

Programs with Respect to Eviction and  
Rescue of Refugees; Other Means of  
Effecting Rescues

Recognition of Latin American Passports,  
Vol. 3 - Folder 2

000774

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: September 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 6471 6.0-10

Reference is made herein to Legation's airmail 9250 of September 15 and its September 19 cable No. 6195,

We are in receipt of a note dated September 27 from the Swiss which states that Swiss Legation Berlin reports that on September 13 Sethe of the German Foreign Office declared deportation of Vittel internees, which occurred in spite of his May 11 assurances, were due doubtless to action on own initiative by subordinate officials. A representative of German security office was sent by Sethe to Bergen-Belsen where it was ascertained that Jews in question had never reached camp there. Another representative of German security office was instructed by Sethe to undertake inquiry at German Paris Embassy concerning deportees' fate. Owing to recent developments in France however this representative was unable to conduct effective investigation. Only fact he was able to establish was that all Jews deported from Vittel had been transferred either to Compiègne or Drancy and on basis of Gestapo information is convinced that departure of these Jews from France never took place. Accordingly Sethe assumes that Allies liberated persons concerned, simultaneously with other detainees at Compiègne and Drancy.

Inquiry is made by the Swiss as to whether Allied authorities in France have any trace of Jews in question and whether information concerning fate of Vittel deportees could possibly be obtained through such authorities.

Likewise, any information which Department may be able to obtain regarding identity of persons liberated from camps in France, including individuals claiming Latin American nationality, would be gratefully received by War Refugee Board representative and this Legation.

DCR:EBH 9/30/44

HARRISON

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Files.

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

000775

SECRET

1944 OCT 3 10 00

CORRECTION

FBI -606  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. ( )

October 3, 1944

In cable from Bern 6471, September 29, 10 a.m.  
for WRB from McClelland serial number should read  
"6470" instead of "6471".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION AND RECORDS

CSB

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

000776



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

LTC-308

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

Bern

Dated September 29, 1944

Rec'd 10 58 a.m.

*W. R. ...*  
*Publ*

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

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**

6471, September 29, 10 a.m.

FOR MRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Department's 3190, September 14 and 3207 September 16.

We are proceeding in consultation with certain private individuals and organizations here in Switzerland with the assembling of as complete lists as possible of persons to whom Latin-American documents have been issued particularly those thought not to be in physical possession of such papers. Special effort is being made to compile list of such persons now in camp of Bergen Belsen in hope that this will enable Switzerland as protecting power to obtain access to this camp and exercise more satisfactory protection of these internees than has been possible to date.

In lists already received accurate information regarding present whereabouts many document holders is lacking last

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
RECEIVED  
SEP 30 1944

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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-2- 6171, September 29, 10 a.m., from Bern

lacking last known address often being several years old (an internment camp in France for instance). Only indication given is frequently that individuals in question were deported from Drancy Frankfurt Grocov et cetera, at some previous date.

In the interest of translating such lists into more effective protection it is strongly recommended that an exchange of even 100 document holders be arranged as soon as possible in order that German interest in these people as exchangeable may be kept alive.

HARRISON

WFS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*7. Way Ref  
Bd (ms)  
6/2/44*

SECTION 4 AM 10 00 CORRECTION

FBI -606 AS  
This telegm must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (██████-0)

October 3, 1944

In cable from Bern 6471, September 29, 10 a.m.  
for WRB from McClelland serial number should read  
"6470" instead of "6471".

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION AND RECORDS

CSB

**CONTROL COPY**

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1944

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000780

*2 was Ref/ET  
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: September 29, 1944  
NUMBER: 6471

**CONTROL COPY**

Reference is made herein to legation's airmail 9250 of September 15 and its September 19 cable No. 6195.

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

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that Allies liberated persons concerned, simultaneously with other detainees at Compiègne and Drancy.

Inquiry is made by the Swiss as to whether Allied authorities in France have any trace of Jews in question and whether information concerning fate of Vittel deportees could possibly be obtained through such authorities.

Likewise, any information which Department may be able to obtain regarding identity of persons liberated from camps in France, including individuals claiming Latin American nationality, would be gratefully received by War Refugee Board representative and this Legation.

HARRISON

614  
DJR:EBB 9/30/44

000782

*2 W 1 R 30-100*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 23, 1944  
NUMBER: 3290

**CONTROL COPY**

TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND.

With reference to your 6112 of September 16, your attention is again drawn to general Salvadoran declaration reported in paragraph six of your 3871 of June 17 and to explanations made in Department's 2173 of June 26 paragraph two, 2407 of July 13 paragraph six, 3180 of September 14 paragraph one and 3255 of September 21 paragraph four.

Accordingly, Salvadoran action in confirming documents of specific persons whose names were submitted to Salvador does not (repeat not) imply either the need for or the desirability of forwarding further specific names to Salvadoran government, and you are requested to proceed along lines of Department's 3255 of September 21 paragraph four and of previous communications herein referred.

The same considerations should also guide you in dealing with documents of other American republics which have notified Swiss authorities that persons in enemy territory subject to persecution to whom documents have been issued in their names must be treated by the enemy as their nationals. In this connection, your attention

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SEP 23 1944

is

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

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is drawn to Department's 2490 of July 21 item six setting out QUOTE desirability of construing as liberally as possible, and of acting as speedily as possible upon any communications from any American republic touching upon the protection of persons from cruelty and persecution. UNQUOTE and stating that QUOTE delays in action brought about by strict adherence to technicalities proper enough under ordinary circumstances merely result in these extraordinary times in an additional number of innocent people being ruthlessly done to death. UNQUOTE This passage, while primarily intended as suggestion for Swiss authorities, should likewise govern your own attitude.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 183.

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CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

With reference to your 6112 of September 16, your attention is again drawn to general Salvadoran declaration reported in paragraph six of your 3871 of June 17 and to explanations made in Department's 2173 of June 2 paragraph two, 2407 of July 13 paragraph six, 3180 of September 14 paragraph one and 3255 of September 21 paragraph four.

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THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 183

10:50 a.m.  
September 23, 1944

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

BA. L.S.L.  
BAKzinar 9/22/44

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**The Following Pages Are the Best Available**

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*J. W. [unclear] [unclear]*  
*[unclear]*

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: September 22, 1964  
RUS 6297

**CONTROL COPY**

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of July 13, No. 2407, paragraph 7.

It is stated in a note dated September 15 from the Foreign Office that the Government of Hungary is informed of the pertinent portions of Department's 2407 and previous instructions concerning extension of Swiss protection to all persons in Hungary bearing a passport or other document which an American Republic issued whether or not the validity of these documents be contested or even claiming without documentary proof nationality of one of the American Republics until the interested Government is able to verify claims. It is reported by the Swiss Legation in Budapest that the Hungarian Foreign Office before taking a decision, wants to be advised whether if it further considers this matter, the states further requesting this treatment for persons claiming such nationality guarantee to accord reciprocity to Hungary. The Hungarian Government, in other words, wants to be advised whether persons in the United States or other American Republics claiming Hungarian nationality might benefit protection of state representing Hungary

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

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Hungary in those countries even if their claim to this protection is not well established.

Instructions as to the reply to be made to the Government of Hungary are requested by the Swiss Foreign Office.

HARRISON

DCR:V.G:BER 9/25/44

000788

*Recognition  
J.A. Passports*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 3255  
X

FOR MCCHELLAND.

1. With reference to earlier communications regarding admission of Jewish children from Hungary, Amembassy Habana reports that by note of August 14 Cuban government agreed to lodge 1,000 refugee children now in France and Hungary. Amembassy London advised by IGC that Brazilian government is ready to accept 500 Jewish refugees children from Hungary.

2. With reference to your 5796 of September 3, clarification is desired. Since Department's 2853 (erroneously given as 2863) of August 19, WRH's 130 was aimed at Swiss government rather than Interross action. Nevertheless, Interross attitude is regretted and you are requested to convey to Interross Board's feeling that fear of misinterpretation should not be allowed to stand in the way if supervision of deportations can alleviate sufferings of deportees. The very presence of Interross observers might have a salutary effect beyond mere humanization of treatment during deportation. Refer to Department's 1806 of May 25.

3. With reference to your 5888 of September 7, regret is expressed at the inability of Swiss authorities to transmit message contained in Department's 2933 of August 25. In the opinion of the Board, the purpose would be accomplished by the mere awareness of Hungarian government that outside world is informed of abuses occurring in Hungary, whether or not they would accept the message in a formal sense.

4. With reference to your 5805 of September 4, paragraph two, it is considered here that documents in question may be deemed to be covered by Salvadorian declaration reported in paragraph six of your 3871 of June 17. Accordingly, if in your judgment delivery of such documents would assist victims of enemy persecution, you may do so, simultaneously cabling Board indicating numbers of documents delivered and persons covered. It is also suggested that these persons be included in lists which you will present to Swiss authorities pursuant to Department's 2407 of July 13 paragraph numbered six and Department's 3120 of September 14 paragraph numbered one.

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Date Dec 1988

SEP 21 1944

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5. In the same connection, the wisdom of using the term "fraudulent" in any communication is seriously questioned, as being inconsistent with the stand taken by Department and Board and the Inter-American Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense.

6. With reference to your 5894 of September 7, please thank Swiss authorities for information reported therein and request them to continue pressing German government on basis of Department's 3180 of September 14, WRB's 164, and Department's 2490 of July 21.

7. Department's and Board's attention has been called to the case of Chil-Henryk Wilner, reported to be the son of an American citizen, and last known to have been in Belsenbargen.

Pursuant to Department's 1269 of April 13, 1944, please advise Swiss government that Wilner's claim to American citizenship, based on the citizenship of his father, is under investigation by the Department and that until the Swiss Government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Department, Wilner must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States in accordance with aforementioned Department's 1269. If necessary to protect Wilner, and consistent with protection of other claimants to nationality of any American Republic, Swiss may of course advise German authorities of the foregoing.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO EERN NO. 175

HULL

Miss Chauncey (for the Secy) Abrahamson, Akain, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hedel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Files

000790

*2 van Ref/BH  
Pohle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 20, 1944  
NUMBER: 3245  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

To Minister Harrison and McClelland, Bern, Switzerland.

With reference to persistent reports of renewed or impending deportations of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia by order of German authorities, you are requested to convey to German authorities through official Swiss channels this Government's most emphatic protest against these deportations and its unflinching determination to see to it that all persons participating in any form whatsoever in these deportations or in any other forms of persecution in Hungary or Slovakia will be apprehended and punished.

In this connection, and referring to ultimate paragraph your 5109 of August 8, attention of German authorities should also be called to position of this Government with respect to deportations from recognized civilian internment camps of persons holding documents issued in the name of American Republics. Unless all such persons are immediately returned to civilian internment camps supervised by Interross, the German authorities responsible will be held strictly accountable.

In addition, the strongest possible unofficial representations on both points should be made to appropriate individual

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

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German officials through all channels that may be available  
to you.

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This is WRB cable to Bern No. 178.

HULL

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WASHINGTON D.C.  
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CABLE TO MINISTER RABISON AND CCELLAND, B RN, SWITZERLAND

With reference to persistent reports of renewed or impending deportations of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia by order of German authorities, you are requested to convey to German authorities through official Swiss channels this Government's most emphatic protest against these deportations and its unflinching determination to see to it that all persons participating in any form whatsoever in these deportations or in any other forms of persecution in Hungary or Slovakia will be apprehended and punished.

In this connection, and referring to ultimate paragraph your 5109 of August 8, attention of German authorities should also be called to position of this Government with respect to deportations from recognized civilian internment camps of persons holding documents issued in the name of American Republics. Unless all such persons are immediately returned to civilian internment camps supervised by Inter-cross, the German authorities responsible will be held strictly accountable.

In addition, the strongest possible unofficial representations on both points should be made to appropriate individual German officials through all channels that may be available to you.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO B RN NO. 178

1:30 p.m.  
September 18, 1944

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

*RA. L.S.L.*

BAKzin:LSLesser:ar 9/16/44

000793

No. 9278

*War Refugee Board  
files*

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, September 20, 1944.

**CONTROL COPY**

Subject: Latin American Interests - France.  
Whereabouts Jews detained Clermont,  
Compiègne, Drancy, and Vittel.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to enclosure No. 1 of the Legation's airmail despatch No. 9250 of September 15, 1944, which was a copy of a note dated September 5, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office regarding Jews detained at the civilian internment camp at Vittel, France.

There is now attached, for the Department's information and records, a translation of a note dated September 16, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office. In this it is stated that Mr. Sethe, an official of the German Foreign Office has informed the Swiss Legation at Berlin that according to a report dated September 12, 1944, the persons detained at the camps at Clermont, Compiègne, Drancy, and Vittel, France were liberated by the Allied troops. Mr. Sethe therefore believes that the fourteen Jews whose deportation was ordered in June, 1944 and the other Jewish internees in France remained in that country and that inquiry might be made of the Allied authorities there as to their present whereabouts.

It may be observed that the Swiss Legation at Berlin states that a more detailed report will be submitted regarding the matter. Upon receipt of this report it will be promptly submitted to the Department.

Enclosure:

Translation of note dated September 16, 1944  
from Swiss Foreign Office.

IN OCL IS W H O R

File No. 840.1

GMB/mep

In quintuplicate to the Department

RECEIVED  
OFFICE DOVHO

A true copy  
of the signed  
original: *Wep*

000794

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 9278  
dated September 20, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT  
Division of Foreign Interests

9.24.2 A 3 - GL/Gk  
45819

With reference to its note B.24.2.A. GL/Gk (44062) of September 5, 1944, concerning the situation of Jews claiming Latin American nationality, the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that it recently asked the Swiss Legation at Berlin to endeavor to ascertain what had become of the Jews who were detained at the camps at Clermont, Compiègne, Drancy, and Vittel when the German troops retreated from France.

In reply, Mr. Sethe of the German Foreign Office advised the Swiss Legation that, according to a report dated September 12, the persons detained at the camps of Clermont, Compiègne, and Drancy were liberated by the Allied troops. Those who were at Vittel were taken by the Allied forces when an attempt was being made to transfer them to Germany. Among these persons were the fourteen Jews whose deportation had been ordered by the Gestapo in June, 1944 and who had remained at Vittel in view of their poor health.

With regard to the groups of Jews who were deported from Vittel in April and May, 1944, regarding whose present whereabouts the Federal Political Department had also inquired, Mr. Sethe stated to the Swiss Legation at Berlin that according to information he had received no Jews were transferred from Vittel to Bergen-Belsen. The inquiry made by the representative of the "Ozeanssicherheitshauptamt" at the German Legation at Paris could not be completed. The Jews concerned were without a doubt first transferred to Drancy and Compiègne, and Mr. Sethe is personally convinced that they never left France.

The Swiss Legation at Berlin therefore believes it may be possible to learn from the Allied authorities in France whether the Jews in question were found at Drancy and at Compiègne.

The Swiss Legation states it will submit a more detailed report regarding this matter, the substance of which the Federal Political Department will not fail to submit to the Legation as soon as it is received.

The Federal Political Department avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Legation the assurances of its high consideration.

Bern, September 16, 1944.

To the

Legation of the United States of America  
Bern.

GMO/mep

RECEIVED  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
BERN

000795

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
WRB

September 20, 1944

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and refers for appropriate attention and action the attached telegram addressed on September 14, 1944 to the Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

Enclosure:

To Hon. Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
September 14, 1944.

*WRB*

000796

COPY

TELEGRAM

20 WU J 170 10 extra

VD NEW YORK NY 255 pm Sept 14 1944

Hon. Adolph A. Berle

Asst. Secy. of State,

Washington, D.C.

