Department with reference to persons in enemy hands claiming American citizenship.

6. In the light of the above considerations it is respectfully submitted that the Department may wish to reconsider the matter of sending a cable to Minister Harrison requesting Swiss protection, pending investigation, for all persons in enemy hands

000061

claiming American citizenship. It is submitted that the Department may wish to word this instruction in such a way and to send ^{it} with sufficient despatch to safeguard the lives of the four persons referred to in Minister Harrison's message of April 7 as well as of all other persons of this category.

000062

Copy for Mr. Mann

March 25, 1944

10:40 a.m.

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. W. Pehle

We have received information that there are small groups of persons, mostly refugees from Poland, interned at Vittel, France and Bergen - Belsen, Germany, because they claim to be United States citizens. Concededly, a number of these claims are rather tenuous, some being based on such things as the issuance of "first papers" while the refugee was in the United States, and others on the naturalization of a parent at a time when the refugee was an adult. On the other hand, some of these claims may be valid, particularly where the refugee claims derivative citizenship, or claims to be the foreign born child of a citizen. If these claims to citizenship are not recognized by the Germans, transportation to Poland and death will be the consequence.

We are further advised that it is not unlikely that the Germans will make inquiry of the Swiss concerning the status of the persons in question. I feel very strongly that the Swiss should be instructed, whenever such inquiry is made, to reply in such a way as not to put the lives of these persons in jeopardy. To that end, I recommend that the attached cable be sent to Minister Harrison at Bern with all possible haste.

[Signed J. W. Pehle

J.C.L.
LSL:ess:als 3/24/44

000063

PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

The War Refugee Board is informed that there are small groups of refugees from Poland interned at Vittel, France and Bergen - Belsen, Germany, who claim American citizenship. The War Refugee Board is further advised that the Germans may make inquiry of the Swiss government as to the validity of such claims. You are instructed to advise appropriate officials of the Swiss government at the proper time that all such inquiries are to be answered in substance as follows:

QUOTE Upon the receipt from the Swiss government of all pertinent information available to the Germans relating to any claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within territory under enemy control, the Government of the United States will undertake fully to investigate the matter. While any particular claim to United States citizenship is under investigation by the Government of the United States and until the Swiss government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Government of the United States, the claimant must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled. UNQUOTE

L.G.L.

12/24/44

000064

PARAPHRASE OF
TELEGRAM SENT

April 5, 1944

Midnight

TO: American Legation, BERN

NO. 1151

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - AMERICAN INTERESTS.

It is the understanding of the Department that there are a large number of persons being held as citizens of the United States in internment camps in Germany and German-dominated territories who find it difficult to readily establish their claim of American citizenship. In the future, when it is considered by the Legation that the proof of citizenship is not sufficient to establish the eligibility of such persons to be granted assistance of a financial nature as outlined in the Department's no. 1202, instead of disapproving the application the Legation should merely advise the Government of Switzerland that the application has been referred to the Department and that financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended until the application has received further consideration from the Department and until the Legation has been advised of the decision reached by the Department.

HULL

3/22/44

000065

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 7, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser
FROM Mr. Akzin

1. Attached please find a draft of a cable to those Latin American countries to which this morning's cable has gone out. This cable contains the substance of our cable to Paraguay, with suitable changes.

2. According to Rabbi Frankl, passports and documents have been issued to Polish Jews not only in the names of Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela, but also in the names of Chile, Honduras and Peru, with whom, it seems, we did not previously communicate on the subject.

I suggest, therefore, that cables be sent to our Missions in the latter three countries, combining the cable of April 7 and the substance of the attached draft.

B. Akzin
No attached to
(from Lesser's files)

000066

April 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM

This matter was first raised by our Embassy at London (No. 12322 from London, December 18, 1943) but there have been other sources of information (see No. 8114 to London, December 23, 1943; No. 319 to Istanbul, December 29, 1943) including the Polish Embassy at Washington (Memorandum of the Polish Embassy, December 24, 1943) and the Polish Legation at Lima (No. 8655 from Lima, December 29, 1943). The matter was referred, through London, to the Intergovernmental Committee for investigation with the Swiss Government (Nos. 8114, 8170, and 281 to London, December 23 and 28, 1943, and January 11, 1944, respectively).

