Programs with Respect to Relief arid
Rescue of Refugees: Other Measures
Effecting Rescue

Recognition of Latin American Passports
Vol. 2 - File 1

This Page Contains This Folder
M = 24
N = 5
O = 3
P = 8
Q = 5
R = 60
Department's secret circular airgram of September 19, 1944, 9:15 a.m., concerning holders of Latin-American documents.

The Government of Honduras does not have a list of the holders of such documents because the former honorary consular officers who sold them to the interested persons or organizations neglected (quite naturally) to supply the names of the Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs. For the same reason, the Government of Honduras would be unable to check any list which might be submitted by the Swiss or other authorities.

A responsible official of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs told me this morning that as far as is known, only three Honduras remain in Germany or in German-Controlled territory; these are Antonio ALDWIN, Enrique LOZANO, and Violeta VICTORIA WALTHER. (The last was born in Honduras of a German father and a Honduran mother.)

ERWIN

704/711.5 90
JW:ab

Transmitted via courier pouch closing October 3, 1944 9 a.m.
Department's secret teletype message of August 6, 1944, 11:00 a.m.
entitled "Safeguarding of Lives of American Repatriate "Hostage" Holders".

Following is a free translation of note No. 833 dated August 10, 1941 from the Honduran Minister for Foreign Affairs:

"Very attentively and through the kindly cable of Your Excellency, I request the Government of the United States, if it is possible, to take charge of American interests in Germany, in the same form in which it has taken charge in Greece and in the countries occupied by Germany.

"I recall myself of this opportunity to again thank the Government of the United States for the way in which it is carrying out the representation of American interests in the countries referred to above.

"I refer to your excellency the assurance of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

It is believed that the terms of the above communication are sufficiently broad to cover the protective matters in which the Department is interested.

END

704/711.8 HC
SEP 72

Transmitted via courier pouch closing August 14, 1944, 5 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-41-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's instruction No. 1689 of July 5, 1944, concerning certain claimants to Honduran nationality, I have the honor to enclose a copy of Note No. 216 of August 8, 1944, from the Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Respectfully yours,

John D. Erwin

Enclosure:

Copy of Note as stated.

JBF:shew
711.5 50/704

Osalid to Department.
(TRANSLATION)

Sole enclosure to Despatch No. 2062, American Embassy, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
August 9, 1944.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa, D.C., August 8, 1944.

Or. No. 216

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's kind note No. 230, dated July 10 last, in which, with instructions from your enlightened Government, you were good enough to transmit the enclosures to a despatch from the American Minister at Bern, Switzerland, dated May 30, 1944. The enclosures consist of seven applications for documentation as Honduran citizens (by persons held) as civilian internees at Vittel, France, whose names are: Koenigil, Stefan; Nachenja, Marion; Kenigil and Sara, all having the family name of Scalinbaum.

Likewise Your Excellency is good enough to inform me that in a note dated May 25, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland asked to be informed whether the Government of Honduras recognizes the Honduran nationality of the seven
seven applicants and whether it authorizes the Swiss Legation in Berlin to issue them Honduran passports.

In reply, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that my Government recognizes the validity of the Honduran nationality of the Sajnbaus, civilian internees at Vittel, France, and request, through Your Excellency, that the Swiss Legation in Berlin be good enough to issue Honduran passports to the persons above named so that they may accredit their Honduran nationality.

I avail (etc.)

/S/ Silverio Lainez

* Spelled "Sajnbaus" in the original. - TO
Subject: Persons Claiming Honduran Nationality Held by the Germans.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's Instruction No. 1714 of July 24, 1944 concerning certaincitizens of Honduran nationality who are being held by the Germans, I have the honor to enclose copy of Note No. 197 of August 4, 1944 from the Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs. A free translation is also enclosed.

Respectfully yours,

John J. Erwin

Enclosures:
1. Copy of Note No. 197
2. Translation of No. 1

File: 711.5

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parker Date: SEP 24 1972

DECLASSIFIED
State
By R. H. Parker
Por el cerealismo de Vuestra Excelencia, el Gobierno de Honduras desea transmitir la siguiente comunicación al Gobierno de la Confederación Suiza:

"El Gobierno de Honduras ha sabido que los siguientes poseedores de pasaportes emitidos en su nombre han sido aquejados del campamento de concentración de civiles en Vittel, Francia, por las autoridades alemanas:

- SIEBENRO, Samuel
- SCHMID, Ister
- SCHMID, Bella
- SCHMID, Jeray
- SCHMID, Milla
- SCHERSTEN, Abraham
- SCHERSTEN, Ister
- SCHERSTEN, Jehok
- SCHERSTEN, Milla"

El Gobierno de Honduras protesta enérgicamente de este trato a las mencionadas personas y urgentemente solicita informes en cuanto a su paradero y bienestar actual. Además, solicita información en cuanto a los nombres, paradero y bienestar de toda otra persona que posea documentos en nombre del Gobierno de Honduras y quienes hayan sido asimismo sacados de, o detenidos en, otros lugares que no sean campamentos para concentración de civiles.

El Gobierno de Honduras espera el inmediato traslado de todas estas personas a campamentos para concentración de civiles en donde estarán fácilmente accesibles para su canje cuando las negociaciones lleguen a un grado de desenvolvimiento que puedan ser incluidos en

Excellentísimo Señor John D. Erwin,
Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos de América

EMBAJADA AMERICANA
en un canje, y donde, en espera de dicho canje, estarían bajo la supervisión de la potencia protectora y la Cruz Roja Internacional.

Además, el Gobierno de Honduras aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar su decisión de no permitir que la validez de ningún documento emitido en su nombre sea puesto en duda por Alemania, y que espera que el Gobierno alemán dé a los poseedores de tales documentos, el mismo tratamiento que espera el Gobierno alemán sea dado a sus nacionales en Honduras. Además, la mención de ciertos nombres no deberá tomarse como una limitación en manera alguna, de la protección dada por el Gobierno de Honduras a toda persona que tenga documentos emitidos en su nombre.

Al agradecer anticipadamente a Vuestra Excelencia la atención que me merece la presente, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterarle el testimonio de mi consideración más alta y distinguida,

(S) LUPANO LAINES

Copied by: me
Through the courtesy of the Swiss Confederation, the Government of Honduras desires to transmit the following communication to the Government of Switzerland:

The Government of Honduras strongly protests the treatment of nationals industriously,
SECRET

Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

April 21, 1944

Reference Department's secret Circular Airgram of May 11, 1944, 7:30 a.m. on previous communications on behalf of our refugees here.

The Government of Panama has ignored our protest and has nothing to do with the Spanish Linster, whose residence is at San Salvador. The representatives suggested in the Airgram under reference therefore do not appear to be practicable at this time. In these circumstances, I shall take no further action on this subject unless the Department directs.

S. R.

Transmitted via courier pouch closing June 5, 1944, 1:30 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1417-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20, 1972
The Department and the War Refugee Board are highly gratified over the results reported in your nos. 127, 128 and 129 of April 26. Please convey to the Honduran authorities this Government's deep appreciation of their attitude.

The cable costs for transmitting the message contained in Honduran note no. 1646 and other resulting communications will be assumed by this Government.

Referring to the second paragraph of your no. 127, it is believed that the ignoring of inquiry of the Spanish Government regarding the validity of passports might lead to Spain giving Germany misleading information concerning the Honduran attitude. Therefore, please suggest to the Foreign Minister that in case of inquiries by Spain (or if you deem it advisable, even without awaiting such inquiries) the Spanish Minister be informed of the substance of Honduran notes 1646 and 1647.
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR FAUST, TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

Department and War Refugee Board highly gratified results reported in your 127, 128 and 129 of April 26. Please convey Honduran authorities this Government's deep appreciation of their attitude.

Cable costs for transmitting message contained in Honduran note No. 1646 and other resulting communications will be assumed by this Government.

Referring to second paragraph of your 127, it is believed that ignoring inquiries of Spanish government regarding the validity of passports might lead to Spain giving Germany misleading information concerning Honduran attitude. Therefore, please suggest to Foreign Minister that in case of inquiries by Spain (or if you deem it advisable, even without awaiting such inquiries) Spanish Minister be informed of the substance of Honduran notes 1646 and 1647.

************
May 6, 1944
2150 P.M.

Baksaixp 5/5/44

Sig, J.S.R.

000386
SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

A-211, June 9, 11:00 a.m.

Ref: Department's secret circular airgram of May 11, 1944.

I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer you to previous communications on behalf of war refugees.

The Government of Honduras has ignored and had nothing to do with the Spanish minister, whose residence is at San Salvador. The representations suggested in the airgram under reference therefore do not appear to be practicable at this time. In these circumstances, I shall take no further action on this subject unless the Department directs.

R. S.

711 SC

Transmitted via courier pouch closing June 9, 1944, 1:00 p.m.
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency. (BR)

Secretary of State,
Washington.

133, May 2, 5 p.m.

It is assumed that my despatch No. 1002 of April 26 entirely covers the matters discussed in the Department's circular airgram of April 22, 7:30 p.m., received this afternoon.

Does the Department desire any further action here?

Faust

W.S.
JT
This morning the matters contained in the Department's A-77 of April 20, received last evening, were discussed by me with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Complete success on all points. I was given by the Minister two signed notes relating respectively to exchange negotiations and to the material at top of page three of the air ram which is under reference. Later today we will cable translations.

Inquiries from the Spanish Minister concerning validity of the passports have not been received by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and such inquiries as may be received later will be ignored by him.

FAUST
Given below is the substance of note No. 1647 signed by Silverio Laines which the Minister of Foreign Affairs handed to me this morning (see my cable No. 127).

The idea that an exchange of German nationals for persons in Europe who are nationals of Honduras or who have documents as such be arranged with Germany through appropriate means by the United States is approved by the Government of Honduras. Legitimate citizens of Honduras, which is to say those born in the Republic of Honduras, will have priority over all others in these negotiations. You should note that the Honduran Government assumes no obligation to admit persons who are not legitimate Hondurans into its territory, even temporarily. Please accept, etc.

There follows another cable.

FAUST
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Tegucigalpa
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: April 26, 1944
NUMBER: 129

You are requested to refer to my cables of today's date Nos. 127 and 128.

Given below is the substance of note No. 1646 signed by Silverio Lainez which the Foreign Minister handed me this morning:

The illustrious Government of the United States is requested by the Honduran Government to transmit to the Swiss Government the following message:

The Swiss Government, in representation of Honduran interests before the German Government, is requested by the Government of Honduras to advise the Government of Germany that those persons possessing Honduran passports, or who accredit Honduran citizenship on the basis of commercial documents, be safeguarded and that all the immunities, privileges, and rights accorded to civilians interned of any nation in accordance with what is established in the Geneva Convention concerning treatment of prisoners of war or which has application by analogy be accorded to those persons.

I take this opportunity, etc.

It is assumed that the Government of the United States will pay

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
will pay all cable costs since the Minister wrote this
note at my suggestion, made in accordance with the Depart-
ment's Airgram of April 20, 1944, No. A-77.

FAUST
CONTROL COPY
A-77
2:30 PM

AMBASSADOR,

HONDURAS.

FOR THE PERSONAL AND ATTENTION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

Refer our previous communications regarding War Refugee Board, airgram March 71. Reference is made to Department's 219ST5711 at 1:06 p.m.

Minister Harrison at Bem has informed us that the Swiss
Foreign Interests Division has advised him informally that the
Spanish government had been requested by the Germans to inquire
into the bona fides of certain Latin American passports, held by
internes in enemy-controlled territory and that the Latin American
governments have denied responsibility as well as any claim of the
persons holding such passports. Please approach appropriate offic-
ials of the government to whom you are accredited and inquire
whether it has received any such inquiries through the government
of Spain or otherwise from the Germans with respect to the validity
of passports held by such internees and if such inquiry has been
made, please ascertain the nature of the response, if any.

In view of the perilous situation in which these internees
find themselves, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the
only way of safeguarding the lives of these unfortunate victims of
Nazi persecution is forthwith to initiate through proper channels
negotiations

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
negotiations for an exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places elsewhere.

Proceeding on this basis, please approach the government to which you are accredited with the request that it give its approval to the government of the United States approaching the German government through appropriate channels with a view to initiating such negotiations. Please also advise appropriate officials of the Mexican government that similar requests are being made of other Latin American countries, it being the hope of this Government that it will be put in a position to initiate exchange discussions on a hemispheric basis. Please also advise such officials that in any exchange negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that unquestioned citizens of the United States and of the Latin American countries will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on
on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German
government through the protecting power with a demand that the
lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claim-
ing its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safe-
guarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities
 accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to whom the
Genoa Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is
currently applied by analogy.

In view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned
find themselves, you are requested to act with the greatest possible
diligence.

Finally, we communicate to you, for communication to the govern-
ment to which you are accredited, the substance of a cable which the
Department has sent to our Minister at Bern as follows: "NOTE.
Although the notices of the Germans in accordance better treatment to
Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued
in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would
appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered
exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2)
some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American
countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic
activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The
The measure reported in your 1980 of March 30 may be an
indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews
are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would
affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government
regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively
dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Govern-
ment in informing the Germans that this Government is undertaking
discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of
Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons in German-controlled
territory and that in this connection, the United States considers
that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other
documents issued in the names of Latin American countries will be
eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authori-
ties to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government
expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges
and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded
to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a consider-
able number of German civilians interned by various Latin American
countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the
United States and are presently in such custody within continental
United
For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to our missions in the Latin American countries concerned. We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information informally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 1004 of March 31 U.S.J.C.C.

Special INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR.

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airgram, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such report as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

Hull

[Handwritten note: 6/19/44]
For Mr. John Taylor, Rome, Italy

With reference to Bern's 6938 of October 19 repeated to Amplead for Ackermann, the following letter has been addressed to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington by WEB:

QUOTE The following is the substance of a message received by the Board from its representative in Bern under date of October 19:

INNER QUOTE A courier who recently arrived in Switzerland from Bratislava reports that 300 to 400 Jews holding Latin American documents have been arrested in that city. He further reports that, although they were first interned at Marisathal near Bratislava, they were summarily transported, possibly to Germany, on or about October 8. The Slovak Government, according to the courier, is aware of their destination. Of this group, 90 hold nationality certificates of El Salvador while Paraguayan passports are held by the others. END OF INNER QUOTE

You will note that the report above quoted speaks as of a date subsequent to the report referred to in your letter of October 14.