We received new alarming information from our committee in Berne that the group of 163 amongst them scholars and leaders who were deported from Vittel have been placed under the jurisdiction of the Gestapo and probably brought to the extermination camp of Oswiecim. Since only your inexhaustible efforts resulted in keeping this group alive until the present time, we plead and appeal to you to take the extraordinary measures which our committee in Switzerland requested. The State Department should publish a warning protesting energetically against the deportation of this group and against their being placed under the jurisdiction of the Gestapo and they should demand that they be brought immediately to a camp for civilian internees to which the Red Cross has access. It should further stress that the United States has submitted exchange proposals for this group and that the Germans will be held responsible if something should happen to them. Your positive action will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA,  
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE,  
RABBI AARON KOTLER,  
RABBI ABRAHAM KALAMANOWITZ.

000797

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE  
NCB-787

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM  
PLAIN

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Bern

Dated September 16, 1944.

Rec'd 10:06 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington...

6112, Sixteenth.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Substance of Department's 3154, September 12, was immediately communicated to Swiss Federal Political Department, Division Foreign Interests, with request that appropriate action be taken as expeditiously as possible in behalf of these people.

Since, however, portion of note of Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador quoted in your wire referred only to recognition of documents of specific individuals mentioned in first paragraph your 3154 it would be of value to us to be advised whether Government of El Salvador thereby expressly recognizes all other nationality certificates being currently issued by their Consulate General at Geneva. Does Government of El Salvador desire that Legation present such documents officially to Swiss authorities for forwarding without prior confirmation each case.

HARRISON

MJH

**CONTROL COPY**

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DIVISION OF

SEP 18 1944

COMMUNICATIONS

AND RECORDS

SEPTEMBER 12

000798

*2 was copied  
Pehle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATE: September 16, 1944  
NUMBER: 3207

**CONTROL COPY**

Following for attention of McClelland.

The following extract of a letter from Berle to Pehle, dated September 11, 1944, is transmitted for your information, with reference to WRB 164, Department's 3180 of September 14.

QUOTE You invited my attention to reports indicating the desirability of presenting to the Germans as soon as possible lists of individuals bearing Latin American passports who are eligible to be exchanged for German nationals.

I agree with your suggestion and am glad to inform you that steps looking toward such action were taken some time ago when the Department drafted instructions to the American Legation at Bern asking that the Swiss draw up lists of persons entitled to inclusion in the exchanges, broken down into various principal categories. With respect to the category into which the numerous bearers of Latin-American passports at Bergen-Belsen would normally fall, the telegrams suggest to the Legation that in as much as the identity of these individuals is probably unknown to the governments whose passports they may hold, it might be possible to compile the requested lists through the cooperation of Mr. McClelland and the various philanthropic organizations in Switzerland who are in possession of the required information. UNQUOTE  
THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 173 X

HULL

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

000799

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The following extract of a letter from Berle to Pehle, dated September 11, 1944, is transmitted for your information, with reference to WRB 164; Department's 3180 of September 14.

QUOTE You invited my attention to reports indicating the desirability of presenting to the Germans as soon as possible lists of individuals bearing Latin American passports who are eligible to be exchanged for German nationals.

I agree with your suggestion and am glad to inform you that steps looking toward such action were taken some time ago when the Department drafted instructions to the American Legation at Bern asking that the Swiss draw up lists of persons entitled to inclusion in the exchanges, broken down into various principal categories. With respect to the category into which the numerous bearers of Latin-American passports at Bergen-Belsen would normally fall, the telegrams suggest to the Legation that in as much as the identity of these individuals is probably unknown to the governments whose passports they may hold, it might be possible to compile the requested lists through the cooperation of Mr. McClelland and the various philanthropic organizations in Switzerland who are in possession of the required information. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 173

2:30 p.m.  
September 15, 1944

Miss Phelan (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,  
Laughlin, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files  
BAKzin:ar 9/14/44

000800

Via Air Mail Pouch

No. 9250

Bern, September 15, 1944.

Subject: Latin American Interests - Germany and German-controlled territory. Treatment of bearers of Latin American documentation.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegrams No. 2490 (WRB. No. 78) of July 21, 1944 - 11 p.m., No. 2737 (WRB. No. 112) of August 9 - 6 p.m., and No. 2888 (WRB. No. 127) of August 22 - 8 p.m., concerning the treatment accorded by the German authorities to certain bearers of Latin American documentation in Germany and German-controlled territory, and related matters.

There is now enclosed, for the Department's information and for such action as it may deem appropriate, a copy of each of several official and unofficial communications and documents from the Swiss Foreign Office pertaining to the above subject. A translation of each of these is also attached, except for Enclosure No. 4 which was prepared in English.

An official of the Swiss Foreign Office has orally informed the Legation that the enclosed report concerning the deportation of persons of the Jewish race from Vittol (Enclosure No. 3) was written by Mr. Aubert de la Rue, of the Swiss Legation at Berlin. The Legation has also been informed that the observations contained in enclosure No. 6 regarding transit camps for persons of the Jewish race are informal and lack official confirmation.

Respectfully yours,  
For the Minister:

George Tait  
First Secretary

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

Enclosures

cc: Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodol, Lossor, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle

000801

Enclosures:

- No. 1 - Copy of note dated September 5, 1944, from Swiss Foreign Office;
- No. 2 - Copy of Notice from Swiss Foreign Office;
- No. 3 - Copy of report concerning deportation of Jews from the internment camp at Vittel;
- No. 4 - Copy of report prepared by British subject, Miss Sophie Skipwith;
- No. 5 - Copy of list of 14 persons at Vittel;
- No. 6 - Copy of notice dated July 12, 1944, concerning transit camps for "non-Aryans" in Germany;
- No. 7 - Copy of memorandum dated August 12, 1944, from Swiss Consulate at Paris;
- No. 8 - Copy of note dated August 4, 1944, addressed to the Swiss Consulate at Paris by the German Embassy at that city;
- No. 9 - Translation of enclosure No. 1;
- No. 10 - Translation of enclosure No. 2;
- No. 11 - Translation of enclosure No. 3;
- No. 12 - Translation of enclosure No. 5;
- No. 13 - Translation of enclosure No. 6;
- No. 14 - Translation of enclosure No. 7;
- No. 15 - Translation of enclosure No. 8;

(Enclosures Nos. 1 through 8 attached to original of despatch only).

File No. 840.1  
TJH/hs  
In quintuplicate to Department.

000802

Enclosure No. 9 to Despatch No. 9250  
dated September 15, 1944, from  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Division of Foreign Interests

B.24.2.A.3 - CL/Gk

44062

The Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to refer to the kind notes No. 9173 of August 3, No. 9246 of August 12 and No. 9344 of August 25, 1944, and their enclosures, concerning the situation, in German controlled territory, of Jews claiming the nationality of countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The Swiss Legation at Berlin, upon the request of the Government of the United States as well as of various Latin-American republics, has made a large number of representations on the subject of the Jews deported from Vittel, but without success, except concerning a group of 14 sick Jews whose deportation was also foreseen, but which was delayed because of the bad state of health of the persons in question.

These renewed interventions finally, on August 7, 1944, led to a discussion between Mr. Soldati, assistant to Minister Feldscher, Chief of the Special Division of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, and Mr. Sethe, Chief of the competent section of the German Foreign Office, concerning these deportations. The attached notice sets forth the reasons given by Mr. Sethe in the name of the German Foreign Office for not giving consideration to the request of the American Government that the Jews in question be reintegrated in an internment camp, with a view to inclusion in a German-Palestinian civilian exchange.

Furthermore the Political Department attaches to the present note a report prepared by another representative of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, concerning the deportation of Jews interned at Vittel and discussions with Mr. Sethe of the German Foreign Office and Chief Councillor Kröning of the German Security Office on this subject.

To the  
Legation of the United States of America, Bern.

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The Legation may observe that these documents constitute a partial reply to the kind above-cited notes of August 3, 12 and 24, 1944, and their enclosures. The Political Department may revert to the several points raised in these notes at a later date.

The Political Department takes this occasion to renew to the Legation the assurances of its high consideration.

Bern, September 5, 1944.

Enclosures:

- 1 notice;
- 1 report.

HS

Enclosure No. 10 to Despatch No. 9250  
dated September 15, 1944, from  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

NOTICE

CONCERNING THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GERMAN  
GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE DEPORTATION FROM  
THE VITTEL CAMP OF TWO GROUPS OF JEWS WHO  
WERE INTERNED THERE, AS STATED ON AUGUST  
7, 1944, by MR. SETHE OF THE GERMAN FOREIGN  
OFFICE

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In summary, the arguments on which the German Foreign Office  
bases its attitude in this matter are the following:

- 1) The Jews bearing passports issued in the name of Latin-American republics had been put in security by the German authorities in civilian internment camps with a view to inclusion in possible exchange operations. However, in various cases, the countries whose nationality these persons claimed, refused their inclusion in repatriation movements and often they even declared that the documents in the possession of certain of these Jews were not valid.
- 2) The fact that a considerable number of Jews thus placed in safe places with a view to their participation in repatriation movements were not considered as exchange material by the countries whose nationality they claimed, finally attracted the attention of the German authorities charged with the policing of foreigners.
- 3) This observation was in addition to the fact that the German authorities have knowledge of the activity, in neutral countries, of notorious centers (officines) for the issuance of passports, and that a large part of the Jews in question were bearers of identity papers issued by these centers.
- 4) Furthermore the Jews in question have appeared for many years - often from the day of their birth - in the official registers of the localities where they reside in the capacity of, for instance, German or Polish citizens, but they have never, up to the beginning of the present war, claimed another nationality.

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- 5) Moreover, the declarations made by the Latin-American republics on the subject of the validity of passports issued in their name, and communicated to the German Government through the Swiss Legation at Berlin, are sometimes worded in such a way as to leave doubt concerning the real nationality of the bearers of these documents.
- 6) If a Jew has always resided in a given place without ever claiming a nationality other than that of which mention is made in the registers of the respective locality and if suddenly he produces an identity document signed by a well-known passport manufacturer, the German authorities refuse to recognize this document and continue to consider him as national of the territory where he has lived.

In addition Mr. Sethe let it be clearly understood that from the moment when Jews possessing identity papers of this kind have been deported from internment camps where, until then they found themselves in safety, it is too late for the German Foreign Office to be able to intervene successfully on their behalf.

- 7) The case of the 51 Jews deported on May 16 from Vittel was also discussed, and also that of the 14 sick whose deportation had also been envisaged, but who remained at that camp because of their state of health.

Mr. Sethe explained to Mr. Soldati that the assurance which he had given to Mr. Feldscher on May 11, according to which new deportations of bearers of Latin-American passports detained in internment camps would no longer occur, never covered the case of the 238 Jews at Vittel. He added that the deportation of the latter had already been decided at the beginning of the year by the German authorities charged with policing foreigners, after having examined and considered as insufficient the identity papers of these Jews coming from Poland and occupied countries.

However, Mr. Sethe gave Mr. Soldati the assurance that he would do everything he possibly could in order that the 14 sick might be able to remain at Vittel.

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Enclosure No. 11 to Despatch No. 9250  
dated September 15, 1944, from American  
Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

Report on observations concerning deportation  
of Jews from the internment camp at Vittel,  
and on Conversations on the same subject with  
Secret Councillor Sethe and Chief Councillor  
Kröning of the German Security Office.

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When I arrived at the internment camp at Vittel on July 15, 1944, I had the impression that the camp commandant, Captain Landhäuser, had received orders not to give any explanation about the deportations of Jews, and he prevented me from discussing these questions with the competent representatives of the internees. Nevertheless, the American camp senior, Miss Robinsohn, was able to give me lists of the Jews who had already been deported and of those who still remained in the camp and who were considered by the Germans as stateless and therefore destined for deportation.

During my stay at the camp at Vittel the camp commandant on several occasions referred to the deportations of Jews, and according to his explanations, horrible scenes must have transpired. According to his statement, these were the blackest days of his life. Allegedly, he had no authority at all to prevent a deportation in his capacity as camp commandant, because a rather large detachment of Gestapo officials from Paris arrived to proceed with the operation. Several Jews who were threatened with deportation, committed suicide and three of them, namely Mrs. Damar Schorr and Mr. and Mrs. Bauminger, died.

The first contingent left Vittel on April 18 in the direction of Drancy, where it allegedly arrived on April 29 and from where these persons were transferred onward to an unknown destination. A further group left Vittel on May 16 allegedly also for Drancy and from there to an unknown destination. The camp commandant asserted that the Gestapo officials declared that all these people would be transferred to Bergen-Belsen, to await determination whether they be eligible for exchange. Nobody could confirm this. On the contrary, the Bengasi people who arrived from Bergen-Belsen stated that they did not know that Jews from Vittel or other French camps had arrived at Bergen-Belsen.

On July 9 a British Jewess named Rachel Rubinstein arrived at Vittel with her 3 year old son from a French camp for Jews at Vernay, who declared that all French camps for Jews were also currently being combed and that all so-called stateless Jews or Jews of French nationality were being deported.

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During my journey to Lisbon I frequently discussed the question of this deportation of Jews with the British internees from Vittel, but they were unable to give me any further information. Only the British subject Sophie Skipwith has prepared a report, a copy of which is attached to the present report. Fourteen Jews remained at Vittel proper, who were not transportable at the time of the second removal. According to the camp commandant, he had likewise been in possession for 3 weeks of deportation order from the Gestapo at Paris. According to his statement, he has thus far succeeded in preventing the deportation of these persons.

At Lisbon I then had the possibility on various occasions of discussing this matter with Secret Councillor Sethe. I invited his attention to the fact that he had declared, - after Minister Feldscher had discussed with him the deportation of the first group of 163 Jews, - that he greatly regretted this occurrence, and that henceforth he would prevent any further deportations. I added that since this promise, a further number of 51 Jews had been deported and that a deportation order had likewise been issued for the 14 Jews who remained at Vittel. Secret Councillor Sethe promised me immediately to telegraph to Berlin in order to prevent the deportation of the remaining 14 Jews. Furthermore, he denied having stated that all deportations, apart from that of the 163 Jews, would be prevented. He said that he had declared that not more than 238 Jews - who were concerned already at that time - would be deported. I invited Secret Councillor Sethe's attention to the fact that in my opinion it would be in the interest of the German Government to transfer the deported Jews either to Vittel or to Bergen-Belsen, insofar as they are not already there, in view of a possible exchange, as the exchange eligibility of all these persons had been recognized. Secret Councillor Sethe said that he could not express himself on this subject, as the deportation of Jews was a fundamental question for the German Government, whereas an exchange was only a question of expediency. He himself would have no objection to the exchange of all these Jews. He felt obliged to invite my attention to the fact that the Germans did not authorize the protecting power (Foreign Interests Section) to intervene for those Jews because all these people were stateless and were therefore not under our protection. To this I replied that these Jews, who were the bearers of allegedly false passports or other identity documents, had in the meantime been recognized by the United States as qualified for exchange and that the majority of the governments concerned had recognized the validity of these passports and other documents. I declared that when a country wanted to recognize certain persons as its citizens this was an emanation of sovereignty. Secret Councillor Sethe took the position that those Jews are also recorded in Polish registers and that, for the German Government, they were only Polish Jews. Upon my answer that in this case they would have

dual nationality and could invoke either of the two nationalities in confronting the German Government as a third state, Secret Councillor Sethe replied that in this case the German Reich was not a third state, because it completely occupied Poland. Nevertheless, I got the impression that Secret Councillor Sethe would like to meet our wishes if he were in a position to do so. He was obviously in possession of strict instructions from the German Security Office.

My impression to this effect strengthened during a conversation with Secret Councillor Sethe and Chief Government Councillor Krönig of the German Security Office. It may be observed here that Chief Government Councillor Dr. Krönig is charged at the German Security Office with all questions relating to internment camps. According to his statement, he was not familiar with the deportation of Jews, because the Jewish question was handled by another section which always acted under the highest instructions. Dr. Krönig stated that he himself would also be interested in the exchange of these deported Jews. He did not know, however, whether these persons could still be reached. He likewise promised if possible to leave the 14 remaining Jews at Vittel in that camp. He could not or did not wish to give any information concerning the whereabouts of the Jews who have already been deported.