On January 11, 1944, the Department of State informed the Polish Embassy by memorandum that it had been advised by the Government of Paraguay that Paraguay had not cancelled and did not intend to cancel the passports it had issued to Polish Jews, and further, that the Department had referred the matter to the Intergovernmental Committee with the request that it endeavor to stay the deportation of persons involved. This memorandum concluded with the statement that the Department of State proposed to take any further steps which it could. On January 27, 1944, the Agudath Israel Youth Council addressed a petition on the matter to Assistant Secretary of State Long.

No word having been heard from the Intergovernmental Committee by February 21, 1944, the War Refugee Board on that date delivered a cable to the State Department for transmission to Minister Harrison at Bern on this subject. Late in the afternoon of March 14, 1944, the War Refugee Board received from the State Department No. 1703, second, from London, dated March 2, 1944 containing the report and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee. After it was ascertained that the War Refugee Board's cable of February 21 had not been transmitted by the State Department, the War Refugee Board prepared, in the light of the Intergovernmental Committee's report and recommendation, a substitute cable which was delivered to the State Department on March 16, 1944 for transmission to Minister Harrison at Bern. It is this second or substitute cable which is presently in dispute.

LS:Serials 4/7/44

0000067

April 5, 1944

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Akzin

Re: Latin-American Passport Holders

1. The following possibilities exist with reference to Jews in German-controlled territory who claim Latin-American nationality, now reported to be assembled in the camps of Vittel, Liebenau, Compiègne, Tittmoning, Belsen-Bergen and Bergau:

(a) refusal by German authorities to take cognizance of their claims to Latin-American nationality, and consequent loss by these Jews of their special position;

(b) continued internment based on the presumption of their Latin-American nationality;

(c) permission to leave German-controlled territory, either unilaterally or on a basis of exchange.

In the present note, only (c) is being considered.

2. Historically, precedents exist for permission being granted to civilian internees of enemy nationality to depart either unilaterally or on an exchange basis. Departure was not always tantamount to repatriation; thus, German citizens who were allowed to leave the United States in 1917 went mostly to Mexico. In the case of invalid and over-age prisoners of war, between whom and civilian internees there exist certain analogies, exchange during World War I as between Germany and France and as between Germany and Great Britain, consisted in internment in Switzerland.

3. In the case of Jews claiming neutral nationality, Germans have permitted unilateral departure even though the basis of this claim was not much stronger than in the present case. This was the case, notably, of Jews claiming Turkish or Spanish nationality. Unilateral departure was also permitted in many cases of Jewish subjects of Germany and of German-occupied territory, if they were in possession.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000068

of foreign visas or Palestine immigration certificates.

Therefore, despite the special circumstances of the present case, one should not entirely rule out the possibility of unilateral departure.

On the other hand, there is ground to believe that, as far as Jewish claimants of Latin-American nationality are concerned, Germans might prove more receptive to exchange than to requests to permit unilateral departure.

4. However, even a preliminary enquiry made of Germany on behalf of the Latin-American countries in question, concerning the chances of unilateral departure, may be of value since it would strengthen, in German eyes, the presumption that the persons involved really possess the nationalities claimed by them. As a matter of fact, any enquiry at all made of Germany on behalf of the Latin-American countries in the interest of these persons, whether bearing on exchange, unilateral departure, treatment in camps, or merely requesting a list of names and addresses, is bound to strengthen this presumption and to gain valuable time.

5. As far as exchange is concerned, the problem is made easier by the small number of these Jews, reported to be in the neighborhood of two thousand, as against the many German citizens estimated to be in Latin America. Such German citizens are said to be present in Latin American countries in approximately the following numbers:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Argentina | 59,400 | Guatemala | 3,500 |
| Bolivia | 1,500 | Haiti | 350 |
| Brazil | 150,000 | Honduras | 440 |
| Chile | 20,000 | Mexico | 6,500 |
| Colombia | 3,000 | Nicaragua | 150 |
| Costa Rica | 1,000 | Panama | 175 |
| Cuba | 3,000 | Paraguay | 10,000 |
| Dominican Republic | 400 | Peru | 2,100 |
| Ecuador | 2,190 | Uruguay | 6,000 |
| El Salvador | 365 | Venezuela | 3,000 |

These figures often include Jewish and other refugees from Germany who have not yet acquired another nationality and who, though deprived of their citizenship status by Germany, are listed by Latin-American authorities as German nationals. But even when this category is discounted, enough German nationals remain in most Latin-American countries to furnish plentiful prima facie exchange material.