It would be of invaluable assistance to the Board if it could ascertain where the Germans intend to locate this group. For this reason, the Board would greatly appreciate it if the Holy See were to find it appropriate to attempt to secure through the Nunciature at Bratislava, or otherwise, such and any other information which may be available regarding the group mentioned or any similar groups. It would greatly facilitate the Board's efforts if the Holy See would make such information, when received, directly available to the American Missions in Bern and Madrid.

The Board would appreciate any assistance you can lend in this matter.
CABLE TO AMPOLAID FOR MYRON TAYLOR, JERUSALEM, ITALY

With reference to Bern's 6938 of October 19 repeated to Ampolaid for Ackermann, the following letter has been addressed to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington by RFD:

QUOTE The following is the substance of a message received by the Board from its representative in Bern under date of October 19:

INNER QUOTE A courier who recently arrived in Switzerland from Bratislava reports that 300 to 400 Jews holding Latin American documents have been arrested in that city. He further reports that, although they were first interned at Mariahilf near Bratislava, they were summarily transported, possibly to Germany, on or about October 8. The Slovak Government, according to the courier, is aware of their destination. Of this group, 90 hold nationality certificates of El Salvador while Paraguayan passports are held by the others. END OF INNER QUOTE

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The Board would appreciate any assistance you can lend in this matter.

2:00 p.m.
October 23, 1944

Miss Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mann, Schirmacher, Files
Bérzin/Lesserier 10-23-44
FROM: American Consulate General, Naples
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 28, 1944
NUMBER: 296

We repeat below Tittman's message of June 27, Number 216, which was drafted May 3.

Reference is made to Department's Note to Bern dated May 6, Number 1000.

The British have been contacted directly through the Minister here by the Vatican in accordance with your wishes.

END

DECASSIFIED Dpt. Letter, 1-11-72
By H.H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Consulate General, Naples
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: June 28, 1944
NUMER: 294

The following message, which was drafted May 31, is Tittman's no. 213, of June 27.

(1) In compliance with your request the communication was transmitted. The Holy See does not desire to be identified as actually collaborating with any Government; therefore, it prefers taking independent, although parallel action.

(2) Since last December the Holy See, as a result of intimation by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington, has been occupied with the fate of the referred to internes. The passport recognition question was first taken up with Paraguay and similar approaches were then made to the other Governments of South America. Continual efforts have at the same time been made by the Holy See through Nunciatures in Madrid and Bern to prevent the transfer elsewhere of these internes. Finally, the Holy See has arrived at the conclusion that through an exchange lies the only solution of this particular problem.

(3) By instructions

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1977
(3) By instructions sent from here, dated January 11, March 11 and April 28 of this year, the Apostolic Delegation in Washington were kept informed of the status of this matter. The Delegation should have the information on file as the replies received from the various Nunciatures regarding the question were communicated in detail to them.

(4) The steps taken by the Holy See for the alleviation of non-Aryans in Hungary, Rumania and Slovakia were also conveyed to the delegation in Washington.

Reference Department's cable to Bern, no. 1502, April 28.

BRANDT

FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND EMD.

There is quoted below a letter dated March 20, 1945, from Rabbi Dr. S. Schonfeld, Executive Director of the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council, requesting that the United States Government ask Spain to the Protocols of the Paraguayan interests to refund Germany of the Paraguayan status of the persons (especially Rabbi Samuel David Unger) holding Paraguayan passports:

"As promised over the telephone, I enclose a copy of the Foreign Office letter concerning Jewish refugees in enemy territories who hold Paraguayan passports.

"As you see, these papers are subject to the approval of the U.S. Embassy and we should be grateful if you would arrange for the American representatives to ask the Protocols of the Paraguayan status of the departments of the Paraguayan Government to refund Germany of the people listed on the attached.

The text of the enclosure (copy of a letter dated March 2, 1945, from the Foreign Office to Dr. Schonfeld) thereto:

"In your letter FCO/DPH of the 27th November, you told me that Rabbi Samuel David Unger was the holder of a Paraguayan passport issued in Bombay in 1942 and asked us to take up the question with the Swiss Government. So duly did so and asked them to notify the German Government..."
of the fact. We have now had a reply to say that as the result of an agreement between the Spanish Government - the protesting Power for Paraguay - and the Paraguayan Government, the United States Government alone are qualified to judge of the validity of Paraguayan identity documents whose holders are in enemy territory. On this account the United Government request that they are unable to communicate with the German Government regarding Rabbi Unger until the validity of his passport has been confirmed by the United States Location.

"Our Location at Bern are taking up informally with the United States Location the specific question of Rabbi Unger and will no doubt let us know in due course what can be done.

"Meanwhile I think I should bring this decision to your notice, since it seems to affect the whole procedure for bringing to the German Government's notice the names of holders of Paraguayan passports. Since it is the decision of the Paraguayan and Spanish Governments that only the United States Government can determine the validity of Paraguayan passports, I can only suggest that you should in future cases of this sort address yourself direct to the United States Embassy here.

"For this reason we have, as you will understand, been unable to take any action on your letter to Henderson, NSG/5/K of the 30th January, in which you enclosed a list of holders of Paraguayan passports still in German occupied territory. Incidentally Rabbi Unger figures in that list as well and I think you might perhaps do well to ask the United States Government through their Embassy here if they will communicate it to the Swiss and the Spanish Governments."
The list of persons holding Paraguayan passports is:

The following persons, originally from HITA, SLOVAKIA, and all living at CEP SRED, SLOVAKIA, OR JANKOV:

Salomon TISHMAN
wife and three children.

Rabbi Yaacov SKHILL and family.

Rabbi Alexander KALISH.

Rabbi Ben Zion UNAR and family.

Rabbi Samuel David UNAR, wife Maloma, children: Johanna, Hilde, Agon, Ezra, Esther, Hilde.

Jerholt DORNBAK
Alexander DORNBAK

Adolfo BICHARD and children.

Allen UNAR and children.

Jack and Judith KALISH.

Hermann UNAR, wife Barbara.


Salomon UNAR, wife Michael, child: Abraham.

Gisel WHISKEREL, children: Ernest, Rachel, Margot.

Gerson GHIN, wife Esther, children: Kirjan, Josef.

Noam FERN, wife Margit.
Richard Looch, wife: Elaine

Frank BILBI

Sara MILLER, 4 children

Josef Sperl, wife: Hedwig, son: Bernard

Josef ROHNSCHILD, wife: Rosa

Janas Sonenson LUXE, wife: Kotta

Rachel Roses

Les WOEL

Julia NICKLACK

Karolina GADEN, child: Elia

Saul KESTER

David VERNER, wife: Clara

Melita LUDWIG, children: Richa, Ruth

Emanuel LUDWIG, wife: Bertha

Hugo LUDWIG, wife: Ruth

Dorothea LUDWIG, children: Ilona, Otto

Theo/
The Embassy has orally informed Dr. Schonfeld that the American authorities have from time to time made representations on behalf of persons holding Hox passports. It is believed that the State and other authorities may have confused the question of intervention and protection of persons who are in Germany and who hold Hox passports and the question of the exchange of such persons and their ultimate destination.

The Department's instructions are requested.

V.B.407
The Chief Rabbi Religious Emergency Council has received from Stockholm a cable stating Ecuadorian passports are invalid, and asking the Ecuadorian President to authorize the Ecuadorian Consul in Stockholm to renew the validity of these passports and instruct the Ecuadorian Government to protect the holders of such passports. Inter-governmental inquiry was made of the Ecuadorian Minister here who stated that steps have been taken to prevent use in France of such passports legally invalid. Minister is going there soon to discuss this matter with the French Government, and he says no steps have been taken to invalidate passports held by people in enemy or occupied territory, but all passports valid only for one year unless prolonged. IGC has asked the Minister to ask his Government to prolong all Ecuadorian passports held by Jews in German or German-occupied territories.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1111-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
-2- Rush, 10936, December 9, 6 p.m., from London

German occupied territory. Board and Department may want to consider taking up matter with Ecuadorean Government and requesting that all passports though irregularly issued be prolonged and not invalidated not even in liberated areas since this if known to Germans might prejudice any protection now accorded to holders by Germans.

VINCENT

TSB
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

Dated November 4, 1944
Rec'd 9:26 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

7355, November 4, 10 p.m.

Permission for entry into Switzerland for 155 Sephardic Jews mentioned last paragraph your 3702 was obtained from Swiss Federal Police some weeks ago by Saly Mayer.

(Department's 3702, October 30.) Problem is how to get them out of Bergen Belsen. Swiss would welcome formal request from Spanish Government concerning this group as this might permit Swiss to specifically raise question of their departure with Germans.

HARRISON

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perle Date, SEP 20 1972
This telegram must be processed before being communicated to anyone other than a Government official.

Cable from London 3505, November 4, 10 p.m.,

signed document for WRS should read from 5pm.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

November 5, 1941

CONTROL COPY

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

DECLASSED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-43

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
Will you try to secure at once from SHAEF a complete lists of claimants to the nationality of US and of any of the other American republics found in Drancy, Compiègne, Vittel and Clermont internment camps and forward the names by nationality groups via airmail to the Department. Send such other data as may be secured concerning the individuals involved, including places and dates of their birth and the addresses to which they intended to go after leaving camps, by following mail.

Concerning Department's telegram 7614, September 18, for additional reference to the matter discussed, see Telegram 37 for Chapin from the Department.

HULL

SWI:JPD:FAH
PARAPHRASED
DCR:EMS
10-5-44
From the refugee Board.

With reference to your 17252 of August 2 please inform IGO that American Minister at Bern was instructed on April 10 to request Nazis to inform Germans that all Jews holding Latin American documents are eligible for exchange against Germans in Western Hemisphere. Germans have already included some dual persons in exchange groups and probably will continue to do so. All such persons are accepted by this Government in actual exchange. Inclusion of specific names in American exchange proposals has been deemed pointless by American authorities in charge of exchange arrangements since neither party selects exchange groups in accordance with other party's suggestion; but makes its own selections among all eligibles.

Furthermore, in view of manner in which such documents were issued, information as to identity of persons holding them and names in which they have been issued in fragmentary.

While eligibility of these persons for exchange is thus known to Germany, your and IGO's attention is drawn to passage in IGO's communication regarding acceptance by Berlin of list for
for restriction of group to Palestine and regarding lack of confirmation thereof by London. It is hoped that such confirmation has since been obtained.

For your information, Delegation Bern is being instructed to protest sharply against the deportations reported by ICC. A special ground for protest is present by reason of formal assurances given by German Foreign Office to Swiss Legation Berlin on May 11 to the effect that beginning that date all persons holding Latin-American passports in civilian internment camps reserved for nationals of American continent would be treated as American nationals notwithstanding any doubt as to the validity of their documents. Copy of instruction to Bern is being repeated to you, for your and ICC's information. Parallel protests and public statements by British officials would be appreciated.
CABINET TO AMBASSADOR, LONDON, ENGLAND

With reference to your 17223 of August 8 please inform ICO that American Minister at Bern was instructed on April 10 to request Swiss to inform Germans that all Jews holding Latin American documents are eligible for exchange against Germans in Western hemisphere. Germans have already included some such persons in exchange groups and probably will continue to do so. All such persons are accepted by this Government in actual exchange. Inclusion of specific names in American exchange proposals has been deemed pointless by American authorities in charge of exchange arrangements since neither party selects exchange groups in accordance with other party's suggestions, but makes its own selections among all eligibles. Furthermore, in view of manner in which such documents were issued, information as to identity of persons holding them and names in which they have been issued is fragmentary.

While eligibility of these persons for exchange is thus known to Germany, your and ICO's attention is drawn to passage in ICO's communication regarding acceptance by Berlin of list for repatriation of group to Palestine and regarding lack of confirmation thereof by London. It is hoped that such confirmation has since been obtained.

For your information, Amlegation Bern is being instructed to protest sharply against the deportations reported by ICO. A special ground for protest is present by reason of formal assurances given by German Foreign Office to Swiss Legation Berlin on May 11 to the effect that beginning that date all persons holding Latin-American passports in civilian internment camps reserved for nationals of American continent would be treated as American nationals notwithstanding any doubt as to the validity of their documents. Copy of instruction to Bern is being repeated to you, for your and ICO's information. Parallel protest and public statements by British officials would be appreciated.

9:20 a.m.
August 18, 1944

Miss Chauncy (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Cohn, DeBois, Friedan, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mennon, McCormack, Cable Control Files
Answering certain remarks of Czechoslovak and Polish delegates at a plenary session of IGC August 16, the director requested the press not to report him. It had been suggested by the Polish delegate that the IGC extend assistance to persecuted people in countries of persecution prior to their escape to countries of safety and the failure of attempts to rescue inmates of the Vishal camp holding Latin American passports was deplored by both delegates.

It was emphatically asserted by the director that aid was being given to persons in countries of persecution but that he could not discuss the point more fully because of the clandestine means. Concerning the Vishal question he said that Latin American Governments were requested to condone irregular issuance of passports to refugees and to make representations to the German Government on their behalf, that practically all had done so but without success. He pointed out however, that some persons holding such passports had been exchanged for detained Germans and that efforts to enlarge this means of rescue were being made.

WINANT

DOR: MAC 8/19/44

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter 11-11-12
By R. H. Fuchs Date: SEP 20 1972
Please deliver the message given below to Mr. Pohle, WRB, at request of the Director of IOC:

A detailed report on recent tragic developments in Vittel, dated July 7, has just been furnished us by the Polish Legation at Lisbon, and Polish authorities here. Report includes the names of two-hundred-sixty Polish Jews holding Latin American certificates of nationality classified by issuing country and listed according to whether and when each person was deported or whether in Vittel yet. Exchanged British internee brought this report. Telegram has been sent to Geneva by Jewish agency here requesting effort be made to ascertain whereabouts and condition of deportees since apparently Palestine certificates are held by most of them also. The only hope for either those deported already or those still in Vittel seems to be that they be included in actual exchange list for Palestine or the American hemisphere. Exchange authorities of the British Government and Jewish agency have been consulted and everything possible, we are convicted, is being done here and in Jerusalem to include in the next exchange those in possession of Palestine certificates and to advise German Government's exchange authorities.
authorities of the inclusion of those people. As regards next exchange, arrangements have been begun already. How­ever, we have been advised by Geneva Jewish agency that Germans prefer South American exchange, and Jewish agency here is requesting that matter be taken up with WRB by Jewish agency New York. WRB may already have been furnished with recent reports in this regard by its Lisbon representative. Copies of material mentioned are being forwarded by us via airmail in view of WRB’s long and active interest in this matter and the information of its report for week ending July 1, especially pages 8 and 9, for whatever action may be found possible.