Some British internees who were especially occupied with the Jewish question, were very active at Lisbon in order to help those Jews in some other way. I was able to ascertain that they got in touch with the American Embassy, with a Jewish committee and with the Nuncio. I explained to them that on the part of the protecting power at Berlin, everything had been done to help these deported Jews, but that in so doing, we were above all dependent on the good will of the German authorities.

Grosswudicke, August 8, 1944

DMH/hs

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Enclosure No. 12 to Despatch No. 9250  
dated September 15, 1944, from  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

LIST OF PERSONS AT VITTEL

1. EISENZWEIG Szyga
2. EISENZWEIG Gina
3. EISENZWEIG Miriam
4. GEHORSAM Jelene
5. GELLER Stella
6. GELLER Herbert
7. GOLDENBERGER Henryk
8. KADYSZ Brucha
9. KOHN Felicia
10. LINDENBAUM Sonia
11. NEUMANN Fanny
12. SHAPU Rosa
13. ZUCKER Malka
14. Name not known.

According to the statements of some British internees,  
some of the Jews apparently escaped and could not yet be  
recaptured.

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- d) Non-aryans who claim Latin-American citizenship - about 350 -.
- e) Non-aryans whose exchange, apparently because of certain ties with a foreign country, might be taken into consideration - about 600.
- f) Netherlands diamond merchants - about 200 (total about 3,100).

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Enclosure No. 13 to Despatch No. 9250  
dated September 15, 1944, from  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

Hauschendorf, July 12, 1944.

Notice concerning transit camp for non-aryans  
in Germany

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According to statements of participants in the German-Palestinian exchange, the transit camp of Westerbork should at present, if it is not already completely dissolved, consist, at least in comparison with its former capacity (over 12,000 persons), of only a very small number of internees. The majority of the internees of Westerbork were transferred as follows:

- 1) Non-aryans whose citizenship is not clarified but who in the opinion of the German authorities would be considered eligible for exchange were transferred to Bergen-Belsen. The internees of Bergen-Belsen may, to a certain degree, be considered as protected non-aryans;
- 2) Older people, as well as persons who earned merits in Germany in any field (for instance scholars) were transferred to Theresienstadt, known as the model camp.
- 3) The other non-aryans were transferred for the most part to Auschwitz which must indeed be considered as a concentration camp.

According to information from the same source the following categories of persons are currently detained at the transit camp Bergen-Belsen;

- a) Persons with dual nationality who also possess British citizenship - about 350 -.
- b) Persons with dual nationality who also possess United States citizenship - about 200 -.
- c) Non-aryan Netherlanders with Palestine Certificates - about 1,200 -.

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Enclosure No. 14 to Despatch  
No. 9250 dated September 15,  
1944, from American Legation,  
Bern.

TRANSLATION

MEMORANDUM

The Swiss Consulate at Paris, not having been able, despite numerous representations at the Sicherheitspolizei (security police), to ascertain the current whereabouts of a certain number of citizens of powers whose interests are protected by Switzerland and whose transfer to Drancy had in most cases been reported to it at the beginning of this year, had transmitted a list of these persons to the German Embassy. The latter has sent to it, in reply, note No. B.3606/44 of August 4, a copy of which is attached to this memorandum.

Upon receipt thereof the officer in charge of the Swiss Consulate personally made representations at the Embassy, to which he presented the attached list giving all details regarding the nationality of the interested persons. He received the reply that the persons appearing on this list had been considered as "stateless", that they probably had been deported after a short stay at Drancy and that the Embassy could not do anything more.

The officer in charge of the Consulate could only make a renewed protest against such proceedings as, in each case, his intervention at the Sicherheitspolizei was made as soon as the arrest had been brought to his attention.

Concerning the Mesdames Kahn and Modiano, American citizens aged 81 and 82 years respectively, it was never possible to ascertain what had happened to them after they had been taken away from their home during the night of January 21 to 22, 1944, although the Consulate's first representation on their behalf is dated February 2.

Paris, August 12, 1944.

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Enclosure No. 15 to Despatch  
No. 9250 dated September 15,  
1944, from American Legation,  
Bern.

TRANSLATION

GERMAN EMBASSY  
PARIS  
Nr. B 3606/44

NOTE

The German Embassy has the honor to inform the Swiss Consulate pursuant to its note No. 21 A 2/44 Drancy - 22 A 33/44 of June 30, 1944, concerning the detention of United States, British and other nationals at the Drancy camp that the commandant of the security police make the following statements with reference to the list forwarded by the Consulate:

Kahn, Klara and sister Hodiano, Ida	- stateless, not at Drancy
Rappoport, Angelo Semida Sa- lomon Rappoport, Massia Rappoport, Jose Leonhard	} at Vittol since July 7, 1944
Springer, Adolpho	stateless, not at Drancy
Bulford, Helene	stateless, not at Drancy
Kalochman, Faiga	not known at the camp
Afif, Bonoit - Afif, Leon Lucien - Aboaf, Josef -	} will shortly be trans- ferred to an intern- ment camp.
Algazze y Razon, Moiso -	not known at the camp, stateless
Malcosky, Saul - Malcosky, noo Bolenky, Sara - Malcosky, Maurice -	} stateless, not at Drancy
Wainzoff, Lovi	not at the camp
Amrany, Esther	at Vittol since July 7, 1944

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- 2 -

Reza, Jaffa -	}	currently still at
Reza, Elias -		Drancy for investi-
Reza, Iskander -		gation
Salom, Raimond -		escaped at the end of June, 1944.
Dubonsky, Mordechay -	}	stateless, not at
Dubonsky, wife -		Drancy
Dubonsky, 2 children -		
Eskefasy, Haim -		not at the Drancy camp.

It may be pointed out on this occasion that in individual cases the authenticity of citizenship status must be proved with incontrovertible documents, as attempts to escape from the general Jewish measures by making false statements are lately multiplying.

Paris, August 4, 1944.

HS

To the  
Swiss Consulate,  
Paris.

000815

RECEIVED: 17 SEP 1944

*J. H. P. [unclear]*  
*[unclear]*

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: September 14, 1944  
NUMBER: 6047  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

You are referred to Legation's airmail of May 6, No. 8103, and Department's message of June 26, No. 2173.

Copy of note from German Foreign Office dated August 8, which is enclosed with note from Swiss Foreign Office dated September 9, states that investigation disclosed that Pfifferling does not have citizenship in Honduras and that Pfifferling stated only German citizenship is claimed by his family and himself.

The foregoing is in connection with Honduran interests in Germany.

HARRISON

DOR:GPM  
9-27-44

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

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*2* *was Ref BR*  
*Pelle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 14, 1944  
NUMBER: 3180  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

Following for McClelland.

1. Reference is made to your 5689 of August 31.

In replying to Swiss notice of August 26, please ask Swiss political department to emphasize that the German arguments notwithstanding, this Government is unable to recognize any right of the German authorities to pass upon the validity of documents issued in the name of other sovereign governments. Furthermore, none of the American republics upon whose documents this German procedure is being practiced can, in justice to their own proper interests, allow that practice to go unquestioned. Accordingly, this Government insists on the stand taken by it in Department's 2490 of July 21 paragraph two and rejects as irrelevant any attempt by German officials to question the validity of Latin American documents whether on the basis of antecedents of Jews involved or of the type of identity papers or on any other basis.

It should be emphasized in this connection that German attitude was at first to doubt the eligibility of persons

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

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involved for exchange and the acceptance of documents involved by issuing governments. Now that eligibility for exchange has been confirmed and the several issuing governments have notified Germany through protecting powers that the document holders must be protected notwithstanding any doubts as to the validity of the documents, German officials introduce new excuses for their failure to comply. All these excuses are emphatically rejected by this Government and the attention of German officials involved is drawn to the serious consequences of their attitude.

In this connection, please advise whether you have been able to convey to proper quarters the message contained in paragraph three of Department's 2490 of July 21. It is believed that in the light of the military situation it is possible to sway German officials by confronting them with a sufficiently emphatic statement of this Government's position.

With reference to lists of bearers of Latin American documents suggested in ultimate and penultimate paragraphs of your 5689, disturbed war conditions have interfered with communications between Latin American governments and their European missions, resulting in incomplete records which make the compilation of such lists difficult. However, to assist the Swiss in this matter it is believed that the Legation should endeavor to obtain with the aid of McClelland and the local representatives of organizations that have records on the

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on the subject, lists which are as complete as possible with a view to transmitting them to the Swiss authorities. The Department will suggest to various Latin American governments the urgency of confirming to Swiss 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 Power handling exchange of persons whose eligibility would be established by being placed on the list, Swiss officials will agree to transmit the lists to Germany even without such confirmation. You may include in such lists the persons envisaged in Department's 2407 of July 13 paragraph numbered six.

Precaution should be taken, however, to inform Swiss and German authorities that such lists cannot be considered complete. Should Germany inquire of Swiss Legation or government whether any particular individual not appearing on such lists is protected by Switzerland, it is suggested that an answer along the following lines would be both substantially correct and calculated to save human lives: Owing to wartime conditions, Swiss records regarding citizens of countries under Swiss protection are incomplete and so are records of several Latin American legations in BERN; if Germany would inform Switzerland of the claimed nationality of the person involved, inquiry will be made of the government of the country concerned; and the Swiss will consider it understood that pending receipt of an answer to such inquiry such person will be treated as

and

WASHINGTON D.C.  
S. B. GEORGE BOARD  
16 OCT 1944

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and accorded all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the country whose nationality he claims.

2. The following information received from Amembassies in various countries is transmitted for McClelland's information and guidance in connection with protection of victims of enemy persecution, representation in Hungary, and shelters for Jewish children from Hungary:

Portuguese government is in agreement in principle to admit for temporary refuge Hungarian Jewish refugees, preferably in lots of three to four hundred. Portuguese government has already informed Hungarian government of its interest in such people. It has persuaded Hungarian government to issue exit visas and has itself given Portuguese visas to a number of them, but Germans have refused to permit them to leave as yet. Some of these persons are now in asylum in the Portuguese legation in Hungary. The Hungarian government is thus aware of the Portuguese interest in this problem.

Venezuelan government has authorized its legation in Lisbon to visa the passports of Jewish refugees, especially children, who are traveling to the American continent, even though they may not be proceeding to Venezuelan territory. It has also requested the Swiss Political Department to extend the protection of Venezuelan interests to Hungarian territory and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe for the purpose of aiding the bearers of Venezuelan passports in those regions.

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President

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President Vargas of Brazil has approved the plan to bring 500 refugee children to Brazil, provided that the Brazilian Government would not incur the expenses of transportation to and maintenance in Brazil. He has accordingly charged General Ivo Soares, Chairman of the Brazilian Red Cross, with making suitable arrangements with appropriate Jewish welfare agencies in Brazil to take care of them. Official announcement is to follow shortly.

Government of Uruguay has agreed to the admittance of 500 refugee children.

3. With reference to Department's 2485 of July 21, Haitian Legation in Bern was instructed on July 31 to request the Swiss to present to the German Government the following declaration of the Haitian Government:

QUOTE Inasmuch as a certain number of individuals of the Jewish race naturalized as Haitians abroad in pursuance of the Decree-Law of May 29, 1939, were living in territories controlled by Germany and Italy; that they have been detained there continuously for reasons of force majeure since the declaration of war by the Republic of Haiti until this date, the Haitian Government declares: that the persons in the above-mentioned category have been unable to comply with the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942, enjoining, under penalty of the loss

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loss of Haitian nationality, all those who had acquired Haitian naturalization abroad to return to Haiti before August 5, 1942. Consequently, it is hereby made known to whom it may concern that the said persons are not affected by the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942. UNQUOTE

In this connection, the Board's attention has been called to the test case of Mrs. Zelman Solowiejczyk, age 42, and Miss Sephora Solowiejczyk, age 7, whose last known address was Jacob Jacobs Street 37, Antwerp, Belgium, and who are the wife and daughter of Zelman Solowiejczyk, now residing in New York City. Under the foregoing declaration, these women, whose Haitian naturalization is said to have been promulgated in the Moniteur of Haiti on December 23, 1939, retain their Haitian nationality. Please take all appropriate action to insure that these women, if still in German hands, be treated as Haitian nationals. Consult with Haitian Minister if you deem it advisable.

The Haitian Legation has also been instructed not to question at present the validity of Haitian passports held by persons who are now in occupied territories and who could be the object of persecution by the enemy until such persons arrive in a place of safety and to inform the Federal Department of these instructions.

This is WRB cable to Bern No. 164.

RECEIVED  
LEGATION OF  
HULL

000822

CABLE TO MINISTERS HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

1. Reference is made to your 3687 of August 31.

In replying to Swiss notice of August 26, please ask Swiss political department to emphasize that the German arguments notwithstanding, this Government is unable to recognize any right of the German authorities to pass upon the validity of documents issued in the name of other sovereign governments. Furthermore, none of the American republics upon whose documents this German procedure is being practiced can, in justice to their own proper interests, allow that practice to go unquestioned. Accordingly, this Government insists on the stand taken by it in Department's 2490 of July 21 paragraph two and rejects as irrelevant any attempt by German officials to question the validity of Latin American documents whether on the basis of antecedents of Jews involved or of the type of identity papers or on any other basis.

It should be emphasized in this connection that German attitude was at first to doubt the eligibility of persons involved for exchange and the acceptance of documents involved by issuing governments. Now that eligibility for exchange has been confirmed and the several issuing governments have notified Germany through protecting powers that the document holders must be protected notwithstanding any doubts as to the validity of the documents, German officials introduce new excuses for their failure to comply. All these excuses are emphatically rejected by this Government and the attention of German officials involved is drawn to the serious consequences of their attitude.

In this connection, please advise whether you have been able to convey to proper quarters the message contained in paragraph three of Department's 2490 of July 21. It is believed that in the light of the military situation it is possible to sway German officials by confronting them with a sufficiently emphatic statement of this Government's position.

With reference to lists of bearers of Latin American documents suggested in ultimate and penultimate paragraphs of your 3689, disturbed war conditions have interfered with communications between Latin American governments and their European missions, resulting in incomplete records which make the compilation of such lists difficult. However, to assist the Swiss in this matter it is believed that the Legation should endeavor to obtain with the aid of McClelland and the local representatives of organizations that have records on the subject, lists which are as complete as possible with a view to transmitting them to the Swiss authorities. The Department will suggest to various Latin American governments the urgency of confirming to Swiss 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 power handling exchange of persons whose eligibility would be established by being placed on the list, Swiss officials will agree to transmit the lists to Germany even without such confirmation. You may include in such lists the persons envisaged in Department's 2407 of July 12 paragraph numbered six.

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Precaution should be taken, however, to inform Swiss and German authorities that such lists cannot (repeat not) be considered complete. Should Germany inquire of Swiss Legation or government whether any particular individual not (repeat not) appearing on such lists is protected by Switzerland, it is suggested that an answer along the following lines would be both substantially correct and calculated to save human lives. Owing to wartime conditions, Swiss records regarding citizens of countries under Swiss protection are incomplete and so are records of several Latin American legations in Bern; if Germany would inform Switzerland of the claimed nationality of the person involved, inquiry will be made of the government of the country concerned; and the Swiss will consider it understood that pending receipt of an answer to such inquiry such person will be treated as and accorded all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the country whose nationality he claims.

2. The following interest on received from Ambassadors in various countries is transmitted for McClelland's information and guidance in connection with protection of victims of crazy persecution, representation in Hungary, and shelter for Jewish children from Hungary:

Portuguese government is in agreement in principle to admit for temporary refuge Hungarian Jewish refugees, preferably in lots of three to four hundred. Portuguese government has already informed Hungarian government of its interest in such people. It has persuaded Hungarian government to issue exit visas and has itself given Portuguese visas to a number of them, but Germans have refused to permit them to leave as yet. Some of these persons are now in asylum in the Portuguese legation in Hungary. The Hungarian government is thus aware of the Portuguese interest in this problem.