000069

6. A further important consideration relates to the fact that a considerable number of German nationals from some Latin American republics (the number could not be readily ascertained) has been brought to the United States for internment in this country by arrangement among the American republics. Therefore, a number of German nationals who could be considered as exchange material are under the physical control of this government.

7. The attitude of Latin-American governments to any proposed exchange scheme may be influenced by two cardinal factors:

(a) their desire to be freed from a number of German residents or, on the contrary, their desire to keep them on their territory;

(b) their desire to avoid the influx of the Jewish beneficiaries of the exchange.

On the part of the German government, the principal consideration would presumably be the extent to which they desire to keep their citizens in Latin-America as against their interest in having them brought home.

8. Latin-American reluctance to have an influx of Jews could be satisfied without much difficulty. It is submitted that the desire of this government to get the cooperation of Latin-American countries in offering refuge to Jews in danger of death should not be permitted to stand in the way of the present action. Any hint on our part that the Jewish claimants in question are expected to be admitted to the respective Latin-American countries, even on a temporary or tentative basis, can only result in further delaying the necessary cooperation of these governments in approaching German authorities in the interests of the Jewish claimants.

It should, therefore, be made clear to all Latin-American countries in question that none of the individuals involved will be expected to be physically admitted to their territories, and that this assurance holds good for purposes of exchange as well as in case of unilateral departure.

As far as distribution of the Jewish claimants is concerned, it is understood that approximately 150 of them have the assurance of Palestine immigration certificates. The others (and the 150, too, should the above information prove erroneous) could be interned in special camps located in places such as North or West Africa, Palestine,

000070

Cyprus, the Virgin Islands, or in neutral territory. Examination of papers and decisions regarding ultimate destinations of these persons could thus be proceeded at leisure without the need for them actually to set foot on the soil of that Latin-American country of which they claim to be nationals.

9. In this connection, it is not necessary to delay negotiations until arrangements for such internment camps or other places of refuge are actually made. What matters to the Latin-American republics is the negative assurance that the persons in question will not reach their borders. On this basis, if sufficient insistence is shown on our part, it should be possible to get the consent of the Latin-American republics to negotiations with the Germans. Positive arrangements could be made while these negotiations are in progress.

10. It would seem that to some extent negotiations regarding the repatriation of civilians with enemy countries in the present war have been conducted by the United States on behalf of all American republics involved. Inquiry in the Department of State ought to clarify this point. If this is so, this government might be able to take certain preliminary steps toward exchange or unilateral departure of the Jewish claimants without having to ask each Latin-American government separately to approach its protecting Power for this purpose. It is obvious that much time would be gained hereby.

11. Exchange negotiations, except in clear-cut cases such as involving diplomatic and consular personnel, are often protracted and complicated, because of the difference in views between the negotiating governments. The usual differences concern issues such as man-for-man exchange v. all-for-all exchange, and the choice of categories of civilians chosen for exchange.

In the present case, more particularly, it is quite likely that those Germans whom the German government would like to get are the very last whom the United States and the Latin-Americans would like to release. German citizens economically active in Latin America, whom Latin Americans might conceivably want to repatriate to Germany are presumably desired by German authorities to stay in Latin America, whereas active German propagandists and agents whom Germany might want to see repatriated, would probably not be permitted by us and the Latin American governments to go.

For these reasons, negotiations for exchange are by no means likely to result speedily in actual exchange. The value of these negotiations would lie mainly in furnishing the Germans with an inducement to treat these Jews more or less decently.

000071

12. In the case of Nicaragua, Art. 11 and 12 of a treaty of Feb. 4, 1896 (Martens, N.R.G., 2nd Series, vol. 23 p. 232), confirmed by exchange of notes of Jan. 11 - March 6, 1924 (*ibid.*, 3rd series, vol. 22 p. 200) guarantee to nationals of the contracting parties equal treatment and facilities for departure in case of war. Similar provisions are found in Art. 11 and 12 of the treaties between Germany and Costa Rica of May 18, 1875 (*ibid.*, 2nd series, vol. 2 p. 249) and between Germany and Guatemala, of Sept. 20, 1877 (*ibid.*, 2nd series, vol. 15 p. 512), though it is not clear whether these treaties have been renewed after 1918.