WIRANT
Mr. Linton of the London office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine requests that the following message be transmitted to Mr. Nahum Goldmann, Jewish Agency, 1720 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.:

"For your confidential information one British already offered exchange fourth Palestine group probably over 200 STO's though no reply yet from Germans reason believe reaction favorable. STO's Swiss already asked try trace maximum possible from original exchange lists consisting mainly wives children Palestinian and Palestinian residents STO's view danger of deportations from Bittel Colonial Office at our request asking Swiss inform Germans that members Bittel group with Palestine permits including those deported recently elsewhere will also come into consideration and request latter be traced STOP suggest you discuss with State Department possibility obtaining German civilians from United States and South American States cover those with South American passports without Palestine permits and balance if any with permits two as Dutch received no reply to offer exchange Jews in Lower Silesia with permits now in Belsen Bergen and Theresienstadt made at our request months ago we recently suggested they hand over their Germans to British who should arrange exchange for them STOP Dutch now agreed and approaching British accordingly Three we discussed with religious similar action regarding Belgian veteran lists which now under consideration Linton."

JERUSALEM

Mr. Bucknell
Mr. Allison
Mr. Brown

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1/11/72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 20 1972
Dear Dr. Goldmann:

The following confidential message for you from Mr. Linton of the Jewish Agency for Palestine was received from London under date of July 28, 1944:

"For your confidential information one British already offered exchange fourth Palestine group probably over 200 STOP though no reply yet from Germans reasons believe reaction favorable STOP Swiss already asked try trace maximum possible from original exchange lists consisting mainly wives children Palestinian and Palestinian residents STOP view danger further deportations from Vittel Colonial Office at our request asking Swiss inform Germans that members Vittel group with Palestine permits including those deported Brancy elsewhere will also come into consideration and request latter be traced STOP suggest you discuss with State Department possibility obtaining German civilians from USA and South American States cover those with South American passports without Palestine permits and balance if any with permits Two Bs Dutch received no reply to offer exchange Jews in Westerborg with permits now in Selsenborgen and Theresienstadt made at our request months ago we recently suggested they hand over their Germans to British who should arrange exchange for them STOP Dutch now agreed and approaching British accordingly Three we discussed with Belgians similar action regarding Belgian veteran lists which now under consideration."

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Nahum Goldmann,
Jewish Agency for Palestine,
1720 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.
Reference your 5598 of July 15, 1944.

You may in your discretion advise Mr. Koziebrodski and Dr. Lachs that the making of appropriate representations to the Germans by American republics whose passports are held by persons removed from Vittel has already been suggested to such governments.

HULL
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR VIRMATAT AT LONDON

Reference your 5699 of July 10, 1944.

You may in your discretion advise Mr. Kosheletska and Dr. Lechs that the making of appropriate representations to the Germans by American representatives who are held by persons removed from Vittel has already been suggested to each government.

9:10 a.m.
July 21, 1944

Miss Cha ney (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohen, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

Classification 7-20-44 C.S.I.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: July 10, 1944
NUMBER: 5598

Following is for the attention of the War Refugee Board.

Today Mr. Koziebrodski and Dr. Lache, officials of the Polish Foreign Office and members of its sub-committee on war crimes, visited the Embassy. It was stated by them that they have evidence that many refugees holding South American passports who have been removed from the camp at Vittel are citizens of Poland. It is suggested that the respective South American countries be requested to notify the German Government, through the appropriate channels, that they will take retaliatory action against Germans residing in their territories if ill treatment is accorded by the Germans to the holders of the South American passports.

WINANT
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, London
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 5988

CONTROL COPY

Message below refers to May 6 telegram No. 3644 from the Department.

Foreign Office has just informed the Embassy that His Majesty's Minister at Havana has been instructed to assure the Government of Cuba that the recognition of Cuban passports issued to Jewish persons in countries under enemy control is welcomed by His Majesty's Government and latter appreciates the Cuban Government's reply to the Vatican regarding this matter.

BUCKNELL

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20, 1972
TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

Refer to your 12022 of December 18, 1943, 1708 of March 2, and 3033 of April 14, 1944.

The Department and the War Refugee Board have been apprised by Minister Harrison at Bern that the Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Polish and other European Jews in German-controlled territory who hold Latin American documents but who face deportation and death owing to the lack of confirmation of these documents by the countries in whose name they were issued. Cuba is reported to have replied to the Vatican that passports issued in the name of Cuba to Jews in German-controlled territory would be recognized by Cuba if no objection is made by Great Britain and the United States.

Ambassador Braden in Havana has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Please approach the appropriate officials of Foreign Office with the request that it give a similar assurance to Cuba.

For your confidential information, this Government is asking all Latin American countries concerned for their consent to the United States initiating through proper channels negotiations with Germany.
for an exchange of nationals on a hemispheric basis for which refugees holding Latin American passports would be eligible. Assurances have been given to the countries concerned that in event of exchange they would not be expected to grant physical admission to persons involved but that such persons would be routed elsewhere. Among the Latin American countries approached, Honduras and Venezuela have already acceded to all our requests in this matter.

HULL
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON

This is WRB Cable to London No. ______. Refer to your 12822 of December 12, 1943, 1708 of March 2, and 3033 of April 14, 1944.

The Department and the War Refugee Board have been apprised by Minister Harrison at Bern that the Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Polish and other European Jews in German-controlled territory who hold Latin American documents but who face deportation and death owing to the lack of confirmation of these documents by the countries in whose name they were issued. Cuba is reported to have replied to the Vatican that passports issued in the name of Cuba to Jews in German-controlled territory would be recognised by Cuba if no (repeat no) objection is made by Great Britain and the United States.

Ambassador Braden in Havana has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no (repeat no) objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Please approach the appropriate officials of Foreign Office with the request that it give a similar assurance to Cuba.

For your confidential information, this Government is asking all Latin American countries concerned for their consent to the United States initiating through proper channels negotiations with Germany for an exchange of nationals on a hemispheric basis for which refugees holding Latin American passports would be eligible. Assurances have been given to the countries concerned that in event of exchange they would not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission to persons involved but that such persons would be routed elsewhere. Among the Latin American countries approached, Honduras and Venezuela have already acceded to all our requests in this matter.

***************
May 3, 1944
1216 P.M.

[Signature]

Bakshy's Letterings 5/3/44

8 0 0 4 2 9
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government agency.

TELEGRAM: APRIL 27, 1944

TO: HULL

FROM: LONDON

3399

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Kindly transmit a paraphrase of the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 45 Queens Court, London, W2:

"QUOTE The War Refugee Board is giving the closest attention to the problem of the internes in Belsen-Bergen, Vittel, Tintmong, Compiegne and Liebenau. The missions of the United States Government in Spain and Switzerland have been instructed to request the Governments of Spain and Switzerland to advise the German authorities that the United States Government is giving active consideration to the treatment as exchange material of all internes in possession of Latin American passports. The cooperation of Latin American countries in this matter has also been sought. Nahum Goldmann, New York, World Jewish Congress. UNQUOTE."
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR SHINAY, LONDON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board requests that you transmit the following message to Dr. Ignacy Schwarzbart, 45 Queens Court, London, W.1: NOTE The question of the internment in Vittel Titomaning Liebenau Campagne and Belgen-Sorgen is given the closest attention by the War Refugee Board. The United States government has requested Switzerland and Spain to inform the German authorities that it is prepared to consider all internment in possession of Latin American passports as exchange material. Steps have also been taken to secure cooperation of Latin American countries. Signed Goldmann, World Jewish Congress, New York. UNQUOTE

L. S. L.
Lettseruela 4/21/44
Secretary of State, 
Washington, 

3033, Fourteenth 

FOLLOWING FROM KULLMANN TO EKERSON CARE MUR.

REFUGEE BOARD:

"According cables Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new commander Vittel Camp revised March 20 about 290 to 300 internees holding South American passports that they were not recognized by government concerned. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. Agency here has partial list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews previously put on list of veteran Zionists, Robbys, et al., for grant of Palestine certificates. Comparing with our list of Vittel internees, out of partial Agency list of people affected 128 names passports held as follows: Paraguay 103, Peru 7, Nicaragua 4, Costa Rica 9, Honduras 2, Bolivia 1.

Agency
Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to Swiss protecting power that these persons placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation. Can you contact above Latin American governments involved? There may be others as list not complete. Please advise.

WINANT

JT
The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sirs:

Referring to the Department's instruction No. 639 of January 28 regarding measures for the rescue and relief of victims of Nazi persecution and to the Embassy's Despatch No. 59 of March 2 regarding the present position of Polish refugees, I have the honor to report that the Embassy has now informed me that Emeryk Paszek, Head of the Refuge Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the governments of Paraguay and Chile issue passports to Polish citizens to help them flee from countries collaborating with Germany or from Germany itself but that Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela have adopted an unfavorable attitude in such matters.

It will be recalled that in the conversation reported in our Despatch No. 59 of March 2, Count Caspek expressed the opinion that one of the most important things that could be done immediately to assist the rescue of Nazi victims was the provision of more passports entitling refugees to go to South American countries and that he further stated that some of the South American countries had recently tightened up on issuing these passports.

Respectfully yours,

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

To the Department in original and telegraph.

Erni:
Miss Chauncey (For the Sow), Abrahamson, Albin, Bernstein, Cohn, Dubois, Friedemon, Gatt, Nadel, Langhin, Lesser, Loxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Murphy, Paul, Pohl, Polish, Raina, Gargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Steinman, H. P., White, Piele.
LEGION, March 26, 1949.

Subject: Present position of Polish victims of Nazi persecution: supplementary information regarding passport difficulties.

To the Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington

Sir:

Referring to the Department's Instruction No. 697 of January 26 regarding measures for the rescue and relief of victims of Nazi persecution and to the Department's Circular No. 1 of March 14, 1947, containing the previous question of Polish postage, I have the honor to report that the Embassy is not informed by the Polish Government of the following information. H... Jno. No. 1, Head of the Attached Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has informed the Embassy that extraordinary travel arrangements for Polish citizens to help them from collaboration with Germany by free voyages should be that Peru, Mexico, and Venezuela have adopted an unfavorable attitude in such matters.

It will be recalled that in the conversation reported in our Circular No. 85 of March 2, Roman Drapiewski expressed the opinion that one of the most important things that could be done immediately to assist the rescue of Nazi victims was the provision of more passports to enable them to go to South America. He was quoted to that effect in the statement that some of the South American countries had recently tightened up on issuing these passports.

Sincerely yours,

Rudolf E. Schnorrenberg,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

To the Department in original and duplicate'

[Signature]

[Names of individuals]
Director IBO has written Embassy further regarding passports referred to in Embassy's 1543, February 24th. His letter dated February 29th which suggests at its conclusion certain action by Department states as follows:

"Doctor Kullmann has returned from Switzerland where he was able to obtain a good deal of information. He discussed the matter with various Swiss authorities, with the United States Minister, the Polish Minister, the International Red Cross and with representatives of several voluntary organizations.

The facts are briefly as follows. There has been a large trade in passports. It is estimated that 4,000 have been issued from Switzerland and it is known that others have been issued from other neutral countries including"
including Sweden. Some informants estimated the total number to be as high as nine to ten thousand but some thought that it did not exceed 5,000. In Switzerland it was organized by private individuals and reached such proportions that the Swiss Federal Government had to intervene since it threatened to embarrass their position and to give the German authorities the pretext of interfering with the Swiss administration of refugees affairs a matter in which the Swiss Government has hitherto successfully avoided any intervention and has been able to carry out a liberal policy to the great advantage of refugees in general. Legal action was taken against several of the organizers and at the same time enquiry was made regarding the authority of some of the representatives of the South American states to carry on these transactions. Doctor Kullmann was informed for instance that the Honduras Consul who had lost his exequatur for other reasons in 1942 had subsequently issued 400 passports. He further learnt that the Consuls in Switzerland of Haiti, Paraguay and Peru had been dismissed. The average price paid for a passport was approximately 700 Swiss francs. On the other hand the Consul of San Salvador has acted from purely humanitarian
-3-, 8/1 (70), 2nd, from London.

humanitarian motives and has charged no fee at all.

There seems little doubt that the German authorities are aware of what has been going on but for reasons of their own they have hitherto not adopted a general policy of withdrawing the passports. While in many cases the possession of these documents has afforded the owners protection against persecution and even special treatment in some of the camps, in other cases they have afforded no protection at all and particularly so where the persons concerned were not interned. Originally the German authorities seem to have cherished the hope that the persons with these South American passports might constitute a basis for the exchange of German nationals in South American countries and it is not improbable that they still have vague hopes of this. Other reasons have been suggested for their lack of consistency. Recently however they have been making enquiries through some of the protecting powers of the South American Governments concerned regarding the genuineness of the documents and they have been submitting lists of persons concerned with a view to verification.

Of the countries mentioned in your letter of the 13th
13th January the Consuls in Switzerland of Chile, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru and probably Ecuador were concerned in the issue of passports. It is probable though not certain that passports of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Venezuela have been issued by Consuls in countries other than Switzerland.

The above is a brief statement of facts. In regard to action the Swiss authorities are very definite that any approach to the German authorities would not only instructive but would do more harm than good. There remains the approach to the Governments of the countries concerned which I mentioned in my letter of the 21st February. It is now clear that this approach should cover two points, (first) that the Governments should refrain from withdrawing the passports which have been issued and (second) that if and when the protecting power on the request of the German authorities submit lists of persons with such passports they should instruct the protecting power that the passports have been confirmed. The second is a new point but a very important one and I would ask that the State Department be requested to include it in its representations. I would also request that representations be made to the Government of San Salvador.