Venezuelan government has authorized its legation in Lisbon to visa the passports of Jewish refugees, especially children, who are traveling to the American continent, even though they may not be proceeding to Venezuelan territory. It has also requested the Swiss Political Department to extend the protection of Venezuelan interests to Hungarian territory and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe for the purpose of aiding the bearers of Venezuelan passports in those regions.

President Vargas of Brazil has approved the plan to bring 300 refugee children to Brazil, provided that the Brazilian Government would not incur the expenses of transportation to and maintenance in Brazil. He has accordingly charged General Ivo Soares, Chairman of the Brazilian Red Cross, with making suitable arrangements with appropriate Jewish welfare agencies in Brazil to take care of them. Official announcement is to follow shortly.

Government of Uruguay has agreed to the admittance of 300 refugee children.

3. With reference to Department's 2485 of July 21, Haitian Legation in Bern has been instructed on July 31 to request the Swiss to present to

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the German Government the following declaration of the Haitian Government:

QUOTE: Inasmuch as a certain number of individuals of the Jewish race naturalized as Haitians abroad in pursuance of the Decree-Law of May 29, 1939, were living in territories controlled by Germany and Italy; that they have been detained there continuously for reasons of force majeure since the declaration of war by the Republic of Haiti until this date, the Haitian Government declares: that the persons in the above-mentioned category have been unable to comply with the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942, enjoining, under penalty of the loss of Haitian nationality, all those who had acquired Haitian naturalization abroad to return to Haiti before August 5, 1942. Consequently, it is hereby made known to whom it may concern that the said persons are not affected by the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942. UNQUOTE

In this connection, the Board's attention has been called to the test case of Mrs. Zelman Solowiejczyk, age 42, and Miss Sephora Solowiejczyk, age 7, whose last known address was Jacob Jacobs Street 37, Antwerp, Belgium, and who are the wife and daughter of Zelman Solowiejczyk, now residing in New York City. Under the foregoing declaration, these women, whose Haitian naturalization is said to have been promulgated in the Moniteur of Haiti on December 23, 1939, retain their Haitian nationality. Please take all appropriate action to insure that these women, if still in German hands, be treated as Haitian nationals. Consult with Haitian Minister if you deem it advisable.

The Haitian Legation has also been instructed not to question at present the validity of Haitian passports held by persons who are now in occupied territories and who could be the object of persecution by the enemy until such persons arrive in a place of safety and to inform the Federal Department of these instructions.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 184

9:20 p.m.  
September 9, 1944

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

*BAK* *L.S.L.*  
BAKzin;LSLesser;ar 9/7/44

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*2 w w Ref Ed-Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: September 14, 1944  
NUMBER: 6062  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

It is stated in a note from the Swiss, dated September 7, that representations have been made to the German Foreign Office by the Swiss Legation, Berlin, in an endeavor to secure authorization to visit the camps mentioned in Department's cable 2149, dated June 24, 1944, first paragraph. On August 19 the German Foreign Office responded by note, declaring that the request from the Swiss was referred to competent officials and stating that further communications on the matter would be sent. WRB 36.

HARRISON

DCR:MRD:CR

9-16-44

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

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**CONTROL COPY**

*M.R.B.  
Pelle*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 20 1944

SECTION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

PEM

AMBASSY

BERN

3154, Twelfth

PLAIN

September 12, 1944

Regarding Fernand Salomon and his wife and daughter Yvonne, interned at Drancy, near Paris; Jules Levy, Lina Levy, Sigismund Salomon and his sons Edgar, Gilbert, Alfred and Pierre, interned at Drancy; Pinkas Lipschuetz and his family residing at Brussels; Mr. and Mrs. Minkowski, Benedikt Hacker, Arthur Samuel, Mrs. Jeanne Simonnet, Miss Marie Helene Veil and Mrs. Nathalie Mas and her son Roger Denis Mas; Curt Dressler, residing at Brussels; and Matthias Arnold Hijman, interned at Westerbork, Netherlands, respectively, following is pertinent portion of note from Minister of Foreign Affairs El Salvador regarding aforementioned persons: QUOTE: The Government of El Salvador recognized and will recognize the validity of the documents of Salvadoran nationality which the said persons possess until, in view of the fact that the files of its Consulates located in enemy territory cannot now be consulted, it decides to the contrary, if it should do so, and in its

SEP 20 11 52 AM '44  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.  
 MR. BELMONT  
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4.- #8154, Twelfth, to Bern.

its name, availing myself of the kind offer which you made me, I request, through your worthy medium, that Your Excellency's Government transmit the foregoing to the Department of Foreign Relations of Switzerland, as the reply of this Foreign Office concerning the documents in question. *URGENTS.*

Please request Swiss Government to take appropriate action in this connection including addition of names given above to list of persons eligible for exchange.

It is assumed that foregoing answers questions in your 5805.

A 111  
RULL  
(AEG)

816.012/9-444

BWP:ADC:BB

9-11-44

WRB

COA

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No. 9184

War Refugee Board  
(Trans)

Jills

CONTROL COPY

Via Airmail Pouch.

Bern, September 8, 1944.

Subject: Activities in Switzerland of persons engaged in endeavoring to ameliorate the condition of Jews held in Germany.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the activities of various organizations and persons in Switzerland on behalf of the holders of Latin American documentation in Germany and German-occupied territory.

In this connection, for the Department's information and records, there is enclosed a copy and translation of aide-mémoire No. 43432 of August 31, 1944, from the Foreign Interests Division of the Swiss Federal Political Department, together with copies and translations of its enclosures, with regard to certain inquiries of Mr. Isaac STERNBUCH, of Montraux, Switzerland. There is also enclosed a copy of the Legation's notice of today's date in reply to the Swiss Foreign Office's aide-mémoire, and a copy of the Legation's letter, likewise of today's date, addressed to Mr. Sternbuch.

It may be added that the Legation's records fail to indicate that Mr. Sternbuch has, at any time, been authorized to quote the Legation in any connection.

Enclosures:

1. - Copy of aide-mémoire No. 43432 dated August 31, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office;
2. - Translation of above-mentioned aide-mémoire;
3. - Copy of letter dated July 12, 1944, addressed by Mr. Isaac Sternbuch to the Swiss Legation at Berlin;

RECEIVED  
AND RECORDED  
BUREAU

4. -

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4. - Translation of letter dated July 12, 1944, addressed by Mr. Isaac Sternbuch to the Swiss Legation at Berlin;
5. - Copy of Notice dated August 22, 1944, from Swiss Legation, Berlin;
6. - Translation of above-mentioned Notice;
7. - Copy of Legation's notice of today's date No. 9424, to the Swiss Foreign Office;
8. - Copy of Legation's letter dated today addressed to Mr. Sternbuch.

File No. 340.1  
GT/dmh  
In quintuplicate to Department.

1. 10  
Of 100 1000  
Original *de*

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Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
dmh

DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL  
Division des Intérêts Étrangers  
RI(1)18 - CL/OK  
No. 43432

AIDE - MEMOIRE

La Légation de Suisse à Berlin a reçu d'un M. Isaac Sternbuch de Montreux, une lettre datée du 12 juillet 1944, ci-jointe en copie, concernant les Juifs titulaires de documents d'identité ibéro-américains déportés au camp de Vittel par les Autorités allemandes au début de 1944.

M. Sternbuch s'était déjà adressé directement à la Légation de Suisse une première fois par téléphone, vers la fin du mois de juillet et avait alors été invité à communiquer sa demande à la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique à Berne.

Le Département suppose que c'est par suite d'un malentendu que M. Sternbuch se croit en mesure d'écrire au premier paragraphe de sa lettre que c'est avec l'assentiment de la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique à Berne qu'il s'adresse directement à la Légation de Suisse à Berlin.

Le Département joint au présent aide-mémoire une notice, établie par la Légation de Suisse à Berlin sur la base de la lettre de Mr. Sternbuch et donnant un aperçu des démarches entreprises par elle en faveur des Juifs en question. Il laisse à la Légation le soin de juger s'il convient de communiquer à M. Sternbuch la substance de cette notice et de faire savoir à ce dernier que le Département a pour principe de ne traiter les questions relevant de la protection des intérêts étrangers qu'à la requête des représentations, à Berne, des États intéressés.

Berne, le 31 août 1944.

Annexe:

OCT 12 1944

1 lettre (3) et 1 notice (2)

A la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique,  
BERNE.

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Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT  
Division of Foreign Interests

RI(1)18 - CL/GK  
No. 43432

AIDE - MEMOIRE

The Swiss Legation at Berlin has received a letter dated July 12, 1944, from a Mr. Isaac Sternbuch, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, concerning the Jews who are holders of South American identity documents, and who have been deported from Vittel by the German authorities early in 1944.

Mr. Sternbuch had already once got in touch directly with the Swiss Legation by telephone towards the end of July and had then been told to communicate his request to the American Legation at Bern.

The Political Department presumes that it is owing to a misunderstanding that Mr. Sternbuch considers himself to be authorized to write in the first paragraph of his letter that it is with the agreement of the American Legation at Bern that he is getting in touch with the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

The Political Department encloses a notice to the present aide-mémoire, prepared by the Swiss Legation at Berlin on the basis of Mr. Sternbuch's letter and giving the details of the steps which have been undertaken by the Legation on behalf of the Jews in question. It leaves it to the Legation to judge whether it is convenient to communicate the substance of this notice to Mr. Sternbuch and to let him know that the Political Department, in principle, only treats questions relating to the protection of foreign interests upon request of the representations of the interested governments at Bern.

Bern, August 31, 1944.

Enclosures:

letter (3) and notice (2).

To the Legation of the  
United States of America,  
BERN.

TMM

000832

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 9134  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
dmh

J. STERNBUCH  
Montreux

Montreux, 12. Juli 1944.

An die Schweiz. Gesandtschaft,  
Berlin.

Sehr verehrter Herr Minister,

Betr.: Internierte mit südamerikanischen Papieren  
in Vittel (Frankreich).

Ich gestatte mir, mit Bewilligung der Amerikanischen Gesandtschaft in Bern einige Zeilen an Sie zu richten, mit der Bitte, die Bemühung gütigst entschuldigen zu wollen.

Es handelt sich um die amerikanischen Internierten in Vittel, welche nach der Wegschaffung von 162 Menschen am 18. April a.o. krankheitshalber noch zurückbleiben durften. Gemäss den neuesten Nachrichten sind am 16. Mai 1944 weitere Internierte nach einem unbekanntem Ort übersiedelt worden. Es sind nur noch wenige Leute verblieben, denen ebenfalls der Abtransport droht, und die in dem Brief jämmerlich bitten, ihnen zu Hilfe zu kommen. Der Kommandant erklärt, dass ihre Papiere durch die Amerikanischen Staaten immer noch nicht anerkannt worden seien.

Dies erscheint sehr unbegreiflich, in Anbetracht der Tatsache, dass die Schweiz. Gesandtschaft laut den mir in Bern vorgelegten Details schon am 28. April a.o. interveniert hat. Ueberdies soll ein Vertreter der Schweiz. Gesandtschaft wegen der 162 vermissten Internierten in Vittel gewesen sein. Ohne Zweifel müsste er dann ausser mit dem Kommandanten auch mit den krankheitshalber zurückgebliebenen Internierten in Verbindung gekommen sein, um ihnen die Anerkennung ihrer Papiere zu bestätigen. Aus den verschiedenen Briefen aus Vittel geht überhaupt nicht hervor, dass ein Schweiz. Vertreter in den letzten 2 Monaten mit ihnen in Vittel zusammenkam. Das wäre die erste Voraussetzung für eine Hilfeleistung an die Weggeschafften und Zurückgebliebenen. Wir haben

uns

uns mit Bestimmtheit darauf gestützt.

Darf ich Sie, sehr verehrter Herr Minister, bitten, diese Angelegenheit mit der grössten Beschleunigung zu überprüfen und sofort einen Delegierten der Gesandtschaft nach Vittel zu bestimmen,

1. Um die wenigen dort zurückgebliebenen Internierten zu betreuen,
2. Um den Verbleib der am 18. April a.o. weggeschafften 162 Internierten abzuklären,
3. Ebenso den Verbleib der in der Folge am 16. Mai abtransportierten Internierten nachzuforschen,

worüber auch die Amerikanische Gesandtschaft in Bern trotz allen Berichten an sie immer noch im Unklaren ist.

Es ist einfach unverständlich, dass es nicht möglich sein soll, in Vittel zu ermitteln, wohin die Leute am 18. April und am 16. Mai 1944 verbracht wurden. Alle Internierten figurieren auf der Austauschliste nach den U.S.A. und werden in den nächsten Wochen sukzessive angefordert werden. Soeben erhalte ich die telegraphische Mitteilung, dass die ersten 10 Familien sofort abreisen können, und dass die Organe, welche sich mit dem Austausch beschäftigen, ebenfalls davon verständigt wurden.

Familien: ROTTENBERG  
RAPAPORT  
FRAENKEL  
WEINGART  
WOLF  
NACHMAN GOLDSTEIN  
LIBBER  
EISENZWEIG  
BAUMINGER  
KATZENLENSOHN.

Diese Namen figurieren alle auf der Liste der Weggeschafften, ausgenommen Familie Eisenzweig, die evtl. noch in Vittel ist.

Mit Zustimmung der Amerikanischen Gesandtschaft wähle ich den direkten Weg, um die Behandlung der Angelegenheit zu beschleunigen, da es mit jedem Tag, evtl. mit jeder Stunde zu spät sein könnte. Für alle entstehenden Kosten werde ich jederseits aufkommen. Zur weiteren Orientierung erlaube ich mir, Ihnen anbei eine Kopie eines Schreibens der Amerikanischen Gesandtschaft vom 22. April an mich zu übermitteln, in meiner Eigenschaft als Vertreter religiöser Verbände Amerikas und Kanadas.

Ich

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Ich bitte Sie wiederholt, die Ihnen verursachten  
Bemühungen zu entschuldigen, und genehmigen Sie, sehr  
verehrter Herr Minister, die Versicherung meiner

ganz ergebenen Hochachtung:

(Unterschrift)

N.B. Angeblich sollen die am 18. April weggeschafften  
162 Leute z. St. nach Brancy gekommen sein. Nach  
8 Tagen aber teilweise nach Bergen-Neelsen und teil-  
weise nach Bergau bei Dresden übersiedelt worden sein.  
Könnte man nicht aller Vorsicht wegen an beide Orte  
sofort telegraphisch Schritte unternehmen, um sie zu  
retten. Sie haben ja die Liste der 162 Internierten dort.  
Alle werden demnächst ausgetauscht. Ich bitte, keine  
Stunde zu versäumen, damit es nicht zu spät ist.

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Enclosure No. 4 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

J. STERNBUCH  
Montreux

Montreux, July 12, 1944.

To the Swiss Legation,  
Berlin.

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Internees with South American papers at Vittel, France.

I take the liberty of getting in touch with you with the agreement of the American Legation at Bern, requesting you to excuse the trouble.

It concerns the American internees at Vittel, who were permitted to remain for reasons of health after the transfer of 162 persons on April 18, 1944. According to latest information, a further number of internees have been transferred on May 16, 1944, to an unknown destination. There only remain very few people, who are also threatened to be transferred, and who urgently ask for help in their letter. The commandant has stated that their papers had not been recognized as yet by the American states.

This seems very incomprehensible in view of the fact that the Swiss Legation already intervened on April 28, 1944, as I was told at Bern. Moreover, it is known that a representative of the Swiss Legation was at Vittel because of the 162 missing internees. There is no doubt that apart from having got in touch with the commandant, he must have got in touch with the internees who were permitted to remain for reasons of health, to confirm to them the recognition of their papers. It does not at all appear from the different letters from Vittel that a Swiss representative met them at Vittel during the last two months. This would be the preliminary condition for a helping action towards the persons transferred or the persons remaining at Vittel. We considered this assumption with the greatest certainty.