The point might also be raised with respect to persons claiming the nationality of Honduras, Panama, Haiti, and El Salvador, under the most-favored-nation clauses in the treaties of these countries with Germany (Honduras: Treaty of March 4, 1926, Martens, N.R.G., 3rd series, vol. 26 p. 560; Panama: Treaty of Nov. 21, 1927, League of Nations Treaty Series vol. 115 p. 239; Haiti: Treaty of March 10, 1930, *ibid.*, vol. 119 p. 231; El Salvador: Treaty of April 14, 1908, Martens, N.R.G., 3rd series, vol. 3 p. 259), though these treaties do not expressly provide for war-time relations.

13. Under these treaties, the governments named, acting through their protecting Power, may approach Germany with a request to permit the departure of the persons claiming nationality in these countries, threatening deterioration of treatment of resident German citizens in case of refusal.

14. A similar approach to Germany, in asking for exchange, unilateral departure or at least continued treatment as civilian internees could be made by Latin American governments on behalf of the respective claimants even without treaty-basis. Reciprocity in treatment is a well-known practice, and Germans in all Latin-American countries, even if partly supervised or interned, still enjoy a great deal of freedom with respect to personal liberty, property, and economic activities. These economic positions are highly regarded in Germany, and a threat to restrict them further would probably outweigh in German eyes the matter of the treatment given to 2000 Jews.

15. It appears from the foregoing that it would be unwise to commit ourselves to one particular solution in preference to others, since one cannot judge in advance which of them is more likely to succeed. The important thing is to embark upon a procedure which would leave the door open to various solutions and which would result in the immediate stay in all further deterioration of the status of the Jewish claimants. The attached cables are proposed as first steps in this procedure, to be taken simultaneously and without delay.

Attachments.

Miss Chauncey (Sec'y), Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files - Room 194, Cable Control Files - 387

000072

RMH

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

TELEGRAM SENT

April 5, 1944

Midnight

*War Refugee
Board (RMH)*

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1:53X

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON.

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch,
Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from the Agudas Israel
World Organization:

NOTE Please provide complete list of South-American
and Central-American consulates in Switzerland which issued
passports or citizenship documents for threatened Jews to
forestall eventual difficulties. Jacob Rosenheim UNQUOTE.

HULL
(GLW)

TRD:GL:KG
4/3/44

TE

ARA

SWP

000073

March 31, 1944

To: Mr. Warren
From: Mr. Pehle

2:40 p.m.

It will be appreciated if you will have the attached cable dispatched to Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from Mr. Jacobb Rosenheim, President, Agudas Israel World Organization, and bill the Agudas Israel World Organization, 226 West 97th Street, New York 25, New York, for the cost of the message and any answer thereto.

BAKzin:jp 3/31/44

(not initialed)

000074

CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch,
Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland, from the Agudas Israel World
Organization:

"Please provide complete list of South-American
and Central-American consulates in Switzerland which issued
passports or citizenship documents for threatened Jews to
forestall eventual difficulties." Jacob Rosenheim"

BAK:ln:jp 3/31/44

000075

ב"ה

הסתדרות העולמית, אגודת ישראל
Agudas Israel World Organization
THE UNION OF UNIVERSALLY ORGANIZED ORTHODOX JEWRY
(WORLD-AGUDAH OF ORTHODOX JEWS INC.)

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE: LONDON - BRANCH OFFICES: JERUSALEM AND NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
226 WEST 97TH STREET
NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

March 30th, 1944

Prof. Benjamin Akzin
War Refugee Board
U.S. Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Professor Akzin:

Referring to your conversation with our collaborator
Mr. S. Frankol, I beg to propose to send the following
cable to our representative in Switzerland, Mr. I.
Sternbuch:

"ISAAC STERNBUCH
POSTFACH 168
ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND

PLEASE PROVIDE COMPLETE LIST OF SOUTH-AMERICAN
AND CENTRAL-AMERICAN CONSULATES IN SWITZERLAND
WHICH ISSUED PASSPORTS OR CITIZENSHIP-DOCUMENTS
FOR THREATENED JEWS TO FORESTALL EVENTUAL DIFFICUL-
TIES.

JACOB ROSENHEIM"

I take the opportunity to send you enclosed a copy of our
last statement to the War Refugee Board concerning exchange,
which we submitted last week.