WINANT

EDA
CONTROL COPY

AIRCRAF

FROM

Managua

Dated July 24, 1944.

Received July 29, 3 a.m.

Secretary of State, Washington.

A-303, July 25, 10:30 a.m., and Department's airgram no. A-233, July 7, 11:20 a.m., and Embassy's airgram A-298, July 21, 10:30 a.m.

The Tropical Radio Telegraph Company has informed the Nicaraguan Foreign Office that its telegram to the Swiss Foreign Office dated April 22, 1944, was delivered in Bern on April 23, 1944.

It would appear that the Swiss Foreign Office was in error when it informed Minister Harrison that no request had been received from Nicaragua to safeguard persons bearing Nicaraguan passports.

In any event, it is presumed that the Swiss Foreign Office received the additional request contained in the Nicaraguan Foreign Office telegram of July 19.

STEWART

802.1
HDSP/gp

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Perle Date SEP 20 1972
AIRGRAM

CONTROL COPY

Dated July 20, 1944.

Recei'd July 21, 1944.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-299, July 21, 10:30 a.m.

By

Department's airgram no. A-233, July 7, 11:20 a.m.

Nicaraguan Foreign Office states that message quoted
in my A-177, dated April 26, 10:30 a.m., was handed
to the Tropical Radio Telegraph Company in Managua on April 22
for transmission. Its reference to the message has been
received by the Nicaraguan Government from the Swiss For­
eign Office. Tropical radio is presently tracing the
message.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office dispatched the follow­
ing telegram (in translation) to the Swiss Foreign Office
on July 19:

"I repeat to Your Excellency my radiogram
of April 22, in which I requested that the German
Government be asked to apply international con­
ventions on prisoners of war to every interned
person in a concentration camp who is the bearer
of a Nicaraguan passport, and particularly those
enumerated in my radio of February 18. Accept,

STEWART

801.2
HDV/OP

95272820

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

By H. H. Parkins

SEP 20 1972
AMBASSADOR,

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA.

Reference is made to the Department's A-204 of June 10 and your A-249 of June 16. On June 13 the Swiss Foreign Office informed Minister Harrison that no request has as yet been received by Switzerland from Nicaragua to safeguard persons in enemy territory holding documents issued in the name of Nicaragua from enemy persecution.

Please clear up this apparent contradiction and ascertain what reply was received from Switzerland. In case request has not gone out, kindly represent to Nicaraguan authorities the special importance attached by this Government to the humanitarian task of saving the people concerned and press for an immediate despatch of the suggested request.
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Reference is made to Department's A-201 of June 10 and your A-249 of June 20. On June 13, Swiss Foreign Office informed Minister Harrison that no request has as yet been received by Switzerland from Nicaragua to safeguard persons in enemy territory holding documents issued in the name of Nicaragua from enemy persecution.

Please clear up apparent contradiction and ascertain what reply received from Switzerland. In case request has not gone out, kindly represent to Nicaraguan authorities the special importance attached by this government to the humanitarian task of saving the people concerned and press for an immediate despatch of the suggested request.

July 5, 1944
10145 A.M.

cc: Sec'y, Embassy, Cohen, DeBois, Friedman, Hodel, Langhin, Lessey, Manx, Stagg, Central Files, Cable Central Files.

BA RRZIINER 7/6/44
Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-340, June 20, 10:30 a.m.

Department's airgram no. 201 of June 10, 1944,
5 p.m.

Please refer to the Embassy's airgram no. 179,
dated April 25, 10:30 a.m. On April 25, the Nicaraguan
Foreign Office dispatched the following telegram to
the Swiss Foreign Office:

"I request Your Excellency to address yourself
to the German Government asking, that international
conventions covering prisoners of war be applied
to all internes in concentration camps who are
the bearers of Nicaraguan passports. Accept, etc."

It is believed that the above-quoted telegram substantially
fulfills the Department's wishes.

STEWART

001.2
Mail/EP

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-1172
By R. H. Parks Dec 9, 1972
Reference is made to your A-220 of May 8 and your A-228 of May 27. This government appreciates the attitude of the Nicaraguan authorities concerning exchange. Appreciation is also expressed of the Nicaraguan approach to Spain concerning the return of deportees to Vitali, reported in your A-228, as requested in Department's circular diagram of April 22, 7:20 p.m.

On the other hand, it does not appear from your communications that Nicaragua has yet approached Germany through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in Nicaragua's name or claiming Nicaraguan citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality.

Please represent to Nicaraguan authorities the extreme urgency of making this approach.

[Signature]  
[Position]  
[Date]
AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Reference is made to your A-230 of May 3 and your A-232 of May 27. This government appreciates attitude of Nicaraguan authorities concerning exchange. Appreciation is also expressed of Nicaraguan approach to Spain concerning return deportees to Vittoli reported in your A-228, as requested in Department's circular airmess of April 22, 7:10 p.m.

On the other hand, it does not appear from your communications that Nicaragua has yet approached Germany through the protecting Power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in Nicaragua's name or claiming Nicaraguan citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internes of enemy nationality.

Please represent to Nicaraguan authorities the extreme urgency of making this approach.

*********
June 1, 1944
6:16 p.m.

Ag.

Bakzin
6/1/44
The Nicaraguan foreign office has informed the Embassy that it has received a telegram from the Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires in Madrid stating that the Spanish foreign minister has offered to use his good offices in the interest of having returned to Miel, France, any persons of Nicaraguan nationality who may have been removed from that place.

SECRETARY
The Nicaraguan government authorized the government of the United States to take up the Nicaraguan passports held by Europeans which arrive in the United States from countries of occupied Europe except in the case that the Nicaraguan government shall have authorized the admission of such Europeans to its country.

The Government of Nicaragua authorized the Government of the United States to negotiate for the exchange of Europeans with Nicaraguan passports for German nationals. It is understood, however, that in such exchange preference will be given to persons of Nicaraguan nationality in the order which the Government of Nicaragua has sent the Swiss Government and which is already known to the Embassy and Department in such a way that Nicaraguans shall be exchanged in the first instance.

Under date of May 23, the Nicaraguan Secretary for Foreign Affairs sent the following message (in translation) to the Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires in which:

"Immediately, toard and in the best fore solicited fro [sic] that friendly Government its worthy cooperation in the sense of bringing about the return by the German Government to the concentration camp at Witzel, France, those barracks of Nicaraguan passeners who have been sent to other concentration camps who are in danger of their lives. Directed to the Spanish Government the appreciation of my Government for its worthy assistance in the sense indicated. Inform me of the results."

All the above is translated from a Foreign Office memorandum dated May 23, 1944 received by the Embassy yesterday.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 111-72

By R. F. Parker Date SEP 20 1972
The Department and the War Refugee Board are gratified with the results reported in your no. 2137 of April 17. Please convey to the Nicaraguan authorities this Government's appreciation of their attitude.

You may give the Nicaraguan officials the assurances requested in paragraph 4 of your no. 2137, provided power to take up Nicaraguan passports be delegated to representatives of this Government by Nicaragua.

Please try to obtain as soon as possible a formal approval by Nicaragua of our negotiating an exchange on their behalf. Also please urge that a note be sent to the Protecting Power regarding the validity of documents and the treatment of bearers.

Hull
geo

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Park Date SEP 20 1972
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MANAGUA, NIGARAGUA

Department and War Refugee Board gratified results reported in your 2137 of April 17. Please convey Nicaraguan authorities this Government's appreciation of their attitude.

You may give Nicaraguan officials the assurances requested in paragraph 3 of your 2137.

Please try to obtain as soon as possible a formal approval by Nicaragua of our negotiating an exchange on their behalf. Also please urge that a note be sent to the Protecting Power regarding validity of documents and treatment of bearers.

************
May 6, 1944
2150 P.M.

[Signature]
Baksnits
5/5/44
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ON OF MAY 15, 19-

APPLICATIONS AND RECORDS

SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

A-209, May 9, 10:30 a.m.

Department's airgram no. 161 of May 1, 4 p.m.

In a note dated May 2, the Nicaraguan Foreign Office stated that it would be glad to see the selection of its nationals for exchange made in the following order:

Felipe Ibarra Leytorga
Enrique Portocarrero
Jose de la Luz Guerrero; his wife, Susana;
and their children, Jeanine, Josette,
Jean Claudio, and Jose
Aguilas Cordero
Mrs. Rodriguez and her daughters, Raquelita and
Sonia.

The last named three persons are Polea who have obtained Nicaraguan passports and whose exchange is desired on humanitarian grounds.

As for the other persons in occupied Europe who are holders under one circumstance or another of Nicaraguan passports, the note states that the Nicaraguan Government consents to their exchange but, presumably on the basis of the assurances given by the embassy, upon authorization from the Department that these persons will not reach Nicaragua.

The

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-45-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20, 1972.
The above is separate from and in addition to the authorization given by the Nicaraguan Government to the Nicaraguan Consul at Bern, Switzerland, to grant 100 children Nicaraguan visas and to keep their visas valid until transport becomes available (see the Embassy's telegram no. 991 dated May 6, 4 p.m.).

STEWART

801.2
HDE/CP
CONTROL COPY

A-101
4:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

MAY 3, 1944
COMMUNICATIONS

Back in Nicaragua.

Refer to Department's circular airgrams of March 31, 4:00 p.m.,
of April 11, 11:00 a.m. and of April 22, 7:30 p.m. The Department has
now been apprized that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison
that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews holding
Nicaraguan documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question
of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in
addition to the question of recognition of documents. Nicaragua is
reported to have replied that it is disposed to recognize passports
issued by its Consulate only to the extent of eight families, and that
these families would be allowed to enter in Nicaragua only for the
duration of the war, unless the persons concerned are either farmers
or industrialists.

At the time this reply in reported to have been given to Vatican,
the assurance contained in our circular airgram of April 11 had
evidently not (repeat not) yet reached Nicaraguan government. It is
therefore felt advisable to reiterate the assurance of this Government
that Nicaragua will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical
admission to any of the persons concerned in the event of exchange or

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 20 1972
of any other procedure leading to their release. Under these assurances, Nicaragua would not be asked to permit any of these persons to enter its territory even temporarily, unless it so desires. Accordingly, the numerical limitation stated in Nicaraguan reply to the Vatican seems no longer justified, and the hope is expressed that Nicaragua will agree to act in the sense of our circular airgram of April 11 without any numerical limitations whatever.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the Nicaraguan Government the extreme urgency with which this government views the necessity of acting favorably without delay on proposals previously submitted and detailed in the airgrams under reference.

You should impress upon Nicaraguan officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Nicaragua from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Nicaraguan authorities should not (repeat not) wholeheartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

HULL
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY AT MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Refer to Department’s circular airgrams of March 31, 1:05 p.m., of April 10, 11:100 a.m. and of
The Department has now been apprized that Papal Nuncio at
Berm informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted
to work out relief measures for Jews holding Nicaraguan
documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question
of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was
raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents.
Nicaragua is reported to have replied that it is disposed to
recognize passports issued by its Consuls only to the extent
of eight families, and that these families would be allowed
to remain in Nicaragua only for the duration of the war,
unless the persons concerned are either farmers or industrialists.

At the time this reply is reported to have been given
to Vatican, the assurance contained in our circular airgram
of April 10 had evidently not (repeat not) yet reached
Nicaraguan government. It is therefore felt advisable to
reiterate the assurance of this Government that Nicaragua
will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission
to any of the persons concerned in the event of exchange or
of any other procedure leading to their release. Under
these assurances, Nicaragua would not be asked to permit
any of these persons to enter its territory even temporarily,
unless it so desires. Accordingly, the numerical limi-
tation stated in Nicaraguan reply to the Vatican seems no
longer justified, and the hope is expressed that Nicaragua
will agree to act in the sense of our circular airgram of
April 10 without any numerical limitations whatsoever.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the
Nicaraguan government the extreme urgency of expediting
in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You
should impress upon Nicaraguan officials that since failure to
act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved,
and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations
would result for Nicaragua from expediting our requests,
we would be sorely disappointed if Nicaraguan authorities would
not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to
save these people.

***************
April 24, 1944
2:15 p.m.

[Signature]

[Stamp: HLSmith/SP 4/21/44]
Secretary of State, Washington.
A-177, April 26, 10:50 a.m.

Thessaly dispatch No. 2337, dated April 17, regarding concentration camps held by Europeans in occupied Europe.

The Hon. J. F. McCloy informs the Embassy of its dispatch of the following telegram to the Swiss Foreign Office on April 22, 1944 (translation):

"I request Your Excellency to address himself to the German Government asking that international conventions covering prisoners of war be applied to all interned in concentration camps who are the holders of Spanish, Portuguese, American, etc., passports."  

FINLEY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By K. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
No. 2137.

Subject: Nicaraguan Passports Held by Europeans in Occupied Europe.

BY COURIER

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's further circular secret airgram of April 11, 1944, 11 a.m., regarding the attitude which the Department hopes will be adopted by the Nicaraguan Government toward the bearers in occupied Europe of Nicaraguan passports. This was the subject, likewise, of the Embassy's secret dispatch No. 2128 dated April 13, 1944.

In view of the instructions contained in the airgram under reference, and as forecast in my despatch, I had an opportunity today of discussing this subject with Dr. Argüello, the Foreign Minister.

Dr. Argüello stated that the Nicaraguan Government believed that between 125 to 150 persons in occupied Europe had fraudulently obtained Nicaraguan passports. It had been the practice of his Government heretofore generally to decline to confirm the validity of any such travel documents when questions were asked by the German Government through the Swiss Government as protecting power. In a few cases involving humanitarian considerations, they had confirmed the bearers as Nicaraguan nationals, although they were aware that the travel documents had been fraudulently obtained.