May I request you, dear Mr. Minister, to examine this matter as expeditiously as possible and to send a delegate of the Legation to Vittel:

1. in order to take care of the remaining internees;
2. in order to clarify the question of the whereabouts

of

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of the 162 internees removed on April 18, 1944;

3. Likewise in order to investigate the whereabouts of the internees who were transferred on May 16,

about which the American Legation at Bern is still without information in spite of all the reports to you.

It is really incomprehensible that it should not be possible to investigate at Vittel where the people have been transferred to on April 18 and May 16, 1944. All internees are included in the exchange list to the United States, and will be successively claimed during the coming weeks. I have just received telegraphic information that the first ten families can go right away, and that the organisms which were dealing with the exchange, have likewise been informed thereof.

KOTTENBERG	)	
RAPPAPORT	)	
FRANKEL	)	
WEINGART	)	
WOLF	)	
MACHAN GOLDSTEIN	)	families.
LIEBER	)	
EISENBERG	)	
BAUMINGER	)	
KATZENBLENDORN	)	

\* These names are included in the list of the persons transferred, except the Eisenberg family, which is possibly still at Vittel.

With the agreement of the American Legation, I chose the direct way in order to expedite the matter, as a delay of one day or even of one hour might be fatal. I shall bear all the costs incurred. For your further information, I take the liberty of sending you herewith a copy of a letter of the American Legation dated April 22, addressed to me, in my capacity as representative of religious associations of America and Canada.

I again apologize for causing you such a lot of trouble, and remain, with the assurance of my highest consideration,

(signature)

P.S. The 162 persons transferred on April 18 have allegedly been removed to Drancy, and after

eight

eight days, have partly been transferred to Bergen-  
Jelsen and partly to Bergau via Dresden. Would it  
not be possible to undertake telegraphic steps at  
both places to save them? You have the list of the  
162 persons. All will be exchanged in the near future.  
I request not to wait one hour, so as not to be too  
late.

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Enclosure No. 5 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
Amh

NOTIZ

zu dem Schreiben des Herrn J. Sternbuch vom  
12. Juli 1944 an die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft  
in Berlin.

1. Es trifft zu, dass die Ausweispapiere der 14  
Krankheitshalber in Vittel verbliebenen Juden  
mit zweifelhaften Ansprüchen auf die Zugehörig-  
keit zu einem überoamerikanischen Staat von den  
betreffenden Regierungen noch nicht anerkannt  
worden sind.
2. Die Liste dieser 14 Personen ist der Abteilung  
für fremde Interessen in Bern mit Lagerbericht  
des Herrn Buchmueller zugekommen. Keine davon war  
bisher als Angehöriger eines südamerikanischen  
Staates mit uns in Verbindung getreten und keine  
der von uns vertretenen Staaten hatte uns um  
deren Schutz ersucht. Deshalb konnte auch vom Ver-  
treter der Gesandtschaft die Staatsangehörigkeit  
dieser Personen in Vittel nicht offiziell bestä-  
tigt werden.
3. Zwei Vertreter der Gesandtschaft haben alle mit  
der Deportierung zusammenhängende Fragen in  
Vittel vom 6. bis 9. Juli geprüft.

Die Gesandtschaft hat ausserdem das Auswärtige  
Amt

- a) um Belassung der 14 zurückgebliebenen Internierten  
in Vittel dringlichst gebeten;
- b) um Bekanntgabe des gegenwärtigen Aufenthaltsortes  
der im April deportierten Personen ersucht;
- c) die Rückschaffung nach Vittel der am 16. Mai d.J.  
abgeführten Deportierten verlangt.

Dies ist der Abteilung für Fremde Interessen  
aus zahlreichen ausführlichen Berichten der Gesandt-  
schaft in Berlin bekannt.

Ebenso ist bekannt, dass das Auswärtige Amt zu  
diesen Tatsachen einfach erklärt, dass das Deutsche  
Reich die in Frage stehenden Personen als inländische  
Juden bzw. als Juden der besetzten Gebiete betrachtet,  
über deren Behandlung es weder der Schweizerischen  
noch der Amerikanischen oder irgendeiner anderen  
Regierung Rechenschaft abzulegen braucht.

Zur Nachschrift (Seite 3): Einer unserer Dele-  
gierten erhielt zwar einmal Erlaubnis, das Judenlager

Drancy

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Drancy in Frankreich kurz zu besuchen, aber er durfte sich dort nur mit Angelegenheiten von einwandfreien Engländern, Nordamerikanern, usw. befassen.

Was das Lager Bergen-Belsen anbetrifft, so stellt sich das Auswärtige Amt auf den Standpunkt, dass sich darin keine einwandfreie Angehörige amerikanischer Staaten befinden, so dass es der Gesandtschaft keine Möglichkeit einräumt, mit diesen von der SS überwachten Lagern in Verbindung zu treten.

Was das Lager Bergau bei Dresden anbelangt, so wird vom Auswärtigen Amt und vom OKW offiziell bestritten, dass ein solches überhaupt besteht.

Grosswudicke, den 22. August 1944.

1001 12 14 29

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ELMER BOYD  
1944

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Enclosure No. 6 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

NOTICE

to the letter of Mr. J. Sternbuch of July 12, 1944,  
to the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

1. It is correct that the identity papers of the fourteen Jews who remained at Vittel for reasons of health have not yet been recognized by the interested governments as their claim to citizenship of a South American state appears doubtful.
2. The list of these fourteen persons has reached the Division of Foreign Interests at Bern with a camp report from Mr. Suchmueller. - None of them had, up to the present, got in touch with us as citizens of a South American state, and none of the states, the interests of which we represent, has requested us to protect its interests. For this reason, the citizenship of these persons at Vittel could not be officially confirmed by a representative of the Legation.
3. Two representatives of the Legation have examined between July 6 and July 9, all the questions concerning the deportation at Vittel.

Moreover, the Legation has got in touch with the Foreign Office

- a) to ask urgently for permission for the fourteen remaining internees to be left at Vittel;
- b) to ask for indication of the current whereabouts of the persons deported in April;
- c) to ask for the return to Vittel of the persons deported on May 16, 1944.

This is known to the Division of Foreign Interests from numerous detailed reports from the Legation at Berlin.

It is likewise known that the Foreign Office simply states that the German Reich considers the persons in question as native Jews, i.e. as Jews from occupied territory, about whose treatment it gives no account either to the Swiss or to the American governments or to any other government.

Re P.S. on page 3: One of our delegates once

got

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got permission to visit quickly the Jewish camp at Drancy, France, but he was only permitted to deal with questions concerning bona fide English, North-Americans, etc.

Concerning the camp at Bergen-Belsen, the Foreign Office declares that no bona fide citizens of American states are interned there, so that it cannot give the Legation permission to get in touch with this camp, which is guarded by SS men.

Concerning the camp at Bergau, the Foreign Office as well as the High Command of the German Army insist that no such camp really exists.

Grosswudicke, August 22, 1944.

DMH

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Enclosure No. 7 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
dmh

A. I. No. 9424

The American Legation wishes to refer to the Division's aide-mémoire No. 43432 of August 31, 1944, (RI(1)18 - CL/Gk) with which there was forwarded a copy of a letter dated July 12, 1944, addressed to the Swiss Legation at Berlin by Mr. Isaac Sternbuch of Montreux, together with a statement prepared by the Swiss Legation at Berlin with regard to a number of points raised by him concerning certain persons detained at the civilian internment camp at Vittel.

As the Division will readily appreciate, the Legation assumes no responsibility for the activities of Mr. Sternbuch. The Division is further informed that Mr. Sternbuch has no authority to use the name of the Legation in any connection and that he is understood by the Legation to be a citizen of Switzerland.

The Legation is nevertheless, in accordance with the Division's suggestion, transmitting the communication from the Swiss Legation at Berlin to Mr. Sternbuch.

Bern, September 8, 1944.

To the  
Division of Foreign Interests,  
Federal Political Department,  
BERN.

TJH/dmh

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Enclosure No. 8 to despatch No. 9184  
dated September 8, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

COPY  
dmh

Bern, September 8, 1944.

Isaac Sternbuch, Esquire,  
1 Villa des Colondalles,  
Montreux.

Sir:

The Legation has received a communication dated August 31, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office, with which there was transmitted a copy of a letter dated July 12, 1944, which you addressed to the Swiss Legation at Berlin concerning certain persons detained in the civilian internment camp at Vittel. The subject communication from the Swiss Foreign Office also forwarded a statement containing the observations of the Swiss Legation at Berlin to the questions which you raised in your letter of July 12, addressed to it.

It is observed that, in your letter to the Swiss Legation at Berlin, you state that you are so writing with the permission of the Legation.

The Legation is constrained to state that you have no authority to quote it in any connection. It also wishes to observe that the Swiss Foreign Office has conveyed to the Legation the information that it prefers not to discuss questions relating to the protection of foreign interests except with the official representatives of the interested states in Bern. It appears therefore to be in exception to the ordinary Swiss procedure that the Legation is able to send to you the attached reply from the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

Very truly yours,  
For the Minister:

George Tait  
First Secretary

Enclosure:

OCT 12 1944

Copy of reply from Swiss Legation  
at Berlin, dated August 22, 1944.

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*Handwritten initials and signatures:*  
A. L. ...  
Pelle  
Ely

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: September 7, 1944  
NUMBER: 5894

**CONTROL COPY**

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the numbered paragraphs of RB 64, Department's cable of July 13, 1944 No. 2407. An August 4 aide-memoire from the Swiss Legation in Berlin, transmitted with a notice from the Swiss Foreign Office dated August 26, contained the information given below.

Tvo. In accordance with instructions from the Spanish Government, the Spanish Embassy in Berlin informed the Germans that all Paraguayan passports circulating in Germany at the present time are recognized by the Government of Paraguay. There was no reply from the Germans. The Embassy is not in touch with those persons bearing doubtful Paraguayan passports and the fate of these persons is completely unknown to the Embassy. The Germans refused the request to visit Bergen-Belsen where the Embassy believes some bearers of such passports are held. Furthermore the Embassy is not in written communication with these persons. Stated by the Embassy that they were never able to establish contact with Spanish citizens "Safarditos" (Spanish Jews from the east) who were interned for several months in Bergen-Belsen before being repatriated. It is doubted by the Embassy whether anything can be done for Paraguayans in this category.

DECLASSIFIED  
Stat. Dept. Letter, 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000843

category. It appears that additional steps on behalf of these Jews were not taken by the Embassy.

Three. It is stated by the German Foreign Office section of law of war for internment and exchange that they are not able to provide the Swiss with any information concerning the fate of Latin American internees deported from Vittel since they are considered by the German Government as Jews from occupied countries concerning whom no account need be given to third powers by the Germans. Therefore, application was made by the Swiss Legation to the interior section of the German Foreign Office which is in direct touch with the police. The Swiss insisted vigorously that they be advised of the place of detention of Vittel importees who are considered eligible for exchange by the American Government. There was no reply from the Germans.

Four. 11 Latin Americans, <sup>then</sup> detained in civilian internment camps were covered by the assurances which Sethe gave verbally on May 11. It was well understood from the German side that they would no longer question the identity papers possessed by those persons. For persons covered by assurances given previously no supplementary declaration concerning the nature of the documents is necessary. Since these persons are already in civilian internment camps over which certain control, although limited, is exercised by the German Foreign Office, the said Ministry can, on basis of declarations by Swiss Legation aiming toward inclusion in civilian exchange, hinder subsequent deportation. The best way to protect a person not in camp on

May

000846

May 11 and therefore not covered by assurances given previously would be to notify the Germans at the earliest possible moment of his personal status and to deliver a declaration from the interested government that the right of the person concerned to effective citizenship is recognized by the interested government. It is feared by the Swiss Legation that it is aware of only a very small proportion of the cases of this type. It was generally aware only of cases communicated to it because persons concerned were detained in known internment camps.

Five. There was communicated to German authorities the Uruguayan Government's Declaration. Definite wording of the declaration by Ecuador had not been received by the <sup>Swiss</sup> Legation. (Note by the Legation: An inquiry regarding latter is being made by the Swiss Foreign Office). This is the end of the aide-memoire.

With further reference to numbered paragraph 2 of Department's cable No. 2407, the covering Swiss notice observes that several bearers of Paraguayan documents were included in ~~the~~ group 51 deportees from Vittel according to a separate report from the Swiss Legation in Berlin. An inquiry <sup>was</sup> submitted by Feldscher regarding the advisability of the Spanish Embassy in Berlin associating itself with representations by Swiss Legation regarding that group. In as much as only a small number of representatives of neutral countries are still in Berlin, it is believed by Feldscher that representation by two countries might have a slightly greater chance of success in spite of the completely

*JTB* negative attitude by the Germans.  
Paraphrase: DCR:IDB:KMK 9/11/44

HARRISON

000847

*J W D R of Bl. P. 111*

PARTIALS OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: September 5, 1944  
NUMBER: 5854

**CONTROL COPY**

Reference is made in the following to the Department's June 24 cable, No. 2149; MB 36, numbered paragraph two.

According to a Swiss note dated August 31 the Swiss Legation at Bucharest wrote on August 4 that no American civilian was at camp in Rumania. The same is true of nationals of Chile which is the only country of Latin America whose interests in Rumania the Swiss are representing.

HARRISON

DCR: BH:MLL 9/6/44

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

000848

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*I was by Bl  
Pelle  
Tils*

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: September 4, 1944  
NUMBER: 5805<sup>x</sup>

**CONTROL COPY**

McClelland sends following for War Refugee Board.  
Reference is made herewith to Department's cable No. 2899 and to Legation's of August 12, 1944, No. 5233.  
Reliable Hungarian reports received recently by Salzmayer, explicitly confirmed by Kasztner, are that under present circumstances false El Salvador "nationality" documents give the bearers no protection whatsoever. It is felt by us to be inadvisable to make use of information contained in your cable No. 2899, for this reason as well as for reasons set forth in the penultimate paragraph of cable No. 5233.

As regards official United States presentation to Swiss Federal Political Department of Salvadoran documents for delivery to persons in Germany and German occupied territory other than Hungary who claim Salvador nationality, repeated attempts have been made by the Legation to secure confirmation that validity of documents fraudulently issued by the Salvador Consulate General at Geneva will be recognized by the Government of El Salvador. To date the Legation has not felt it advisable to present these documents officially to Swiss FPD for forwarding, owing to complete absence of any

such

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

000849

2.

such confirmation. We should be glad to receive your instructions in this matter.

HARRISON

*JTB*

DCR:IDR:JER 9/9/44

000850

*2 was Ref Bd - Pella*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: September 2, 1944  
NUMBER: 5762

**CONTROL COPY**

With reference to numbered paragraph two of Department's cable of June 24, No. 2149 (WRB 36), Swiss note of August 20 reports that only one or two internment camps exist in Bulgaria to the knowledge of the Swiss Legation in Sofia. No American citizen was ever there. Chile is the only Latin American country which Switzerland represents in Bulgaria. No Chilean is now in Bulgaria.

Nevertheless, the question was submitted in principle to the Bulgarian Foreign Office by the Swiss Legation.

HARRISON

DCR:V.G:MLM

9/4/44

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

000851

*2 copy Rd  
Rhh*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 2, 1944  
NUMBER: 3227  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

~~SECRET~~

FOR MCCLELLAND.

The following message dated August 22 has been received  
from Amembassy, Caracas:

QUOTE I have just been informed by the Foreign Office  
that the Venezuelan Government has requested the Swiss  
Federal Political Department to extend the protection of  
Venezuelan interests to Hungarian territory and other countries  
of Central and Eastern Europe, for the purpose of aiding  
the bearers of Venezuelan passports in those regions. UNQUOTE  
THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 156.