I hope that you will have the opportunity of really success-
ful work in favor of European Jewry and remain with kind
regards,

Yours faithfully,

JACOB ROSENHEIM
President

000076

AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION
226 West 97th Street
New York 25, N.Y.

March 23rd, 1944

Mr. John Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
U.S. Treasury Building
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

We are respectfully presenting for your consideration and action this brief memorandum pertaining to Jewish internees in French-German camps, who possess South American and Latin American passports:

I.

A number of Polish, Belgian and Dutch Jews possess documents from various South American states, which were issued to them by their respective Consuls. A part of the above mentioned have passports and some have only letters from the Consuls, stating that their governments have recognized them as citizens of their respective countries. Several hundreds of these people are interned in the following camps:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Vittel | |
| Liebenau | |
| Tittmoning | all in Germany |
| and Compiègne | in France. |

However, the major part are interned in Belsen-Bergen near Hanover

In November 1943, the German authorities at camps Vittel, Liebenau, Tittmoning and Compiègne, took away all the documents of the interned Jews, and until February 29th, 1944, they had not been returned to them. In December 1943, these internees were in grave danger of being deported to Poland, which would have meant instant death. However, through the efforts of the State Department which intervened with the Paraguay Government (which had issued most of these passports) and the other South American countries, the passports and documents in question were acknowledged as valid. It is evident, however, that the German camp authorities are aware of the nature of these passports and documents, and according to the remarks and actions of the various camp commanders, it seems that these people are saved merely for the purpose of future exchange-possibilities.

These internees are a part of the last remnants of Polish, Belgian and Dutch Jewry, and many of them are outstanding Rabbis, spiritual and cultural leaders.

It is very urgent to begin with the exchange of at least some of these internees so that the German government may become aware of the concern of the United Nations in behalf of the people who possess the South American documents. It is through this method alone, that the people in those various camps can actually be saved. They may otherwise be continually threatened with being suddenly deported to the death-camps of Poland.

A large number of these internees are in possession of immigration certificates to Palestine, and the South American countries may therefore be assured that these people will not become a burden to their countries, but will actually go to Palestine. Even pending protracted negotiations,

these negotiations would thus themselves mean a certain kind of protection against the danger of being deported. We are prepared to submit on request a list of approx. 150 names of internees in the camps mentioned, who could be taken in view for such an exchange.

II.

With reference to the internees in Belsen-Bergen, we are informed that it is impossible to establish any contact with them. Even the American and International Red Cross have not succeeded. Since the South-American countries, especially Paraguay, have recognized these internees as their citizens, it is urgent that the strongest pressure be exerted on the German authorities, to permit the Red Cross to contact this camp, so that the internees in Belsen-Bergen could be treated in the same manner as the South-American internees in all other camps.

III.

We have recently been informed from Switzerland, that an intervention on behalf of the War Refugee Board at the Government of HONDURAS would be highly desirable and very urgent, in order to obtain also from that Government the acknowledgement of citizenship documents, rightly or wrongly issued, to save threatened human life from certain annihilation.

Respectfully submitted

AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION

President

000072

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 5, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser
FROM Mr. Akzin

Re: Latin-American Passport Holders

1. The following possibilities exist with reference to Jews in German-controlled territory who claim Latin-American nationality, now reported to be assembled in the camps of Vittel, Liebenau, Compiègne, Tittmoning, Belsen-Bergen and Bergau:

(a) refusal by German authorities to take cognizance of their claims to Latin-American nationality, and consequent loss by these Jews of their special position;

(b) continued internment based on the presumption of their Latin-American nationality;

(c) permission to leave German-controlled territory, either unilaterally or on a basis of exchange.

In the present note, only (c) is being considered.

2. Historically, precedents exist for permission being granted to civilian internees of enemy nationality to depart either unilaterally or on an exchange basis. Departure was not always tantamount to repatriation; thus, German citizens who were allowed to leave the United States in 1917 went mostly to Mexico. In the case of invalid and over-age prisoners of war, between whom and civilian internees there exist certain analogies, exchange during World War I as between Germany and France and as between Germany and Great Britain, consisted in internment in Switzerland.

3. In the case of Jews claiming neutral nationality, Germans have permitted unilateral departure even though the basis of this claim was not much stronger than in the present case. This was the case, notably, of Jews claiming Turkish or Spanish nationality. Unilateral departure was also permitted in many cases of Jewish subjects of Germany and of German-occupied territory, if they were in possession

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-20 1972