Dr. Argüello said that he could not say offhand whether any requests for confirmation of validity had been received through the Spanish Government. He would look into the matter and let me know. Similarly, he would discuss with President Somoza the feasibility of sending through this Embassy and the American Legation at Bern a telegram beseeching the German authorities to safeguard the interests of the bearers of all Nicaraguan passports. He thought that the President would accede and that this might be done. He intimated, however, that Nicaragua would probably not want to receive many of these persons as permanent residents of the country. He thought, however, that if we could assure the Nicaraguan Government that the Nicaraguan
passports of those people would be taken up following their exit from occupied Europe after exchange for German nationals, and that (as I indicated to him) these persons would not reach Brazil, and the President would probably approve our petition for such an exchange on behalf of his Government.

Dr. Argaña indicated that he would like to have something from the Embassy in writing on this subject before discussing the matter with President Benavides, but when I had explained that I was reluctant to transmit any written document on this subject, he seemed to accept that position.

As soon as a further conversation is had with Dr. Argaña on this subject, I shall not fail promptly to report the results.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Harold D. Finley
charge d'affaires ad interim
RECOGNITION OF LATIN AMERICAN PASSPORTS
(continued)

Cables —— According to Countries:
M. HONDURAS
N. ITALY
O. LONDON
P. NICARAGUA
Q. PALESTINE
R. PARAGUAY
S. PERU
T. PORTUGAL
U. SPAIN
V. SWEDEN

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Consul, Jerusalem
DATE: July 3, 1944
NUMBER: 122

Please deliver the following message from the War Refuge Board, Fehnle, to Chaim Schein, Il Mussat, Tel-Aviv:

"QUOTE. Every effort being made to safeguard victims of enemy persecution and special program has been evolved for those holding passports issued in names of American republics. I am referring your message to Department of State which is charged with making the necessary arrangements to effectuate such program. UNQUOTE."

N.Y.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. List: 1-1756
By R. E. Fein Date SEPT. 10, 1972
Miss Chanslor (For the Secretary), Macmanus, Aikin, Petersen, Osborn, Dunn, Friedlow, Carver, Nelson, Leavitt, Leeser, Rose, Rosenthal, Hahn C. H. Nickle, Stowe
The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog:

"Your radiograms of April 4 and 7 have been received.

The safety of Jewish and other holders of Latin American passports in Vittel and other camps has been a matter of deep concern to this Government. It has made repeated efforts to save all these persons. To this end, it has approached the governments of Spain, Switzerland and Latin American countries involved and is maintaining constant communication with Inter-governmental Committees and International Red Cross.

Special steps have been taken to save the lives of 238 persons deported from Vittel.

The Board hopes that, as a result of these efforts, the danger threatening these persons will be averted.

Signed, John W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board."
CABLE TO AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL AT JERUSALEM

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog:

"The War Refugee Board acknowledges receipt of your radiograms of April 4 and 7. They have been received.

The safety of Jewish and other holders of Latin American passports in Vittel and other camps has been a matter of deep concern to this Government. It has made repeated efforts to save all these persons. To this end, it has approached the governments of Spain, Switzerland and Latin American countries involved and is maintaining constant communication with Inter-governmental Committee and International Red Cross.

Special steps have been taken to save the lives of 238 persons deported from Vittel.

The Board hopes that, as a result of these efforts, the danger threatening these persons will be averted. Signed, John W. Pohle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board."
SUPPLEMENTARY TO MY LAST CABLE REFERENCE JEWISH REFUGEES IN VITTEL IN DANGER IMMENSE DEPORTATION WISH INFORM THAT THEY LEFT POLAND YEAR AGO WITH CITIZENSHIP VARIOUS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING PARAGUAY URUGUAY NICARAGUA COST RICA BUT THESE WOULD APPEAR TO=

Telephone: National 2600 To assure 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 piece of origin.
HAVE FORFEITED NOW THIS CITIZENSHIP STOP ANTICIPATORY THANK
GREETINGS=

ISAAC HERZOG CHIEF RABBI PALESTINE
HAVE RECEIVED NEWS OF IMMINENT DANGER DEPORTATION TO POLAND OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MOST RESPECTED JEWISH FAMILIES NOW IN VITTEL VICHY FRANCE STOP THEY LEFT POLAND OVER YEAR AGO FURNISHED WITH CITIZENSHIP PARAGUAY AND OTHER SOUTH AMERICA COUNTRIES STOP
DEPORTATION MEANS DEATH IN HEAVENS NAME PRAY TAKE EVERY STEP
SAVE THEM PARTICULARLY THROUGH INTERVENTION NEUTRAL COUNTRIES
GRANT THEM IMMEDIATE ENTRY AND USE THEIR INFLUENCE STAY
DEPORTATION STOP REST NOT MAY ALMIGHTY BLESS YOUR EFFORTS
WITH SUCCESS STOP GREETINGS=
ISAAC HERZOG CHIEF RABBI PALESTINE
No. 4014

Madrid, Spain, February 6, 1945.

Subject: Transmitting copy of Note Verbale from Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning treatment of persons in German custody in possession of Paraguayan documentation.

To:
The Honorable The Secretary of State, Washington.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch No. 3621 of January 29, 1945 enclosing a copy of the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 3622 of January 16, 1945 transmitting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a copy of the Paraguayan Government's communication of November 27, 1944 to the American ambassador at Asunción requesting that the Spanish Government, as the protecting Government with respect to Paraguayan interests in Germany and German-occupied territory, protest to the German Government against its unjust treatment of persons in its custody to whom the Paraguayan Government has extended its protection, I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of the Ministry's Note Verbale No. 34 of January 31, 1945 in reply, in which it is stated that instructions in that sense have again been sent to the Spanish ambassador in Berlin, to the end that the position of the persons in question may be favored in all possible ways.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

[Name]
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

File No. 704

1945/16

Original to Department
(For official machine)
Copies to Bern and Asunción

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, SEP 20 1972
By R. H. Parke Date
Enclosure to dispatch No. 40 dated February 6, 1945 from W. Walton Butterworth, American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, at Madrid, Spain on subject of Persons in German Custody in Possession of Paraguayan Documentation

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
D-2
No. 84

NOTA VERBAL

El Ministerio de Asuntos exteriores saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América y en respuesta a su Nota Verbal no. 3066, de 15 del actual, se compliece en manifestarle que han sido reiteradas las oportunas instrucciones al Ct. Encargado en Berlín en el sentido interesado por el Gobierno del Paraguay a fin de que se favorezca en todo lo posible la situación de las personas previstas de documentación paraguaya a las que se refiere la adjunta Nota Verbal.

Madrid, 31 de enero de 1945

A LA EMBAJADA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA,

TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
D-2
No. 84

NOTE VERBAL

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and in reply to its Note Verbal No. 3066 of January 16, 1945, has the honor to state that the opportune instructions have been reiterated to the Ambassador in Berlin in the sense urged by the Government of Paraguay to the end that the position of the persons provided with Paraguayan documentation to whom the cited Note Verbal refers be favored in all possible ways.

Madrid, January 31, 1945,

TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The Government of Paraguay in a note number 1056 of
the seventeenth of November requests that our government transmit
the request to the Government of Spain to make energetic protest
at once to the Government of Germany against the removal from
the camp at Palastel, France after examination holders of Paraguayan
passports and demand data regarding their whereabouts and well
being at once. See airgram 268 from the Department of the
fourth of November.

In this request all holders of Paraguayan documents
now detained in other places are included and declares that
Paraguay will not allow discussion of authenticity of documents
which it has ratified and validity of documents issued in its
name. Paraguay expects the Government of Germany to grant the
same treatment to holders of such documents as Germany wishes
to obtain in Paraguay for its citizens. By airmail the
text of the note follows.

BEAULAC

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Taits Date, SEP 20, 1972
American Embassy,
Asuncion.

On October 2, Embassy at Madrid reported that Spanish Government had as yet received no request from Paraguayan Government through the Spanish Legation Paraguay regarding visit to camps.

Please discuss matter with the Foreign Office with a view to clarifying this matter.

Sittinius
Acting
AC

840.48 Refugees/10-244
The message given below has been repeated to Madrid for the information of our Embassy there.

Reference is made herein to the Department's airgram of September 1 No. 238.

In a note of September 27 numbered 868 relative to the serious position of individuals in concentration camps holding Paraguayan passports which are due to expire shortly, the Paraguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations now states that since this matter is related to proposed exchange, our Madrid Embassy may advise the Government of Spain that it is authorized here-with to issue through its Embassy at Berlin new passports to take the place of those about to expire and which are held by persons to whom the protection of Paraguay has been extended, especially those in the Bergen-Belsen camp.

BEAULAC

DIA BASH 10/5/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Dec 20 1972
The following is from our Refugee Board.

Reference is made to our earlier communications on the subject of holders of Latin American documents in enemy territory.

At the suggestion of State authorities, and in order to safeguard the lives of holders of documents issued in the name of American republics in German-controlled territory, this Government is endeavoring to compile lists of such holders for transmission to the German Government. A portion of a cable dated September 16, 1944 to the Legation at Bern follows:

"With reference to lists of holders of Latin American documents suggested in ultimate and penalistic paragraphs of your 6689, disturbed war conditions have interfered with communications between Latin American governments and their European consulates, resulting in incomplete records which make the compilation of such lists difficult. However, to assist the issue in this matter it is believed that the Legation should endeavor to obtain with the aid of MacGill and the local representatives of governments that have records on the subject, lists which are as complete as possible with a view to transmitting them to the State authorities. The Department will suggest to various Latin American governments the urgency of continuing to State authorities the authenticity of such lists. It is hoped, however, that in view of the humanitarian considerations involved and of this country's status as Foreign Food Exchange of persons whose eligibility would be established by being placed on the list, State officials will agree to transmit the lists to Germany even without such notification.

Please discuss this matter with the Government to which you are accredited with a view of obtaining its confirmation of the authenticity of the list submitted by the Legation at Bern.

In making this request, you may explain that the assurances previously given on behalf of this Government that the government to which"
to which you are accredited will not be expected to present physical
admission to the persons involved and that no objection will be
raised to an examination by that government of status of such per-
sons once they are safe from enemy persecution, fully apply to the
persons whose names will be included on the lists herein envisaged.

Should the government to which you are accredited, in addition
to sending such communication, be in a position itself to compile
and submit to Spain a list of holders of documents issued in its
name or other persons under enemy control to whom it desires to
afford protection, this government would be glad to extend to such
persons the benefit of its activities intended to safeguard their
lives. If desired, this government will gladly transmit any such
list to the Spanish government.

Sent to Asuncion. Copy to La Paz, Bolivia.

Hull

10-71 Please send copy to La Paz, Bolivia.

S.J.
REVDP/P.
SEP 20 1972

By R. H. Parks Date
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

Reference is made to our earlier communications on the subject of holders of Latin American documents in enemy territory.

At suggestion of the Spanish authorities, and in order to safeguard the lives of holders of documents issued in the names of American republics in German-controlled territory, this Government is endeavoring to compile lists of such holders for transmission to the German Government. It is requested that you suggest to the government to which you are accredited the importance of immediately notifying the Spanish government that such lists as may be handed to the latter by your embassy, in so far as they relate to holders of documents issued in the name of the government to which you are accredited, may be accepted by Spain as authentic evidence that the persons named therein are entitled to treatment as nationals of an American republic and are eligible for exchange.

In making this request, you may explain that the assurances previously given on behalf of this Government that the government to which you are accredited will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission to the persons involved and that no (repeat no) objection will be raised to an examination by that government of status of such persons once they are safe from enemy persecution, fully apply to the persons whose names will be included on the lists herein envisaged.

Should the government to which you are accredited, in addition to sending such communication, be in a position itself to compile and submit to Spain a list of holders of documents issued in its name or other persons under enemy control to whom it desires to give protection, this Government would be glad to extend to such persons the benefit of its activities intended to safeguard their lives. If desired, this Government will gladly transmit any such list to the Spanish Government.

Repeat to Embassy, La Paz, Bolivia.

8:00 p.m.
September 13, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Hannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

[Signature]
Rakowsky 9/12/44
The following is from War Refugee Board.

1. Reference is made to previous communications relative to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression holding Latin-American passports.

The following message of August 9 has been received from Embassy, Madrid:

QUOTE In response to Embassy's representations Foreign Office has formally expressed willingness of Spanish Government to cooperate in bringing to successful conclusion proposed arrangements for exchange on Spanish territory of German nationals in Paraguay and Bolivia for persons in German-occupied territories bearing documentation of those countries but has informed Embassy orally that it is not yet in receipt of representations on this subject from Paraguayan and Bolivian Governments whose representatives in Madrid are still without instructions. UNQUOTE

In view of earlier promises given to you in this respect and reported in your A-139 of April 24, in your A-148 of April 29, and in enclosure to your 2165 of June 8, please urge Paraguayan officials to take speediest action necessary to enable Spain to bring to conclusion said exchange arrangements. In this connection, you may report from your note of April 11 stating that QUOTE In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that Paraguay will physically admit those holders of German passports into Paraguay even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility via a via Paraguay for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places outside Paraguay. UNQUOTE

The following is the substance of a message received:

QUOTE I recommend that you urge the Paraguayan Government in

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks on SEP 20 1972
in particular (see our cable of July 14, 1944, No. 4518) to give the Spanish Government authority to extend through its Embassy at Berlin the shortly expiring Paraguayan passports which persons, especially those in Bergen-Belsen camp, are holding. Several Jewish organizations and individuals have addressed to me desperate appeals calling to our attention the fact that Paraguayan passports held by many in Bergen-Belsen were issued originally in 1942 and are due to expire soon.

With respect to the general question of representation by Spain of Paraguayan interests in German territory, it is claimed by Sternbach of Union of Orthodox Rabbis that a telephone conversation with the Spanish Embassy in Berlin emphasized that at that time it had no knowledge of removal from Vittel of any persons holding documents issued by Paraguay. While we have not confirmed this fact, it seems fairly clear that the Spanish have never protested with such dispatch or energy the holders of Paraguayan documents who are in German territory. UNJOICE

Please take appropriate action.

3. Appreciation is expressed at information contained in your 2502 of July 21. This information is being forwarded to Embassy Madrid for supporting action.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
4:16 p.m.
6th Jul, 1944

GARDIN TO AMBASSADOR, MADRID, SPAIN

1. Reference is made to previous communications relative to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression holding Latin-American passports.