HULL

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

000852

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The following message dated August 22 has been received from Embassy, Caracas:

QUOTE I have just been informed in strict confidence by the Foreign Office in response to representations made under instruction above cited that the Venezuelan Government has requested the Swiss Federal Political Department to extend the protection of Venezuelan interests to Hungarian territory and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, for the purpose of aiding the bearers of Venezuelan passports in those regions. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WEB CABL T. BERN NO. 166

4:25 p.m.  
August 31, 1944

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

BA L.S.K.  
BAK:mar 8/30/44

000853

CORRECTED COPY

*2. War Ref  
Bd  
(Mr  
Rehl)*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT  
FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 2, 1944  
NUMBER: 3927

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR MCCLELLAND.

The following message dated August 22 has been received from Embassy, Caracas:

NOTE I have just been informed by the Foreign Office that the Venezuelan Government has requested the Swiss Federal Political Department to extend the protection of Venezuelan interests to Hungarian territory and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, for the purpose of aiding the bearers of Venezuelan passports in those regions.  
UNQUOTE THIS IS MRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 156.

HULL

Foregoing message transmitted to you on September 5 as No. 3227.

RECEIVED  
SECTION D  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

000854

*I was Ref'd  
Pelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: State Department, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: September 2, 1944  
NUMBER: 3026  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

The following message with reference to Honduran interests in Hungary is submitted.

There was received from the Embassy at Tegucigalpa, in its message dated August 14, 1944, Number A-286, a translation of Note Number 263, dated August 10, 1944, from the Foreign Affairs Minister of Honduras, as follows:

I ask that the Government of the Swiss Confederation, if it is pleased to do so, take charge of interests of Honduras within Hungary in the same manner in which it has taken charge of interests in countries occupied by Germany and within Germany itself, and I make this request very attentively and through the worthy medium of Your Excellency.

For the manner in which the Government of Switzerland is representing the interests of Honduras within the countries above referred to, I again take this opportunity to thank the Government of Switzerland.

Your Excellency is assured of a renewal of my highest and most distinguished regard.

It is requested that you inform the Foreign Office that the Government of the United States will be glad to act as channel of communications; also it is requested that you furnish the Foreign Office with the text of the preceding message.

**12**  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SFP 20 1972

000855

In connection with the above, please refer to your message dated July 14,  
1944, Number 4518.

HULL

SWP:ABC:HH

PARAPHRASED:

DCR:LCW:CR 9-5-44

000856

*I was Ref Ed-Ed*

PARA-HEAD OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 31, 1944  
NUMBER: 5639

**CONTROL COPY**

In connection with first paragraph of Department's message of July 13, No. 2407, the following is contained in notice from Swiss dated August 26.

The difficulties encountered in efforts to safeguard bearers of identity documents issued in name of Latin American countries were described in recent report on situation in Germany concerning such individuals from Swiss Legation Berlin.

In particular, it seems that officials of Germany are starting to discriminate between passports issued for the purpose of safeguarding Jews against steps which might be taken against them and those held by individuals having citizenship of nations in question by birth.

The German authorities refuse right of interested individuals to claim Latin American citizenship not because of expiration validity of passports but because antecedents of Jews involved and type of identity papers which they have constitute adequate evidence that they obtained those papers "ad hoc" in

in the

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

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The view of the Swiss Legation.

The continuation of these passports had been is not the essential matter in the opinion of the Swiss Legation. They express the belief that it is fundamental that information as to the presence of these Latin American nationals who are not listed on its registers be furnished the Legation in some way. Inasmuch as holders of identity papers of this nature in many instances have not been reported to Swiss Legation, in the event German officials should ask if particular individual is among those protected by it, it might happen that the Swiss Legation would be unable to supply data concerning nationality claimed by interested individual.

In order to expedite its representations to Government of Germany, Swiss Legation suggests that lists as complete as possible of bearers of these papers be prepared by governments in whose name identity papers are issued, accompanied with statement that those individuals are recognized as their citizens by these governments.

HARRISON

DCR:GPW:CR

9-1-44

000858

*I was Ref. Bk  
Pelle*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SHEET

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Amlegation, Bern

DATED: August 31, 1944

NUMBER: 3005

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND.

1. Reference is made to your 4233 of July 3 section four (F).  
Ambassy Port-au-Prince informs Department that instructions regarding status and treatment of holders of Haitian documents in German-controlled territory were transmitted by Haitian government to Bern on July 31.
2. Reference is made to your 5398 of August 19. Information contained therein is appreciated and steps are being taken in Asuncion and Madrid.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 15A

HULL

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

000859

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

1. Reference is made to your 4225 of July 3 section four (F).  
Ambassy Port-au-Prince informs Department that instructions regarding  
status and treatment of holders of Haitian documents in German-controlled  
territory were transmitted by Haitian government to Bern on July 31.

2. Reference is made to your 5398 of August 19. Information con-  
tained therein is appreciated and steps are being taken in Amman and  
Madrid.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 154

9:15 a.m.  
August 31, 1944

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

*BA. JB7*  
BAKzinlar 8/26/44  
*R.C.R.*

000860

*Swiss Leg - Bern*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT  
FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: 80 Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 26, 1944  
NUMBER: 2944

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND.

Reference is made to Department's 2046 of June 14 and 2490 of July 21 paragraph numbered 1, and to your 4223 of July 3, section 1 paragraph 4 and section 3 paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.

While continuing to urge Swiss intervention on behalf of Anna and Rose Frumkin, entitled to treatment as Chilean Nationals and eligible for exchange on this score, please also make full use of authority now vested in U. S. consul by Department's 2918 of August 24, 1944, WRB's 133, to notify Swiss authorities for transmission to Germany that American immigration visa may be issued to them as wife and daughter respectively of American citizen, upon presenting themselves at American consulate. The use of both lines of argument may possibly be effective in obtaining the release of the persons concerned from the Germans.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 145.

X

HULL

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

000861

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McLELLAND, BASEL, SWITZERLAND.

Reference is made to Department's 2046 of June 14 and 2490 of July 21 paragraph numbered 1, and to your 4223 of July 3, section 1 paragraph 4 and section 3 paragraphs 2, 3, and 4.

While continuing to urge Swiss intervention on behalf of Anna and Jose Frankin, entitled to treatment as Chilean nationals and eligible for exchange on this score, please also make full use of authority now vested in U. S. consul by Department's \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, WBB's 133, to notify Swiss authorities for transmission to Germany that American immigration visa may be issued to them as wife and daughter respectively of American citizen, upon presenting themselves at American consulate. The use of both lines of argument may possibly be effective in obtaining the release of the persons concerned from the Germans.

THIS IS WBB DEBUN CABLE NO. 145

3:50 p.m.  
August 25, 1944

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

JB7 HAK:inf:BFriedman:re  
8/25/44.

000862

File 7  
in the  
copy of

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

SECRET

4-399

4:COFF

1944 AUG 28 PM 4 54

AUGUST 28, 1944

REGIONAL LEGATION

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

CONTROL COPY

MEMO

HIGH/GOV. INTERESTS - MEXICO

Reference Legation's despatch 8436, June 12.

following, transmitted for Legation's information, in Embassy's  
language's 1-847, August 17.

"Reference Department's instruction no. 1536 of July 24.

The Nicaraguan Government has sent the following  
telegram (in translation) to the Swiss Foreign Office:

"I respectfully request you to communicate  
urgently with the German Government that my  
Government confirms the validity of the Nicaraguan  
passports held by Isidoro ~~Yudat~~, Boris, Gipe,  
Yrion, Flojandro ~~Lisovador~~ and requests that  
they be returned to the concentration camp at  
Vittel in reciprocity for treatment of German  
nationals in this hemisphere. I request also  
that you extend this request to cover all  
interests who are the bearers of Nicaraguan  
passports.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances  
of my highest consideration."

Department's instruction no. 1536 referred to above trans-  
mitted list of persons claiming Nicaraguan nationality named in  
enclosure to Legation's despatch under reference.

740.001152/B-1744

HULL  
acc

SWP:RPC:ILN

8/28/44

CCF

WRB

7 0 0 8 6 3

Copy  
- 1-2-44  
Recognitions  
Passports  
L.A.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: August 24, 1944  
NUMBER: 2918

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

(1) Reference your 4983 of August 3, Section 2. It is not the policy of this Government to deal in specific numbers. You may in your discretion, however, authorize the Swiss Foreign Office to reply to inquiry of German Legation, Budapest, by referring to the position of this Government as indicated by items 2 and 3 of Department's 2605 of July 28, WRB's 94, Department's 2977 of August 21, WRB's 122, and Department's 2657 of August 2 and item 3 below.

(2) Notwithstanding recent developments as indicated in your 5197 of August 11, this Government intends to pursue further the reported offers of Hungarian authorities as typified by your 4604 of July 19.

(3) Accordingly, please request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments, particularly Germany and Hungary, that American consular officers in neutral countries have been authorized to issue an immigration visa to the alien husband, wife, parent, and unmarried minor child of an American citizen, and the wife and unmarried minor child of an alien resident of the United States who has been in an area controlled by Germany or any of Germany's allies, provided that such person presents himself to an American consular officer and is found not to be disqualified for a visa. At the same time, please attempt to secure the prompt agreement of the Swiss Government to advise enemy governments of Switzerland's willingness to permit the entry into Switzerland of persons falling within the categories described above. You may assure Swiss officials that any such persons so admitted will be adequately maintained and that any who may be found not to be qualified for the issuance of a visa will be evacuated as promptly as possible. Similar requests are being made of Sweden, Spain, Turkey, and Portugal.

(4) Consular officers in Switzerland are hereby authorized to issue immigration visas to any alien who is the husband, wife, parent, or unmarried minor child of an American citizen and on whose behalf nonquota or first preference status has been established by the approval of the Department of Justice of a petition filed by such citizen relative, or who is the wife or unmarried minor child of an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence and as such is entitled to second preference immigration status. The issuance of visas is subject to the proviso, however, that (a) such person other than a child under 16 years of age is found upon telegraphic reference to the Department for security check not to be the subject of an adverse report or to be open to reasonable suspicion because of the circumstances of the case, such as those attending the release of a male applicant of military age, (b) such person is not affirmatively found by the consul to be inadmissible into the United States under the law, or (c) the consul does not consider that the case is one which should be recommended for consideration under the committee procedure.

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

000864

-2- # 2198

Appropriate private agencies are being advised of the foregoing so that the filing of petitions by citizen and resident alien relatives of victims of persecution may be expedited, and names of persons whose status within the categories mentioned above is established will be cabled to you from time to time. If any persons within such categories should arrive in Switzerland after Swiss have advised enemy governments in accordance with item 3 above, but prior to any notification to you of the establishment of their status, please advise Board promptly of their names and of the names and addresses of relatives claimed in the United States.

(5) Please keep Department and Board advised of any developments in this program. Reference your 5042 of August 5 and your 5248 of August 12.

Please express to M. Pilet Golas the appreciation of Department and Board.

HULL

THIS IS NRB BURN CABLE NO. 133.

NRB:MMV:KL

Paraphrase : DCR:VAG:MK 8/26/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akain, Borenstein, John, Dubois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standigh, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

000865

*2 was by Rt. Pille*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: August 23, 1944  
NUMBER: 2899

**CONTROL COPY**

FOLLOWING FOR McCLELLAND. ██████████

The following information has been forwarded to Department by Amembassy San Salvador on August 10:

QUOTE 1. The Salvadoran Government sometime ago requested the Swiss Government to assume representation of Salvadoran interests in Hungary. The Salvadoran minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that this arrangement is now definitely in effect.

2. The Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs further informed me as follows:

- (a) The Salvadoran Government will notify the Swiss Government that passports and other documents issued in its name to persons in Hungary subject to persecution will be recognized and confirmed;
- (b) The Hungarian Government is to be so advised, and also that it is expected that persons holding such passports and other documents will be accorded the treatment, rights, privileges, and

immunities

- 1 -

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

000866

- 2 -

immunities of nationals of the Government  
of El Salvador; and

(c) The United States is authorized to negotiate for the exchange of such persons. In this latter connection I assured Dr. Avila that in the event of such negotiations every preference ~~every preference~~ will be given by the United States to unquestioned nationals of El Salvador and that the Government of El Salvador will not be expected physically to receive other persons, who, if exchanged, will be sent to other destinations. UNQUOTE

In view of your 5233 of August 12, the use to be made of foregoing information is left to your discretion.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 137

HULL

000867

FILE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The following information has been forwarded to Department by Embassy in Salvador on August 10:

QUOTE 1. The Salvadoran Government sometime ago requested the Swiss Government to assume representation of salvadoran interests in Hungary. The Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this morning that this arrangement is now definitely in effect.

2. The Salvadoran Minister for Foreign Affairs further informed me as follows:

- (a) The Salvadoran Government will notify the Swiss Government that passports and other documents issued in its name to persons in Hungary subject to persecution will be recognized and confirmed;
- (b) The Hungarian Government is to be so advised, and also that it is expected that persons holding such passports and other documents will be accorded the treatment, rights, privileges, and immunities of nationals of the Government of El Salvador; and
- (c) The United States is authorized to negotiate for the exchange of such persons. In this latter connection I assured Dr. Avila that in the event of such negotiations every preference will be given by the United States to unquestioned nationals of El Salvador and that the Government of El Salvador will not be expected physically to receive other persons, who, if exchanged, will be sent to other destinations. UNQUOTE

In view of your 5233 of August 12, the use to be made of foregoing information is left to your discretion.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

137

9:00 a.m.  
August 22, 1944

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

BAJ  
Bakrialtan 8-19-44

See A-327 S/wh-lv

*I was by Bl-Pelle*

**CONTROL COPY**

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 5398

██████████  
MCCLELLAND SENDS THE FOLLOWING FOR WRB.

Department's cable of July 13, 1944, No. 2407, numbered paragraph one, is referred to herewith.

I recommend that you urge the Paraguayan Government in particular (see our cable of July 14, 1944, No. 5418) 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 Sternbuch of Union of Orthodox Rabbis that a telephone conversation with the Spanish Embassy in Berlin in mid-July revealed that even at that late date that Embassy had no knowledge of removal from Vittel of any persons holding documents issued

WASHINGTON D C  
RECEIVED BOYER  
by Paraguay

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

00086

by Paraguay. While we have not confirmed this fact, it seems fairly clear that the Spanish have never protected with much despatch or energy the holders of Paraguayan documents who are in German territory.

HARRISON

*JTB*  
DCR:JDB:FB

8/22/44

000870

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE  
FG

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

PLAIN

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT

DELEGATION,

B.S.M.

2843, Eighteenth

Your despatch no. 8466, June 12, 1944.

Cell: Mandelbaum, number 125 on the list under  
reference should read Sylvia Helena Mandelbaum.

PLAIN  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
August 18, 1944

August 18, 1944

HULL  
(AEC)

SWP:RCE:FRI

S/OR

8/16/44

WRB/RB

000871

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

*7- War Ref Bd  
m.  
Gehle*

FG-360  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
agency. (~~reference~~)

Bern  
Dated August 17, 1944  
Rec'd 11:15 a.m.

AUG 18 1944

Secretary of State

Washington  
5335, August 17, 1 p.m.

FOR WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

Referring to the Department's 2760, August 10,  
please see Legation's 5091, August 7.

HARRISON

WTD  
LMS

000872

2884  
+  
Aug 16

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND.

Reference is made to Department's 2737 of August 9, WRO 112.

Department and Board received communication from IGO substantiating reports of deportations of holders of Latin American documents from civilian internment camps subsequent to May 11, with full details and lists of names. Deportations occurred in Vittel on May 16 and about July 18. The camp commandant informed internees that transport was to be sent to Belsen-Bergen, which proved false. The Commandant also stated that neither the recognition of Latin American Documents nor the certificate for exchange to Palestine would have any validity in the eyes of the German authorities unless an exchange either to Palestine or to South America actually took place.

Please request Swiss Government to transmit to German Foreign Office this Government's sharpest protest against this flagrant violation of assurances given by Germany to Switzerland and referred to in your 4233 of July 3. Also request Swiss Government to demand on our behalf immediate return of all deportees to civilian internment camps and the most binding assurances that such deportations will not occur again. Also request Swiss Government to declare to German Foreign Office that any deportees not so returned will be considered by this Government as having been put to death by action of German authorities contrary to obligation assumed by Germany and referred to in your 4233.

It is hoped that Swiss Government will not only transmit but also support the above protests and demands.

In this connection, please make fullest use of argument contained in Department's 2490 of July 21, paragraph 3.

Copy of IGO communication follows by diplomatic mail, but protest is to be made immediately without awaiting said copy.

THIS IS WRO's BERN CABLE NO. 187

Repeat to Embassy, London.

1:40 p.m.  
August 16, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lauchlin, Leaser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files  
RAK:iml 18/15/44  
P.C.T.

*conformed  
not returned  
files*

0000073

FROM: American Legation, Bern.  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.  
DATED: August 14, 1944.  
NUMBER: 5281.  
X

*5281 Ref. Ed. Pika*  
**CONTROL COPY**

Reference is made to your message dated July 21, Number 2490, and your message of August 9, Number 2737.

It was stated by the Foreign Office in a note dated the tenth of August that the Legation of Switzerland in Berlin reports internees moved from Clermont by German authorities as follows: Julian Gelernter, a Cuban, born on February 21, 1906, in Warsaw; Jose Frappaport, born on July 28, 1910, in Sanok, Poland, (a Paraguayan); and Levior Leon Wainz of Furneitan, born on November 12, 1902, in Kesnov, Rumania.

Though there has been as yet no confirmation of this supposition, it is believed by the Swiss Consulate in Paris, with reason, that the German authorities, who consider these persons to be stateless, sent them first to Drancy, though their exact destination is not known.

The case of Jose Frappaport has been referred to the Spanish Legation, (which is charged with the duty of protecting Paraguayan interests) by the Swiss Legation, Berlin; and it is making representations in the above matter, also, to the German Government.

DCR:LCW 8/17/44

HARRISON.

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

000874

2 lines before  
2nd page

CONNECTION OF PARAPHRASE OF TELETYPE RECEIVED

FROM: ALLEGATION, Born  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 12, 1944  
NUMBER: 5233

**CONTROL COPY**  
file

This message is from McClelland for ERB and refers to Department's 2407, July 13, sixth paragraph.

We are contacting certain qualified relief organizations for the purpose of securing lists of individuals in enemy controlled territory in whose names Latin American papers have been issued but who do not possess these papers.

However, it is not recommended that too extensive an inquiry of this kind be made as it is apt to result in the compilation of unlimited lists of individuals for whom it will be claimed that such papers, especially those of El Salvador, were issued in the past but could not be transmitted to these persons. See Legation's 3867, June 17. In the past the Salvador Consulate General at Geneva has issued so called "nationality" papers by the hundreds. These papers usually were predated and if encouraged it appears that it will continue to do so on an even more extensive scale.

It is our opinion (see Legation's 3867, June 17) that the forwarding of false Salvador papers into Hungary should not be continued. As deportation has ceased, such documents apparently have no value for entry into El Salvador and they

deceive

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

100875

deceive neither the Germans nor the Hungarians and no preferential recognition is accorded their bearers. Some weeks ago several cases were reported to us from Hungary where the possession of Salvador papers had a precisely opposite effect from that desired causing the arrest at once by Hungarian officials of persons carrying false nationality documents.

Sec Department's 2484, July 21. It would appear inadvisable, in view of the position which the Salvadoran Government has taken toward these false papers, to sanction them officially by submitting them to the Swiss Federal Political Department, especially when there is the feeling that any extensive increase in the amount of false Latin American papers if directed to the attention of the Government of Germany may immediately endanger the already precarious status of thousands of holders of all such papers presently in the hands of Germany and who hitherto may have been saved from being deported primarily because the German Government chose to accord recognition to their papers and put them in regular civilian internment camps for American nationals feeling perhaps that against German nationals who are held in the Western Hemisphere they constituted a reservoir for exchange.

It is probable, as Legation's 4659, July 21, second paragraph two emphasized that the Germans will continue to honor any false Latin American papers so long as they feel that there exists the possibility of a practical exchange.

HARRISON

DCR:MS 8/15/44

000876

*2 War Ref Bk  
m Kelle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: August 10, 1944  
NUMBER: 5168

**CONTROL COPY**

**[REDACTED]**  
This message is from McClelland for WRB.

See message from the Department of the third of August number 2667. For data concerning this matter I am referring you to 4938 of the first of August from the Legation. Rather than deportation, it was apparently a question of transfer. On the possibility of actual exchanges taking place particularly for category of Latin American document holders, the fate of Jews in Bergen - Belsen at this time would now seem to depend. The Jews interned there are reliably estimated at approximately 4000 in number.

HARRISON

DCR:MLG  
8-12-44

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

000877

*I was Ryped  
Pella*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: August 10, 1944  
NUMBER: 2760  
x

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR MCCLELLAND.

Refer to your 3871 of June 17, part 6 and 4223 of July 3, Section 4 under F, and Department's 2316 of July 6.

Amembassy Managua reports in part:

QUOTE 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 from enemy persecution persons bearing Nicaraguan passports.

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

UNQUOTE.

Telegram of July 19 states in part:

QUOTE I repeat to Your Excellency my radiogram of April 22, in which I requested that the German Government be asked to apply international conventions on

prisoners

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

000878

prisoners of war to every interned person in a concentra-  
tion camp who is the bearer of a Nicaraguan passport,  
and particularly those enumerated in my radio of Feb-  
ruary 16. Accept, etc. UNQUOTE  
Please ascertain receipt of above by Swiss authorities  
and advise of resulting action.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 115.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

000879

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Refer to your 3871 of June 17, part 6 and 4223 of July 3, Section 4, under F, and Department's 2316 of July 6.

Amembassy Managua reports in part:

QUOTE 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 from enemy persecution persons bearing Nicaraguan passports.

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

Telegram of July 19 states in part:

QUOTE I repeat to Your Excellency my radiogram of April 22, in which I requested that the German Government be asked to apply international conventions 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 16. Accept, etc. UNQUOTE

Please ascertain receipt of above by Swiss authorities and advise of resulting action.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 115.

12:10 p.m.  
August 9, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

*Q. BA. 783*  
MStandish;BAKzin;ar 8/8/44

20 10/1/44

*2 w/ste/ed*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern ✓  
DATE: August 9, 1944.  
NUMBER: 2737.  
K

CONTROL COPY

To Minister Harrison and McClelland.

Contrary to German assurances to Swiss Government reported in your 4223 of July 3 and 8964 of July 8 that no further deportations of holders of Latin American passports would occur subsequent to May 11, it is reported from Lisbon that such deportations occurred in Vittel subsequent to that date.

Please request Swiss authorities to inquire of German Government regarding the truth of this report and strongly to protest on behalf of this Government should the report be based on truth.

It is further reported that deportees from Vittel and other civilian internment camps are now confined in Birkenau, Oswiecim, Sosnowitz, Kattowitz, Frodorf, Innsbruck and others. Please request Swiss authorities to inquire of German Government regarding the truth of this report and to demand facilities for the return of such deportees to civilian internment camps under Swiss or Intercross supervision; also to demand that pending return Swiss or Intercross representatives be admitted

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. E. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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to places where such deportees are held.

This is WRB cable to Bern No. 112.

STETINIUS  
ACTING

1101882

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Contrary to German assurances to Swiss Government reported in your 4223 of July 3 and 8964 of July 8 that no further deportations of holders of Latin American passports would occur subsequent to May 11, it is reported from Lisbon that such deportations occurred in Vittel subsequent to that date.

Please request Swiss authorities to inquire of German Government regarding the truth of this report and strongly to protest on behalf of this Government should the report be based on truth.

It is further reported that deportees from Vittel and other civilian internment camps are now confined in Birkemau, Oswiecim, Sosnowitz, Kattowitz, Frederf, Innsbruck and others. Please request Swiss authorities to inquire of German Government regarding the truth of this report and to demand facilities for the return of such deportees to civilian internment camps under Swiss or Intercross supervision; also to demand that pending return Swiss or Intercross representatives be admitted to places where such deportees are held.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 112

11:25 a.m.  
August 8, 1944

Miss Chauncey (For the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormac, Cable Control Files

*BA. JBT*  
BAKzin:ar 8/7/44

COPY:DOR:AGH

LC - 686  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
agency. (American)

2 - *J. Edgar Hoover*  
*Mr. Board*  
*Mr. DeLo*  
Bern

Dated August 8, 1944

Rec'd 5:31 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

5109, August 8, '6 p.m.

AMERICAN INTERESTS GERMANY

Legation's 5041, August 4.

Swiss Foreign Office note August 3 states Swiss  
Legation Berlin reports Germany Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs refuses to furnish information confirming  
or denying presence persons included in group 163 Jews  
removed Vittel to Bergen Belsen contending they are  
not nationals countries under Swiss protection.

Swiss Legation reserves the right take up  
the question with two functionaries now absent who  
ordinarily occupy themselves with matters concerning  
transfer of internees and promises supplementary  
information when obtainable.

HARRISON

SEP 10 11 03

WASHINGTON D.C.  
RECEIVED BOARD  
RECEIVED

00088

**CONTROL COPY**

*2 w. at Leg. Bern  
Pilla*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: August 7, 1944  
NUMBER: 5091

*File*

Reference is made in the following to the Legation's June 17 telegram No. 3871 and the Department's July 4 telegram No. 2516 (WRB No. 71).

According to the Swiss, a letter dated May 5 from the Swiss Legation at Berlin reported that German Foreign Office was notified of Nicaraguan telegram which is quoted by the Department in part. Said notification has not been answered by German Foreign Office as yet. July 27 cable from Nicaraguan Foreign Office dated July 19 concerning this notification has been acknowledged by Swiss Foreign Office.

According to oral statement of Swiss Foreign Office in paragraph six of Legation's cable under reference the inclusion of Nicaragua in Swiss memorandum quoted seems to have been a mistake.

The foregoing message is for attention of Nicaraguan interests in Germany.

HARRISON

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

000000

2 - War Dept  
(M. B. B.)

FBM-993  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Bern  
Dated August 5, 1944  
Rec'd 5:51 p.m.

**CONTROL COPY**

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

5041, August 5, 7 p.m.  
Legation's despatch 8466, June 12.

Swiss note July 31 informed Legation camp commandant  
Vittil orally stated 163 Jews named in telegram under  
reference transferred Bergen - Belsen. Swiss Legation  
Berlin endeavoring obtain confirmation which will be  
transmitted when received.

HARRISON

WSB

SEP 10 11 01

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*2 var/Ref Cl  
File.*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: August 3, 1944  
NUMBER: 2667

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR McCLELLAND

Reference your 4223 of July 3 and the Department's 2490 of July 21, WRB's 78.

Information has reached the Board that on May 16 further deportations from Vittel took place. Please make all appropriate inquiries to determine whether this report is correct. If it is, please make efforts in the manner outlined in Department's 2490 of July 21, WRB's 78.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 110.

STETTINIUS  
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

7 0 0 8 8 1

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND

Reference year 4223 of July 3 and the Department's \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_, WEB's 78.

Information has reached the Board that on May 16 further  
deportations from Vittel took place. Please make all appropriate  
inquiries to determine whether this report is correct. If it is,  
please make efforts in the manner outlined in Department's \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_, WEB's 78.

THIS IS WEB BERN CABLE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
110

5:20 p.m.  
August 2, 1944

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

LSLesser:imh 8-1-44  
R.S.L.

No. 8905  
x

Via Airmail Pouch.

*War Refugee Board*  
*(Healy)*  
**CONTROL COPY**

Subject: Latin American Interests - France  
Lists of persons removed from  
civilian internment camp at Vittel.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, pursuant to the Legation's telegram No. 4936 of August 1, 1944, a list of fifty-one persons of the Jewish race who claim citizenship of various American republics and who have been removed from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to the camp of Bergen-Belsen, near Celle, Hanover, Germany. This list has been received under cover of a note dated July 28, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office.

There is also enclosed, for the Department's guidance in connection with the above-mentioned list and the list of 163 persons removed from Vittel to an unknown destination which was forwarded with the Legation's airmail despatch No. 5466 of June 12, 1944 (as amended by the Legation's airgram No. 424 of July 14), a list of 236 persons allegedly removed from the Vittel camp, which was made available informally on April 19, 1944, by the Legation to an official of the Swiss Foreign Office. It may be recalled that this list was last referred to in the Department's telegram No. 2490 (WRB No. 78) of July 21, 1944.

Enclosures:

1. List of 51 persons removed from Vittel to Bergen-Belsen camp near Celle, Hanover;
2. List of 236 persons removed from Vittel.

File No. 840.1  
TJH/dmh  
In quintuplicate to Department.

of the  
original: *one*

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 8905  
 dated August 2, 1944, from the  
 American Legation, Bern.

Vittel, July 6, 1944.

List of 51 persons removed from Vittel to Bergen-Belsen,  
 near Celle, Hanover, Germany.

1. BAUMINGER Zalman	PARAGUAY
2. BAUMINGER Martha	"
3. BLUMENKOPF Michla	"
4. ECK Nathan	"
5. ECK Clara	"
6. ECK Raja	"
7. FAKLER Sayja	COSTA RICA
8. FAKLER Stefania	" "
9. FAKLER Henryk	" "
10. FRANKEL Rosa	PARAGUAY
11. GENCKSAE Abraham	"
12. GELLER Conrad	"
13. GELLER Erna	"
14. KADYSK Iock	HONDURAS
15. KADYSK Aviva	"
16. KADYSK Rachmil	"
17. KRYSZTENFREUND David	"
18. KRYSZTENFREUND Ita	"
19. KRYSZTENFREUND Sza jndla	"
20. KRYSZTENFREUND Michla	"
21. KRYSZTENFREUND Aren	"
22. LANDAU Estella	PARAGUAY
23. NATANSON Wladislaw	COSTA RICA
24. NATANSON Stephanie	" "
25. NATANSON Judwiga	" "
26. POZNANSKA Jenta	PARAGUAY
27. ROZANYKW IAT THADES	"
28. ROZANYKW IAT Gerda	"
29. ROZANYKW IAT Richard	"
30. WEINGORT Abraham	"
31. WEINGORT Mathilde	"
32. WEINGORT Leja	"
33. WENTLAND Malka	ECUADOR
34. WENTLAND Hoemi	"
35. SCHEIN Isaac	COSTA RICA
36. SCHEIN Salomon	" "
37. ZUCKER Salomon Isaac	" "
38. ZUCKER Bernard	" "
39. ZUCKER Regina	" "
40. ZURAWIN Adam	HONDURAS
41. SHAFU Samson	COSTA RICA
42. HEYMAN Bronislaw	HONDURAS
43. HEYMAN Cecylie	"

44. HEYMAN Stephania	HONDURAS
45. HEYMAN Vladislawa	"
46. HEYMAN Sassa	"
47. HEYMAN Lydia	"
48. SKOSOWSKI Cecilia	"
49. SKOSOWSKI Isidor	"
50. SKOSOWSKI Lucyna	"
51. SKOSOWSKI Jadwiga	"

COPY  
dmh

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Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 8905  
dated August 2, 1944, from the  
American Legation, Bern.

List of 236 persons removed from Vittel.