The following message of August 8 has been received from Anunciation, Madrid:

QUOTE: In response to Embassy's representations Foreign Office has formally expressed willingness of Spanish Government to cooperate in bringing to successful conclusion proposed arrangements for exchange on Spanish territory of German nationals in Paraguay and Bolivia for persons in German-occupied territories bearing documentation of these countries but has informed Embassy orally that it is not yet in receipt of representations on this subject from Paraguayan and Bolivian Governments whose representatives in Madrid are still without instructions. UNQUOTE

In view of earlier promises given to you in this respect and reported in your A-139 of April 26, in your A-142 of April 26, and in concurrence in your 2142 of June 6, please urge Paraguayan officials to take specified action necessary to enable Spain to bring to conclusion said exchange arrangements.

In this connection, you may repeat assurance given in Department's A-110 of April 11 stating that QUOTES In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that Paraguay will physically admit these holders of Paraguayan passports into Paraguay even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility vis-a-vis Paraguay for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places outside Paraguay. UNQUOTE

2. The following is the substance of a message received from Anunciation Berlin:

QUOTE: I recommend that you urge the Paraguayan Government in particular (see our cable of July 14, 1944, No. 2418) to give the Spanish Government authority to extend through its Embassy at Berlin the short-term Paraguayan passports which persons, especially those in Buenos Aires camp, are holding. Several Jewish organizations and individuals have addressed to me separate appeals calling to our attention the fact that Paraguayan passports held by many in Buenos Aires were issued originally in 1943 and are due to expire soon.

With respect to the general question of representation by Spain of Paraguayan interests in German territory, it is claimed by Steamship of Union of Orthodox Rabists that a telephone conversation with the Spanish Embassy in Berlin in mid-July revealed that even at that time the Spanish had no knowledge of removal from Vittel of any person holding documents issued by Paraguay. While we have not confirmed this fact, it seems fairly clear that the Spanish have never protected with much celerity or energy the holders of Paraguayan documents who are in German territory. UNQUOTE

Please take appropriate action.

3. Appreciation is expressed at information contained in year 2142 of July 21. This information is being forwarded to Anunciation Madrid for supporting action.

Maclean 8/20/44
Msg Chauncey (for John Scoey) Abrahamson, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Giebel, Langer, Lesser, Mannen, McCormack, Cable Control File.
TO:  AMBASSADOR, Asuncion

D A T E D:  August 19, 1944

N U M B E R:  265

It is reported by the Embassy at Madrid that informally the Spanish Foreign Office has expressed the willingness of the Government of Spain to cooperate in facilitating an exchange of German nationals in Paraguay for individuals in German-occupied territories bearing Paraguayan passports. The representative of Paraguay, however, has not received any instructions in the matter from his Government.

Although Madrid has been advised that the Government of Paraguay has empowered this Government to act on its behalf in this matter, nevertheless, the Department is of the opinion that it would be helpful if the Government of Paraguay would appropriately advise its representative at Madrid and give him instructions not only formally to notify the Spanish Foreign Office but also to cooperate with the representatives of America and to give the support necessary in this regard.

The Government of Paraguay, it would appear, has been relying mainly upon the Spanish Minister at Asuncion to picture to the Government of Spain its concern for the persons in enemy territory who own Paraguayan passports and that the representative of Paraguay therefore may have failed to receive indoctrination concerning his Government's interest in the matter. Naturally in the communications between the Paraguayan mission at Madrid and the Spanish Foreign Office such a situation would be reflected and could result in a less

INCLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
energetic attitude on the part of the representatives of Spain of the interests of Paraguay.

It is anxiously desired by the Department to ascertain what progress the Spanish Legation is making in its compilation of the lists of German nationals in Paraguay who wish to be repatriated.

HULL

SWP: RCH; SKL: AEC; JLL
PARAPHRASED:
DCR: ENS
8-26-44
Asuncion, Paraguay
July 21, 1944

Subject: Paraguayan Government requests German Government to permit access of International Red Cross Commissioners to Concentration Camps.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's secret airmemo of June 26, 1944, 1:00 p.m., stating that there are concentration camps situated in Germany and German-controlled territory to which the Protecting Powers and the International Red Cross have been granted no access or else such extremely limited forms of access that they have been unable to assist the nationals of the United States and other American republics who are held there, mentioning certain specific camps, and requesting that the situation be reported to the Paraguayan Government with the suggestion that it ask its Protecting Power to investigate this situation and that in other camps and establishments under control of German-dominated authorities.

This letter was presented to the Ministry of Foreign Relations in this Embassy's Note No. 305, July 6, 1944, and there is transmitted herewith a copy of that Ministry's reply, Note No. 637, July 17, 1944. The reply states that the Paraguayan Government has requested the Spanish Government to take appropriate steps in its name with a view to permitting the Commissioners of the International Red Cross to visit such concentration camps and to report regarding the possible claims to Paraguayan citizenship which may be made by persons held there.

Respectfully yours,

Leslie E. Reed
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure: Copy of Note 637, July 17, 1944, from Paraguayan Ministry of Foreign Relations
Enclosure to Despatch No. 2002 from Asuncion, July 21, 1944

COPY

D.P.-D.-
No. 637
Asuncion, 17 de Julio de 1944

Señor Encargado de Negocios:

Tengo el agrado de escusar recibo de la noté No. 303, de 6 del corriente, en la que Vuestra Señoría tuvo la gentileza de informar que el Departamento de Estado y la Junta de Refugiados de Guerra de los Estados Unidos tienen informes fidedignos de que las autoridades ecuatorianas han restringido considerablemente y en algunos casos han llegado a prohibir el acceso a los campos de concentración a los comisionados de la Cruz Roja Internacional.

Como en esos campos de concentración se encuentren personas en los cuales el Perú, por razones de humanidad, ha extendido su protección, mi Gobierno en esta misma fecha y fundado en el Art. 86 de la Convención de Génova sobre Prisioneros de Guerra, se ha dirigido al Gobierno de España rogándole que realice en su nombre las gestiones correspondientes a fin de obtener que los comisionados de la Cruz Roja Internacional puedan visitar aquellos campos de concentración e informar sobre las posibles reclamaciones que sobre ciudadanía peruana puedan formular algunas personas allí retidas.

Hecho agreso a Vuestra Señoría la información proporcionada, y sobre cuya base mi Gobierno ha podido formular aquel pedido por conducto del Gobierno de España, que es el encargado de sus intereses en territorio europeo ocupado por Alemania.

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

/a/ Horacio Chiriani

A Su Señoría
El Encargado de Negocios de los Estados Unidos de América,
Doctor Don Leslie Reed.-
S/D. -
SECRET

CONTROL COPY

No. 2163.

Assunção, Paraguay
June 8, 1944

Subject: Holders of Paraguayan Passports in German Concentration Camps

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's secret telegram A-158, May 22, 8:15 p.m., my reply A-230, June 3, 11:15 a.m., and my telegram No. 315 of June 8, 9:00 a.m., 1944, regarding the action which the Paraguayan Government proposes to take concerning the holders of Paraguayan passports who are interned in German concentration camps, particularly in France.

As the previous statements of the Paraguayan attitude had been made orally, I considered it advisable to obtain a more formal communication, and, therefore, after discussion with the Under Secretary of Foreign Relations, and at his suggestion, I addressed a Note Verbale to the Ministry asking for information on the two points mentioned in the Department's A-158, May 22. A Note Verbale in reply has now been received from the Ministry of Foreign Relations, No. 483, June 6, 1944. Copies and translations of both communications are transmitted herewith.

Respectfully yours,

Leslie E. Reed
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosures:

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1:11:72
By H.J. Byrks Date, SEP 20 1972

Copy and translation of Note Verbale No. 282
Copy and translation of Note Verbale No. 483
Enclosure to Despatch No. 2163 from Asuncion, Paraguay
June 8, 1944

The Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the United States of America presents his compliments to His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Relations and Worship of Paraguay and with reference to negotiations carried on with the Honorable Wesley Frost, former American Ambassador to Paraguay, concerning certain persons now interned in German concentration camps who claim Paraguayan nationality and are the holders of Paraguayan passports, has the honor to request information as to the steps which may have been taken by the Paraguayan Government to obtain from the German Government due respect for the Paraguayan documents of identity in question.

Information is also requested as to whether the Paraguayan Government authorizes the United States Government to negotiate for an exchange of the persons now detained in German concentration camps holding Paraguayan passports.

Asuncion, June 5, 1944.
Enclosure to Despatch No. 2163 from Asuncion, Paraguay
June 8, 1944

TRANSLATION

No. 282

NOTE VERBALE

El Encargado de Negocios a.i. de los Estados Unidos de América saluda muy atentamente a Su Excelencia el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Gabinete del Paraguay y con referencia a las negociaciones mantenidas con el Honorable Wesley Frost, anterior Embajador en el Paraguay, sobre ciertas personas actualmente internadas en campos alemanes de concentración que manifiestan ser de nacionalidad paraguaya y son portadores de pasaportes paraguayos, tiene el honor de pedir información sobre los pasaportes que hay en el Gobierno paraguayo para obtener del Gobierno Alemán debido respeto para los documentos paraguayos de indentidad en cuestión.

También se desea información acerca de si el Gobierno Paraguayo autoriza al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos a negociar un canje de las personas actualmente detenidas en campos alemanes de concentración que tienen pasaportes paraguayos.

Asuncion, Junio 8 de 1944.
Enclosure to Despatch No. 2163 from Asuncion, Paraguay
June 6, 1944

COPY

No. 463

NOTA VERBAL

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, saluda atentamente a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América, y acusando recibo de la nota No. 202 de 5 del corriente, tiene el agrado de expresar lo siguiente:

1) El Gobierno paraguayo concedió validez a los pasaportes extendidos por Representantes consulares paraguayos a favor de ciudadanos polacos, húngaros y de otras nacionalidades que actualmente se encuentran en los campos de concentración alemanes; extendiendo de esta forma su protección a las personas beneficiadas con los mismos;

2) El Gobierno paraguayo recibe por conducto del Gobierno de España la forma de obtener la salida de dichas personas de territorio europeo ocupado por Alemania.

3) El Gobierno paraguayo autoriza al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a negociar un canje de las personas actualmente detenidas en los campos alemanes de concentración que tienen pasaportes paraguayos. Dichas personas, sin embargo, no podrán ingresar al territorio paraguayo sino que deberán dirigirse a los lugares que indiquen las autoridades americanas.

4) En el pedido de canje el "Paraguay ruega se de la preferencia a los ciudadanos paraguayos que por razón o encuweather territorio europeo ocupado por Alemania, los cuales se deberán ser reorrientados para reintegrarse al solar nativo.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, aprovecha este oportunidad para referir a la Embajada americana las seguridades de su consideración más distinguida.

A LA EMBAJADA AMERICANA.

Asuncion, 6 de Junio de 1944
Enclosure to Despatch No. 1163 from Asuncion, Paraguay
June 8, 1944

TRANSLATION

No. 483

NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship respectfully salutes the Embassy of the United States of America and, acknowledging receipt of Note 482 of the 5th instant, has pleasure in stating as follows:

1. The Paraguayan Government recognizes the validity of the passports granted by Paraguayan consular representatives in favor of Jewish and Hebrew citizens and those of other nationalities now in German concentration camps, extending its protection in this matter to the persons holding them.

2. The Paraguayan Government has taken up through the Spanish Government the manner of obtaining the departure of such persons from European territory occupied by Germany.

3. The Paraguayan Government authorizes the United States Government to negotiate an exchange of the persons now detained in German concentration camps who hold Paraguayan passports; such persons, however, may not enter Paraguayan territory but should proceed to the places indicated by the American authorities.

4. In the request for exchange, Paraguay asks that preference may be given to Paraguayan citizens who happen to be in European territory occupied by Germany, who should be registered in order to return to their native soil.

The Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship takes this opportunity to reiterate to the American Embassy the assurance of its most distinguished consideration.

Asuncion, June 8, 1944
From the Ministry of Foreign Relations we have now received a note, no. 483 of June 6, concerning the points raised by the American Government on May 22 in the Department's secret airgram no. 158. There follows a translation of the note which contains its statements. By airmail we are sending a copy.
Secretary of State, Washington.  

315, June 8, 9 a.m. (SECTION TWO)  

One. The Paraguayan Government recognizes the validity of the passports granted by Paraguayan Consular Representatives in favor of Polish and Jewish citizens and those of other nationalities now in German concentration camps; extending its protection in this manner to the persons holding them.

Two. The Paraguayan Government has taken up through the Spanish Government the manner of obtaining the departure of such persons from European territory occupied by Germany.

Three. The Paraguayan Government authorizes the United States Government to negotiate an exchange of the persons now detained in German concentration camps who hold Paraguayan passports; such persons however may not enter Paraguayan territory but should proceed to the places indicated by the American authorities.

Four. In the request for exchange Paraguay asks that preference may be given to Paraguayan citizens who happen
-2-/315, June 6, 9 a.m. (SECTION TWO) from Asuncion

who happen to be in European territory occupied by
Germany, who should be repatriated, in order to return

to their native soil.

(END OF MESSAGE)

REED

CSB
RR
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-195, 8:15 a.m., May 24, 1944.

The Department's secret circular of May 17, 1944, 7:30 p.m. with regard to the protection of refugees with Paraguayan documents in German occupied territory has not been directly discussed with the Foreign Office, since the latter had already assumed a strong position as to the maintaining of its passports issued to the non-nationals in question. The Foreign Minister informed me this morning that Paraguay has no representative at Madrid; and for this reason I did not raise with him the matter of obtaining from Germany the return to Vittol of previously deported refugees. It will be recalled that his Government last week addressed a firm ministerial note to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires here to be communicated to the German Government.

SECRET

848,
7/411

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Dec. 20, 1972
From: George C. Marshall
Date: June 3, 1944

Washington, D.C.

June 3, 1944, 11:15 a.m.

With reference to the Department's secret cable 156, May 22, 1944, 8:15 p.m. EST, and to the cable from the Embassy in London, the Department, directing this Embassy to continue its efforts to secure a favorable action on the points mentioned in this Embassy's cable 139, April 26, such favorable action has already been taken, as stated in this Embassy's cable 140, April 29, 10 a.m., and 145, May 20, 9:15 a.m.

Copy of the Japanese note to the Spanish legation has not yet been obtained, but efforts will be continued to that end.

R. L.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 10 1944

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
CONTROL COPY

A-139

6:15pm

DEPT BY [REDACTED]  MAY 23, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A.139

AMBASSADOR,

ASUNCION (PARAGUAY).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADOR.

The Department and the War Refugee Board are gratified
by the results reported in your A-139 of April 22. Please
continue your efforts to procure favorable action on the
two points indicated therein: a request to Germany by
Paraguay to honor all documents issued in the name of
Paraguay, and approval of the negotiations by the United
States with Germany for exchange.

Please inform the Department of progress made.

Hull

Hull

[Signature]

UNCLASSIFIED

NPA

06/22/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
CABLE TO AMBASSADOR FROST, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

Department and War Refugee Board gratified results reported in your A-139 of April 22. Please continue your efforts to obtain favorable action on the two points indicated therein, via, approval of negotiations by the United States with Germany for exchange, and a request by Paraguay to Germany to honor all documents issued in Paraguay's name.

Kindly advise Department of progress.

***************
May 20, 1944
11:35 A. M.

Bakslip 5/18/44
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-185, May 20, 9:15 a.m., 1944.

With reference to my airgram No. 146 of April 29, 10 a.m., and the Department's circular airgram No. 135, May 8, 10:40 a.m., I have the honor to report that a Note was drafted by the Paraguayan Foreign Office on May 9 to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires in Asunción, after repeated inquiries by me, with regard to the fate of the holders of German concentration camps of Paraguayan passports. Unfortunately the Note dealt again with the legal situation created by the existence of those passports more than with the danger in which their holders were found. Accordingly I arranged, through Third Secretary Henderson, to have the Paraguayan Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs redraft the communication so that the latter should consist solely of a firm admonition to the German Government. The former Undersecretary informed me on the 11th that he had sent the

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP.20 1972
the revised Note; and the new Undersecretary stated yesterday in the presence of the Foreign Minister that he had just despatched such a note over his own signature. Whichever official signed the note, it seems reasonably certain that a fairly sharp warning has thus been conveyed to Germany; but efforts will be continued to secure an actual copy of the communication.

The Department will have in mind the anxiety of the Foreign Minister to secure a reply regarding the case of the "move sisters" and regarding the possibility of including Dutch nationals in any exchanges of prisoners.

MOST

848.

F/411
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-185, May 20, 9:15 a.m., 1944.

With reference to my airmail No. TAA of April 29,
10 a.m., and the Department's circular airmail No. 115,
May 1, 4:40 p.m., I have the honor to report that a note
was drafted by the Paraguayan Foreign Office on May 9 to
the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires in Asunción, after repeated
inquiries by me, with regard to the fate of the holders in
German concentration camps of Paraguayan passports. Un-
fortunately the note dealt again with the legal situation
created by the existence of these passports more than with
the danger in which their holders were found. Accordingly
I arranged, through Third Secretary Henderson, to have the
Paraguayan Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs redraft the
communication so that the letter should consist solely of
a firm admonition to the German Government. The former
Undersecretary informed me on the 11th that he had sent
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the revised Note; and the new Undersecretary stated yesterday in the presence of the Foreign Minister that he had just despatched such a note over his own signature, whichever official signed the note, it seems reasonably certain that a fairly sharp warning has thus been conveyed to Germany; but efforts will be continued to secure an actual copy of the communication.

The Department will have in mind the anxiety of the Foreign Minister to secure a reply regarding the case of the three sisters and regarding the possibility of including Dutch nationals in any exchanges of prisoners.

FRANZ

848.
F/ajl
Subject: Polish nationals who hold Paraguayan passports in German concentration camps.

The Honorable
The Secretary of States,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my Airgram No. A-148 of April 29, 10 a.m., 1944, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a Note which has been delivered to the Paraguayan Foreign Office under date of April 25, 1944 from the Polish Minister at Buenos Aires, M. Miroslaw ARCZEGOWSKI, with reference to 52 (approximately) Polish Israelites confined in the German concentration camp at Vittel, and one confined in the camp at Compiegne. This was furnished me by the Polish Consul at Asuncion, Señor Raul Daumas LAROUCHE.

I am informed by the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs that the Paraguayan Government will adopt a favorable attitude with regard to the request of the Minister of Poland.

It is noted that the Minister indicates that the persons in question need not necessarily be accepted for entry into Paraguay, because they are holders of permits to enter Palestine. As the Paraguayan Government has given its approval to negotiations by the United States Government for the exchange of all persons holding passports from any American republic, it would appear that the cases of the Polish nationals mentioned by the Polish Minister could be taken up by the United States Government; so that the Polish Minister’s démarche may be supererogatory.

On the 3rd instant, the Foreign Minister of Paraguay informed me that he was about to sign a Note addressed to the Spanish Chargé d’Affaires at Asuncion for transmission to the German Government, admonishing the latter that Paraguay expects the Paraguayan passports held by prisoners in German concentration camps to be fully respected, so that any drastic measures against those prisoners would be regarded as an offense.
against Paraguay. On May 4, however, the Undersecretary informed me that he had already sent such a note two days previously, to the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires over his own signature at the instruction of the Foreign Minister. There seems to be some confusion between the Undersecretary and the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and as soon as it can be cleared up a further report will be made to the Department.

Respectfully yours,

Weley Frost

Enclosure:
Copy of Note from Polish Minister in Buenos Aires and translation.

801.2
WF/a11
Original with reverse carbon to the Department.
Por orden de mi Gobierno tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia para someter a su elevado criterio lo a continuación expuesto:

La magnánima actitud tomada por el H. Gobierno Paraguayo respecto a cierta cantidad de israelitas polacos portadores de pasaportes paraguayos, internados en los campos de concentración alemanes (Nota de S.E. el Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, doctor D. Luis A. Argañá, dirigida al que suscribe, R.e-o.D.A.R. y L. - 2.º, fecha 3 de Enero de 1944), condujo a que los mencionados han podido hasta la fecha gozar de una seguridad condicionada por la posibilidad de acreditar su pertenencia paraguaya. Espero la situación de las mismas personas tiende a empeorar a medida de entrar el conflicto bélico en su fase culminante.

Por el intermedio de factores neutrales se ha sabido que las autoridades germanas ordenaron la deportación de una parte de ciudadanos extranjeros internados en el campo de concentración de Vittel, haciendo saber al mismo tiempo que los extranjeros internados que acreditan su pertenencia suramericana quedan reconocidos como extranjeros tan sólo en el caso en que las respectivas Repúblicas americanas coadyuven a canjearlos contra ciudadanos del Reich residentes en sus mismas Repúblicas. En caso contrario estas personas dejarán de gozar del trato accordado a extranjeros, lo que, vista su condición de hebreos, equivale a su extermínio.

El Gobierno de Polonia se encuentra en posección del informe exacto que en el campo de concentración en Vittel permanecen cerca de cincuenta personas /menores incluyendo/, y en él de Compiègne - una, con documentación paraguaya. La nómina de ellas se adjunta a la presente nota.

Aduciendo conceptos de orden humanitario, el Gobierno de Polonia recurre nuevamente a la acostumbrada generosidad del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, solicitándole con la mayor atención que sepa disponer de estudiar la posibilidad de la inclusión de los internados en cuestión en la lista de personas que ese H. Gobierno estaría dispuesto a canjear con él de Alemania, contra un número de ciudadanos alemanes u otros extranjeros, según lo indicaría el Gobierno del Reich.

El Gobierno de Polonia se da cuenta de las dificultades con las cuales tropezaría la realización del canje aludido; sin embargo en el momento político actual, el simple hecho de indicarse las personas susceptibles de ser canjeadas podría sin duda alguna reforzar el estado de seguridad de las mismas.

Para el caso de lograrse el canje, los internados en cuestión no tendrían que ser necesariamente aceptados en el territorio de la República del Paraguay, pues los mencionados disponen de permisos de ingreso a Palestina.

A SU EXCELENCIA
EL SEÑOR DOCTOR DON HORACIO CHIRIANI,
MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y CULTO,
PALACIO DEL GOBIERNO, A SU EXCELENCIA.
CONFIANZA en el inmutable humanitarismo del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, en presencia del que tan sólo los impedimentos de orden superior podrían obstaculizar un gesto como aquel que forma el objeto de la presente encarecida solicitud, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle, Señor Ministro, las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

/--/ Miroslaw Arciszewski

ANEXO.

- 2 -

Confiando en el inmutable humanitarismo del H. Gobierno Paraguayo, en presencia del que tan sólo los impedimentos de orden superior podrían obstaculizar un gesto como aquel que forma el objeto de la presente encarecida solicitud, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterarle, Señor Ministro, las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

/--/ Miroslaw Arciszewski

ANEXO

1. José FRAENKEL y esposa Paula o Perl FRAENKEL internadas en el campo de Vittel.
2. Alexander FRAENKEL e hijas Josefina y Luisa.
4. Mendel FRAENKEL y esposa Rose.
5. Schabes o Sami RAPAPORT.
6. Israel RAPAPORT.
7. Chajim-Leib BERGLAS.
8. Abraham WEINGORT.
9. Leo-Osias WEINGORT.
10. Samuel o Sami WOLF.
11. Jacob RAPAPORT.

Lista de personas con documentación paraguaya internadas en el campo de Vittel.

1. Josef FRAENKEL Internadas en el campo y esposa Paula o Perl FRAENKEL de Vittel.
2. Alexander FRAENKEL con hijos Josefina y Luisa.
3. Mathilde FRAENKEL con hijos Ruda, Mati o Mata, Leibusch, Pinkas.
4. Mendel FRAENKEL y esposa Rose.
5. Schabes o Sami RAPAPORT.
6. Israel RAPAPORT.
7. Chajim-Leib BERGLAS.
8. Abraham WEINGORT.
9. Leo-Osias WEINGORT.
10. Samuel o Sami WOLF.
11. Jacob RAPAPORT.

y su hijo/o hija/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Núm.</th>
<th>Nombre Familiar</th>
<th>Hacia el Campo de Concentración en Compiègne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Saul RAPAPORT</td>
<td>Saul RAPAPORT Mina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Jacob RAPAPORT</td>
<td>Jacob RAPAPORT Rywna-Lea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Esposa e Hijos</td>
<td>Abram-Hirsch-Majer e Izchok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Aron RAPAPORT</td>
<td>Aron RAPAPORT Rywka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Josef LIEBER</td>
<td>Josef LIEBER Frymota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Esposa e Hijos</td>
<td>Henryk y Frajda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Sayja o Szaja EISENZEIG</td>
<td>Sayja o Szaja EISENZEIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>y familia</td>
<td>Internado en el campo de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>concentración en Compiègne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Josef RAPAPORT</td>
<td>Josef RAPAPORT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Minister:

By order of my Government, I have the honor to address Your Excellency and to submit to your elevated judgment the following:

The magnanimous attitude taken by the Paraguayan Government with respect to a certain quantity of Polish israelites, holders of Paraguayan passports, interned in German concentration camps (Note of His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Dr. Luis A. Argana, directed to the undersigned, No. D.A.G. y L. 2-., dated January 3, 1944), made it possible for the above-mentioned to enjoy up to the present security conditioned by the possibility of accrediting that they belonged to Paraguay. However, the situation of these same persons tends to worsen as the war enters its climactic phase.

Through neutral elements, it has been learned that the German authorities ordered the deportation of a part of the foreign nationals interned in the concentration camp at Vittel, making it known at the same time that the foreigners interned who accredit their South American nationality will remain recognized as foreigners only in the case that the respective American republics consent to exchange them against German citizens resident in the same republic. If not, these persons will stop enjoying the treatment accorded to foreigners, which, since they are Hebrews, is equivalent to their extermination.

The Government of Poland is in possession of an exact report that in the concentration camp at Vittel, there are about fifty persons, including minors, and in the camp at Compiegne, one, with Paraguayan documents. Their names are attached to this Note.

Adding humanitarian concepts, the Government of Poland recalls to the accustomed generosity of the Paraguayan Government, soliciting with the greatest attention, that Paraguay be disposed to study the possibility of including the internees in question in the list of persons that Your Excellency's Government would be disposed to exchange with German Government, against a number of German citizens and other foreigners, as indicated by the German Reich.

The Polish Government realizes the difficulties which would be met in the exchange alluded to; however, in the actual political moment, the simple indication of persons susceptible to exchange would be able without any doubt to strengthen the state of security of the same.

In the event the exchange is made, the internees in question would not necessarily have to be accepted into the territory of the Republic of Paraguay, as they have permits to enter into Palestine.

Having
Having confidence in the unchangeable humanitarian of the Paraguayan Government, in the presence of which only impediments of superior order could place obstacles before a gesture such as form the object of the present earnest petition, I take this opportunity to reiterate to you, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my highest and distinguished consideration.

MIROSŁAW ARDYSZEWSKI

List of persons with Paraguayan documents interned in the concentration camp at Vittel,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Josef Fraenkel</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, children</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Alexander Fraenkel</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, children</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mathilde Fraenkel</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kendel Fraenkel</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Schabes or Saul Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, children</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Israel Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, son</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Chajin-Loib Benglas</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Abraham Weinbock</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, daughter</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Leo-Osias Weinbock</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Samuel or Saul Wolf</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, children</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Jacob Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Daughters</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Saul Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Jacob Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife, children</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Simon or Szaja Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Aron Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Szaja or Szała Eiszennig</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Josef Rapaport</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vittel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASUNCIÓN (PARAGUAY)

FOR THE PERSONAL AND INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR

With reference to Department's A-118 of April 11 and A-129, April 22, 6:45 p.m., the Department has now been apprised that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews holding Paraguayan documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Paraguay is reported to have replied that the passports of Polish Jews at Vittel have been recognised by Paraguay.

It is further learned from Vatican sources that the trouble arose when the proposal was made to exchange these Jews for Germans located in South America. Jews who had Paraguayan passports were included in the list by Germany. A protest was made by Paraguay which stated that the passports had been illegally issued and Paraguay refused to recognize the passports. The Germans withdrew as a result of this and protection was suspended by Spain.

At the time this attitude is reported to have been taken by Paraguay, the assurances contained in our circular airgram of April 11 had evidently not (repeat not) yet reached Paraguayan government.
government.

Please verify information received from Bern and reiterate this Government's assurance that, in the event of exchange, Paraguay will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission to any of the persons concerned even on a temporary or tentative basis.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the Paraguayan Government the extreme urgency with which this Government views the necessity of acting favorably without delay on proposals previously submitted and detailed in the attachment under reference. You should impress upon Paraguayan officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Paraguay from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Paraguayan authorities should not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

Hull

WBD: GLM: CMH 4/27/44
ARA SMF RFA
With reference to Department's 2-118 of April 10 and
the Department has now been apprised
that Raoul Dandol at Bern informed Minister Harrison that
Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews
holding Paraguayan documents and interned by Germany.
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admission to any of the persons concerned even on a temporary
or tentative basis.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon
the Paraguayan government the extreme urgency of expediting
in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You
should impress upon Paraguayan officials that since failure
to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons
involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or
obligations would result for Paraguay from acquiescence in
our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Paraguayan
authorities would not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate
with our efforts to save these people.

April 24, 1944
2:15 p.m.

[Signature]

Blindield/Italia/FRA 4/22/44
AIRMAIL.

FROM:
Asunción

Date: April 29, 1944
Read: May 10 8am

The Secretary of State,
Washington,

A-118, April 29, 10 a.m., 1944.

Referring further to the Department's circular airgram A-118, 11:25 a.m., April 11, 1944, I have pleasure in reporting hereby that the Foreign Minister informs me orally but officially that his Government will be glad to have the United States Government negotiate for an exchange of persons from American countries, or holding passports of such countries, including Paraguay, now detained in German concentration camps. He took pains to state that this is on the assumption that persons holding Paraguayan passports who are not in fact Paraguayans shall not be sent to Paraguay unless the latter decides from their qualifications that they would be desirable immigrants.

The Minister likewise stated that he has been instructed to take affirmative action in addressing the German Government through the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires in Asunción, to state that Paraguay is interested in the rate of persons confined.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 20 1972
confined by Germany who hold Paraguayan passports. I hope within a few days to be able to confirm the fact that this action shall actually have been taken.

He reiterated that his attitude in correspondence with the Spanish Chargé is that while the passports were not legally issued, full recognition for them will be maintained until peace supervenes.

The minister added that special attention be paid to the case of two girls aged fifteen and sixteen years, born in the town of Castro Juan Caballero in Paraguay of a German father, Fredrick Maluek and a Paraguayan mother named Anica Lencano. They reside in a town named Osterden in the province of Hanover, Germany. His Government urgently desires that these girls be included in any exchange arrangement, as they are native Paraguayan citizens with influential Paraguayan family relations through their mother. The minister inquired whether there is any possibility of including two American girls in the exchange, as the Paraguayan minister of agriculture has close relatives in Holland whose agrum he is anxious to secure. I shall be grateful for information as to these matters.

HOGOT

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-20 1972
The Secretary of State,

Washington,

A-148, April 29, 10 a.m., 1944.

Referring further to the Department's circular airgram A-118, 11:23 a.m., April 11, 1944, I have pleasure in reporting hereby that the Foreign Minister informs me orally but officially that his Government will be glad to have the United States Government negotiate for an exchange of persons from American countries, or holding passports of such countries, including Paraguay, now detained in German concentration camps. He took pains to state that this is on the assumption that persons holding Paraguayan passports who are not in fact Paraguayans shall not be sent to Paraguay unless the latter decide from their qualifications that they would be desirable immigrants.

The Minister likewise stated that he has been instructed to take affirmative action in addressing the German Government through the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires in Asunción to state that Paraguay is interested in the fate of persons confined.
April 22, 1944

I am writing to you to confirm the fact that I have not yet been able to obtain any information regarding the matter despite the efforts I have made in this regard.

After [redacted], I was able to obtain confirmation that the passport was in fact issued and that the holder is still considered to be a valid citizen of Japan. However, despite this, I have been unable to locate any information regarding the whereabouts of the passport holder.

I was informed that special attention should be paid to the case of the individual in question and that an urgent search in the [redacted] area would be necessary in order to locate him. It is possible that the individual in question may have relocated to a more remote area.

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding this matter and to request any information you may have regarding the whereabouts of the passport holder. As you are aware, the current situation in the area is quite unstable and it is difficult to determine the exact location of the individual.

I am hopeful that with your assistance, we will be able to locate the individual and provide any necessary assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
RECEIVED AT 64 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK 4, AT 8:49 A.M. STANDARD TIME.

W1461 JERUSALEM 48 20 Via R.C.A.
J NLT UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS 132 NASSAU STREET NEW YORK.
GRANDRABBI MOSHE FRIDMAN FROM BOYAN PARAGUAY CITIZEN
WAS TILL THIRD SEPTEMBER 1943 IN TARNOW ACCORDING
INFORMATION RECEIVED WAS SENT TO UNKNOWN CONCENTRATION
CAMP PLEASE CONTRACT IMMEDIATELY PARAGUAY GOVERNMENT
LOCATE HIS WHEREABOUTS MATTER VERY URGENT CABLE -

RABBIS I.S. MELTZER WOLF SOLOWECZKY

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.

000516
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY AT ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

Refer your A-139 of April 22.
Department gratified results of your efforts. Will cable soon to clarify various points arising therefrom.

In the meantime, you are requested to bring to the attention of the individual case of Grand Rabbi Moshe Friedman from Boyan, Poland, bearer of passport issued in the name of Paraguay. Friedman is outstanding Jewish religious leader and his case has been selected to test the degree of protection which the persons concerned will enjoy in German-occupied areas under the policy announced in your A-139.

Friedman reported to have been in Tarnow, Poland, till September 3, 1943 and to have been subsequently sent to unknown concentration camp.

Please have Paraguayan authorities urge protecting power to obtain immediate information concerning his whereabouts and welfare and to obtain adequate assurances regarding his future treatment, including facilities for protecting power to supervise same.

Please have Paraguayan authorities emphasize to protecting power the test-case character of present
issue and that similar assurances and facilities are expected concerning all other bearers of Paraguayan documents.
May 1, 1944.

Hon. John W. Peble, Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Att. Mr. L. Lesser:

Dear Sir:

We enclose a copy of a cable from Palestine which concerns the fate of one of the greatest religious leaders of the day, Grand Rabbi Moshe Friedman.

May we respectfully urge the Board to take the effective action petitioned in the cable and to request the intercession of the Government of Paraguay.

With our expressions of deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
UNION ORTHODOX RABBIS 132 NASSAU STREET NEW YORK
GRANDRABBI MOSHE FRIDURAN FROM BOYAN PARAGUAY CITIZEN WAS TILL THIRD SEPTEMBER 1943 IN TARNOW ACCORDING INFORMATION RECEIVED WAS SENT TO UNKNOWN CONCENTRATION CAMP PLEASE CONTACT IMMEDIATELY PARAGUAY GOVERNMENT LOCATE HIS WHEREABOUTS MATTER VERY URGENT CABLE
RABBIN ISER MELTZER WOLF SŁÓWECKÝ
SPECIAL DELIVERY

HON. JOHN W. PEHLE
DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ATT. MR. L. LESSER
Room 164

E.C.W.T.Y.
132 NASSAU STREET
Suite 819-820
New York City

MAY 1
9:30PM
1944

ST. ANNE
ST. ANNE
ST. ANNE
ST. ANNE
The Secretary of State,

Washington,

April 22, 1944

I took up with the Foreign Minister on April 20 the

points raised in the Department's recent circular airgram,
A-11, 11:25 a.m., April 11, 1944, (whose special directions
have received compliance).

The Minister at first stated that he was unaware of
any inquiries from the Spanish Government with regard to
eastern Europeans in German concentration camps who hold
Paraguayan passports. He was familiar with the general
question, however, and affirmed that his Government will
steadfastly recognize the validity of such passports until
the war shall have terminated.

The Minister provisionally took a favorable attitude
with regard to securing an exchange of persons holding
Paraguayan passports for persons of German nationality
interned in the United States or elsewhere in the Americas.
He accepted the view that this may bring the possibility
that Nazi agents in Paraguay, some of whom are apparently

By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 20 1972
about to be interned here, could eventually be repatriated to Germany. He made written note of the fact that if any bona fide Paraguayan citizens are found in the German concentration camps they will be given preference in any exchange; and also that persons holding Paraguayan passports who are not in reality Paraguayans will not be sent to Paraguay. (On this latter point he assumed that in case any such persons were shown to be skilled agriculturists, Paraguay could and would receive them.) He also clearly understood that this proposal is being made by our Government to the governments of the other Latin American countries involved. He stated that if the Spanish Government on behalf of the German authorities should submit lists of persons holding such passports, the reply would be that the passports are being maintained.

The Foreign Minister likewise inscribed in his notes the request that the Paraguayan Government affirmatively approach the German Government, by addressing a note to the protecting power, Spain, through its Chargé d'Affaires here, to demand that the Paraguayan passports be honored and the holders respected as regards their lives, rights and privileges.

My visit was timed to precede immediately a Cabinet meeting; and the Foreign Minister promised to take up the matter with the President after the Cabinet meeting. He DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72 stated

By R. H. Fiske Date, Sep 20, 1972
stated he was confident of receiving the President's permission to give definitively favorable responses on all the points raised (especially, (a) the approval of negotiations by the United States with Germany for exchanges, and (b) the making of an admonitory remonstrance by Paraguay to Germany).

Dr. CHULIANI then summoned the Undersecretary, who has been in charge of the problem for some months past; and the latter took me to his office and showed me most of the correspondence file. From the file, and from the Undersecretary's statements, the following situation was developed:

By Decree No. 217 of September 4, 1943, the Paraguayan Supreme Court decided (a) that Dr. Rodolfo HUGO, Paraguayan Honorary Consul at Berna, Switzerland, should be dismissed from his position, and (b) that the passports which he had issued to eastern Europeans showing them to be Paraguayans should be annulled.

During the next three or four months, however, the Paraguayan Government received appeals from Iceland, Belgium, and Holland through their representatives at Buenos Aires requesting that the passports not be annulled, for humanitarian reasons; and late in December had the same request from this embassy, made at the Department's suggestion. The reply given in all cases was that the Paraguayan Government had not cancelled the passports in question and...
did not intend to do so while the war continues. (See my telegram No. 36, December 28, 3:30 p.m., 1943.)

On January 7, 1944, the Foreign Office addressed the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Asunción, in response to a note received from him, stating that Consul Anglés had possessed no legal right to confer Paraguayan nationality; but that while the Supreme Court had ordered him to be dismissed and the passports to be treated as null, nevertheless the latter part of this order could not be placed into effect until after the termination of the European War. It further requested the Chargé to telegraph to his government asking it to inform the German Government that the passports are still recognized as valid. On January 3, the Foreign Office addressed two separate instructions to the Paraguayan Ambassador in Buenos Aires, who had been approached by the Dutch and Polish Ministers in that capital. He was told to inform the Ministers in question (1) that the passports were recognized as valid for the duration of the war and (2) that he had requested the Spanish Chargé here so to inform the German Government telegraphically via Madrid. On February 8 the Foreign Office addressed a further note to the Spanish Chargé confirming its previous note.

The Chairman of the Paraguayan Red Cross, Dr. Andres Barreneche, visited the Foreign Office early this month on behalf
Mr. S.C. Algren A-139. April 22, 10 a.m., Asunción

The Spanish Chargé communicated again with the Foreign Office to the effect that since Paraguayan law provides that a foreigner cannot carry Paraguayan nationality there was not perceived legal consistency in Paraguay's position in continuing to regard these passports as valid. On April 17 the Foreign Office replied flintly and simply reasserting its attitude. (While its note did not say that any state, the theory of the Paraguayan Foreign Office seems to be that the Supreme Court Decree declaring the passports null and void be given effect immediately.) The Chargé of Spain was informed that this Paraguayan action was taken as a result of intercessions by the governments of Poland, Belgium, Holland and (informally) the United States, as well as of several philanthropic organizations, and that it is based on humanitarian grounds.

In response to informal inquiry on the 21st instant the Foreign Minister stated that he had not yet received an affirmative decision as to exchange negotiations and a Paraguayan demand upon Germany.

Frost

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R.H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
Referring to the Department's 118 of April 10, the following is the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Morrison, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who is now in Washington: "QUOTE: According to the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new commander Vittel Camp advised March 20 about 200 to 300 internes held South American passports that they were not recognized by governments concerned. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. The agency here has prepared list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews previously put on list of various Zionists, Habbin, et al., for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to be protective so that those persons placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation UNNOTES.

In view of the imminent danger which faces the persons involved, and in the light of this Government's deep concern for their welfare, you should communicate to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable responses and active measures along the lines described in our 118 of April 10 are needed. You may also wish to inform such officials that in addition..."
addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our [illegible] of April 10, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter.

Hull

4/19/44
CABLE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

Referring to the Department’s 118 of April 10, the following is the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who is now in Washington. (QUOTE) According cables from Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new commander Vittel Camp advised March 20 about 250 to 300 internees holding South American passports that they were not recognized by government concerned. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. Agency here has partial list of people affected, mostly Poles previously put on list of veteran Zionists, Rabbi, et al., for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to Swiss protecting power that these persons placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation. UNQUOTE.

In view of the imminent danger which faces the persons involved, and in the light of this Government’s deep concern for their welfare, you should communicate to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable responses and active measures along the lines described in our 118 of April 10 are needed. You may also wish to inform such officials that in addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our 118 of April 10, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish Government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter.

***************
April 18, 1944
12:55 p.m.

L.S.F.

IS/12/4/14 9230
No. 1602

Asunción, Paraguay, December 3, 1943

Subject: Attitude of Paraguayan Immigration Bureau regarding anti-Semitism.


The Honorable
The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that this Embassy has learned from a confidential and reliable source that the Acting Director General of Immigration of Paraguay has recently authorized the Paraguayan Consul in Madrid, Spain, to grant an immigration visa to one Edmund METZGER, provided that he does not belong to the Jewish race and complies with other Paraguayan regulations.

Respectfully yours,

Wesley Frost


DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 7-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: MAR 7 1973

Original (carbon reversed) to Department by airmail.