1.	AJZENSZTADT Felix	PERU
2.	" Romana	"
3.	" Marcel	"
4.	BAUMINGER Kalman	PARAGUAY
5.	" Martha	"
6.	" Joel	"
7.	" Bluma	"
8.	" Leon	"
9.	" Lea	"
10.	BERGER Abraham	HAITI
11.	" Eugenie	"
12.	BERGLAS Chaim Leib	PARAGUAY
13.	" Alta Hinda	"
14.	BLUMENKOPF Aron	"
15.	" Rjwka	"
16.	" Rozia	"
17.	" Juda Leib	"
18.	" Stella	"
19.	" Wolf	"
20.	" Helens	"
21.	" Christine	"
22.	" Nuchim	"
23.	" Chaje	"
24.	DUDELZAK Scholom Mottek	PERU
25.	" Tyssla	"
26.	" Jevzu	"
27.	" Rachmiel	"
28.	" Ita	"
29.	" Arcadius	"
30.	ECK Nathan	PARAGUAY
31.	" Klara	"
32.	" Rosa	"
33.	EISENZWEIG Szyja	"
34.	" Gina	"
35.	" Gitla Miriam	"
36.	FAKLER Szyja	COSTA RICA
37.	" Stephania	"
38.	" Henryk	"
39.	FRUMKIN Anna	CHILE
40.	" Hermina Rosa	"
41.	FRAENKEL Josef	PARAGUAY
42.	" Cevla	"
43.	" Mathilde	"
44.	" Dorys	"
45.	" Alexander	"
46.	" Jochwet	"
47.	" Pinkus	"
48.	" Leib	"
49.	" Rutha	"
50.	" Marta	"

51.	GELLER Konrad	PARAGUAY
52.	" Erna	"
53.	" Stella	"
54.	GOLDBERGER Henryk	"
55.	" Malka	"
56.	GORLIN Eugenie	CHILE
57.	GOLDSTEIN Nachman	PERU
58.	" Sara	"
59.	" Lea	"
60.	" Szyja P.	"
61.	HORENSTEIN Abraham	HONDURAS
62.	" Estera Sara	"
63.	KAGNELSON Izohok	"
64.	" Zwi	"
65.	KADYSZ Isiek	"
66.	" Brucha	"
67.	" Awiwa	"
68.	" Rachmiel	"
69.	KOLLER Frideryk	PARAGUAY
70.	" Halina	"
71.	KON Felicja	NICARAGUA
72.	" Jacek	"
73.	" Peter	"
74.	" Stefan	"
75.	KRYSTENPREUND David	HONDURAS
76.	" Ita	"
77.	" Szajndle	"
78.	" Ruchlia	"
79.	" Aron	"
80.	LANDAU Leib Alec	PARAGUAY
81.	" Bronis Ester	"
82.	" Jevzy	"
83.	LICHTMANN Oscar	COSTA RICA
84.	" Anne Rosalie	"
85.	" Regina	"
86.	LINDENBAUM Sonia	"
87.	LIEBER Josef	PARAGUAY
88.	" Frimeta	"
89.	" Henryk	"
90.	" Frieda	"
91.	LISOWODER Boris	NICARAGUA
92.	" Gypa	"
93.	" Alexander	"
94.	" Miriam	"
95.	MALEOWSKY Schmul	VENEZUELA
96.	" Sara	"
97.	" Maurice	"
98.	MANDELBAUM Sylvia Hel.	COSTA RICA
99.	JOSKOWICZ Mossek	PARAGUAY
100.	" Ohana Ita	"
101.	" Alina	"
102.	MOSZYNSKIA Leon	HAITI
103.	FRAENKEL Mendel	PARAGUAY
104.	" Rosa	"
105.	FLEISCHER Esther	ECUADOR
106.	GARBINSKI Henrico	PERU

107.	GARBINSKI	Helena	PERU
108.	GEHORSAM	Abraham	PARAGUAY
109.	"	Helena	"
110.	RAPAPORT	Aron	"
111.	"	Rzuka Jochwet	"
112.	"	Jakob	"
113.	"	Rywka	"
114.	"	Abraham H.	"
115.	"	Majer	"
116.	"	Icek	"
117.	"	Simon	"
118.	"	Rzuka Hoochwet	"
119.	"	Wolf	"
120.	"	Pola	"
121.	"	Miriam	"
122.	"	Israeli	"
123.	"	Moses	"
124.	"	Schabssa	"
125.	"	Malka	"
126.	"	Rzuka	"
127.	"	Bela	"
128.	"	Perla	"
129.	"	David	"
130.	"	Smycha	"
131.	"	Golda	"
132.	"	Israel	"
133.	"	Moses	"
134.	"	Schabssa	"
135.	"	Gitla	"
136.	"	Matla	"
137.	"	Ester	"
138.	"	Jacob	"
139.	"	Annie	"
140.	"	Josef	"
141.	"	Rosa	"
142.	"	Sabine	"
143.	"	Saul	"
144.	"	Mina	"
145.	"	Israel R.	"
146.	"	Malka Dwora	"
147.	"	Jacob Binem	"
148.	"	Aron	"
149.	"	Genia	"
150.	"	Rzuka	"
151.	MOSZINSKI	Lili	HAITI
152.	NATANSON	Wladislaw	COSTA RICA
153.	"	Stefania	"
154.	"	Jadwiga	"
155.	OSIEK	Sara	"
156.	POZNIASKI	Jakob	PARAGUAY
157.	"	Jenta	"
158.	"	Marlem	"
159.	WEINSTEIN	LEA	"
160.	WENTLAND	Malka	EQUADOR
161.	"	Adam	"
162.	"	Noemi	"
163.	"	Judith	"
164.	"	Christine	"

165.	WETSTEIN	Mieczyslaw	COSTA RICA
166.	"	Stella	"
167.	WOLF	Sami	PARAGUAY
168.	"	Rosa Rachel	"
169.	"	Leon	"
170.	"	Erne	"
171.	"	Sigmond	"
172.	KUROPATWA	Joseph	"
173.	"	Felicio	"
174.	"	Henryk	"
175.	"	Richard	"
176.	SCHWARZBAHD	Ohiel	COSTA RICA
177.	"	Perla	"
178.	"	Martin	"
179.	SCHWARZMANN	Zipa	URUGUAY
180.	WOLMAN	Henrik	PARAGUAY
181.	"	Chaje Hanna	"
182.	SCHEIN	Isak	COSTA RICA
183.	"	Salomon	"
184.	"	Eleonore	"
185.	SCHOR	Tamara	"
186.	ZENSZ	Leon	PERU
187.	"	Geoylia	"
188.	"	Blanka	"
189.	ZNEREV	Salomon Is.	COSTA RICA
190.	"	Malka Feigel	"
191.	"	Bernard	"
192.	"	Regina	"
193.	BRINDKMANN	Mirjam Marta	HONDURAS
194.	"	Jenny	"
195.	"	Erika	"
196.	"	Lotte Helena	"
197.	SCHUPU	Samson	COSTA RICA
198.	"	Rosa	"
199.	SCHOENBERG	Etila	HONDURAS
200.	RAPAPORT	Moses	PARAGUAY
201.	KOSSHANDLER	Henryk	COSTA RICA
202.	"	Charlotte	"
203.	ROTTENBERG	Markus	PARAGUAY
204.	"	Sara	"
205.	"	Haftali	"
206.	"	Rosa	"
207.	"	Leser	"
208.	"	Haftali	"
209.	"	Hermann	"
210.	"	Wolf	"
211.	"	Beila	"
212.	"	Wether	"
213.	"	Natalie	"
214.	"	Frans	"
215.	"	Nute	"
216.	ROZANYEWIAT	Taddie	PARAGUAY
217.	"	Gerda	"
218.	"	Richard	"
219.	WEINGOHT	Abraham	"
220.	"	Mathilde	"
221.	"	Rosa	"
222.	"	Leon	"

223. WEINGORT Ester  
224. SCHOENBERG Samuel HONDURAS  
225. " Estera "  
226. " Bella "  
227. " Jerzy "  
228. TELBOR Rosalia ECUADOR  
229. " Salomea "  
230. HOMSKY Benzion Samuel ?  
231. WACHTEL Hirsch U.S.A.  
232. " Nettie "  
233. " Lieba "  
234. HAGER Malka "  
235. ZURAWIN Adam HONDURAS  
236. " Lea "

(Interned at Vittel)

COPY  
dmh

000000

*2 was left in  
sup. Keller  
file*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 28, 1944  
NUMBER: 4861

**CONTROL COPY**

Reference is made herewith to my messages of April 20, no. 2610, and of May 31, no. 3455.

It is reported by the Swiss that a representative of the Swiss Legation, Berlin visited Vittel on July 6 and 7 and confirmed that Malka Hager, Hersch, Liba, and Nettie Wachtel were detained there. Assurance that they would not be removed from camp was given by the Camp Commandant.

Foregoing refers to American interests in France.

HARRISON

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

000897

2. War Ref. Bd  
Mr. Phelan

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 27, 1944  
NUMBER: 2581

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR McCLELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Embassy, La Paz, informs Department that Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated to the Charge that (1) Bolivia would refrain from withdrawing any Bolivian passports now in possession of persons detained by German authorities; (2) if and when the protecting power of Bolivia interests on the request of the German authorities submits lists of persons holding Bolivian passports, Bolivia will instruct the protecting power that such passports have been confirmed; (3) Bolivia gives its approval to the Government of the United States approaching the German Government through appropriate channels with a view to initiating negotiations for the exchange of German nationals for holders of Bolivian passports or consular documents; and (4) that Bolivia would immediately communicate with the local representative of the protecting power (Spain) with a demand that the lives of all persons holding Bolivian passports or claiming Bolivian 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 to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently

applied

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

*Handwritten:* G. 2. 8. 1944

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9. 704-640  
From Bolivia

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McLELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT  
AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Embassy, La Paz, informs Department that Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs has stated to the Charge that (1) Bolivia would refrain from withdrawing any Bolivian passports now in possession of persons detained by German authorities; (2) if and when the protecting power of Bolivian interests on the request of the German authorities submits lists of persons holding Bolivian passports, Bolivia will instruct the protecting power that such passports have been confirmed; (3) Bolivia gives its approval to the Government of the United States approaching the German Government through appropriate channels with a view to initiating negotiations for the exchange of German nationals for holders of Bolivian passports or consular documents; and (4) that Bolivia would immediately communicate with the local representative of the protecting power (Spain) with a demand that the lives of all persons holding Bolivian passports or claiming Bolivian 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 to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy.

Department is taking appropriate action with regard to (3).

The above may be informally transmitted to appropriate Swiss authorities for their information.

THIS IS WRS BERN CABLE NO. 99.

12: 15p.m.  
July 26, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y)  
Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart  
Central Files, Cable Control Files

LSLesser:tmh 7-24-44

L.S.L.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

*- WRB - 7m.  
P. White*

FROM : Secretary of State, Washington  
TO : American Legation, Bern  
DATE : July 27, 1944  
NUMBER : 2584

*not in file  
8/1/44*  
**CONTROL COPY**

This is War Refugee No. 96 to Bern.

Reference your 4502 of July 14, ultimate and  
ultimate sentences. You are authorized and requested  
to take all action necessary to assist and protect persons  
in class under reference and documentation as American  
citizens should not be withheld from them. Department's  
prior instructions with respect to documentation not-  
withstanding.

HULL

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

000901

SECRET

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND McCLELLAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND  
THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your 4802 of July 14, 1944, ultimate and penultimate sentences. You are authorized and requested to take all action necessary to validate letters of protection which interested persons hold and to secure Swiss protection for applicants notwithstanding Department's prior holdings with respect to documentation.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 96.

\*\*\*\*\*  
July 25, 1944  
2:45 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

CC: Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, McCormack (for Mr. Mann), Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

LSLesser:tah 7-24-44 L.S.L.

000900

7  
CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM  
DEVELOPER  
REPRODUCED  
BY THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT

FROM: American Legation, Bern ✓  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington, D.C. ✓  
DATE: July 24, 1944  
NUMBER: 4728  
X

*keres*

Reference is made herewith to the Department's June 24 telegram No. 2149.

The report contained in Swiss Foreign Office note dated July 20 concerning Drancy which was visited by representative of Swiss Consulate Paris unofficially, is transmitted in my cable No. 4730 dated today. According to the Foreign Office, Swiss Legation in Berlin has been instructed to ascertain whether American Jews are detained in Drancy as report does not mention the nationality of internee.

Foregoing message is for attention American interests --  
France.

HARRISON

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

000903

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 2490

CONTROL COPY

FOR McCLELLAND AND HARRISON.

1. Please express to the Swiss Foreign Office the Department's and the Board's sincere appreciation for its cooperation and efforts as reflected in your 4223 of July 3. Please consult with appropriate officials of the Swiss Foreign Office in an urgent endeavor to secure their prompt further assistance by intervention and otherwise in rescuing the Malkowsky, Frunkin and Gerlin families from QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE which according to your 4295 of July 6 and all other available information is but an euphemism for cold-blooded slaughter.

2. Please continue making representations in strongest terms on behalf of these families and all others to whom documents have been issued in the name of any American republic. It is considered by this Government that German action in declaring some documents invalid is arbitrary and inconsistent with generally accepted rule but the question as to validity of passports is to be determined by the government in whose name they are issued, therefore only the government in whose name documents are issued can deny validity, not Germany. This Government furthermore considers untenable the distinction sought to be drawn

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

between

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between issues of such documents who are not in internment camps and those issues who are elsewhere, and this is without regard to whether such persons have a knowledge of Spanish or any other language or were set led in Poland or any other country. Accordingly, this Government takes a most serious view of German consignment of any persons to whom documents have been issued in the name of an American republic to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE and must insist upon the return by the Germans to internment camps reserved for nationals of American republics<sup>of</sup> all persons to whom such documents have been issued who have been removed from such camps for consignment to such QUOTE treatment UNQUOTE or similar treatment.

3. Please endeavor through any unofficial channels that may be available to you to convey the sense of the following to appropriate German and satellite officials in foreign offices and foreign police: Foreign office and other officials who bear any responsibility for the consignment of persons to whom documents have been issued in the name of an American republic to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE or similar treatment must expect personally to bear the consequences. If American republics, horrified by the bestiality and brutality of Nazi mass-slaughter accord to some persons the protection of their passports or other documents, individual officials of the German and satellite foreign offices and foreign police ought to be anxious to avail themselves of such or any other opportunity to save innocent lives. If, instead, they indulge in fine reasoning

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reasoning and take action which is tantamount to sentencing such persons to persecution or death, they thereby assume the responsibility and invite the consequences therefor. Furthermore, their failure to seize every available opportunity to save lives will be considered as strong evidence of their concurrence with the policy of mass-slaughters of Jews and other civilian populations and their participation in such crimes, the consequences for which formed the subject of President Roosevelt's statement of March 24.

4. The Department and Board are confident that the Swiss Foreign Office recognizes that although the safety of citizens of the United States is the paramount concern of the American Government, the American people and Government are gravely concerned with the safety of the victims of Nazi persecution without regard to the nationality or stateless status of such victims. This grave concern has been manifested in many ways including the creation by the President of the War Refugee Board, and in the solemn warnings heretofore issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. As a consequence of this concern, and in view of Germany's open espousal of a policy of exterminating Jews and other civilian peoples, the Swiss Foreign Office will understand why this Government is unable to accept the German view that removal of persons claiming nationality of an American republic from internment camps for subjection to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE involves merely QUOTE internal German police

000900

police measures UNQUOTE. Knowing Switzerland's humanitarian traditions, the Department and Board are confident that the Swiss Foreign Office will find a way to intercede further on this score to secure from the Germans adequate assurances for the safety of all persons to whom passports and other documents have been issued in the name of an American republic whether such persons are in internment camps or elsewhere or have been in internment camps and removed therefrom. Please also request the Swiss to attempt again to secure for the Board a list of all those claiming nationality of an American republic who have been deported from Vittel and similar camps. Assume your airmail 8466, June 12, contains list of 238 names supplied by you to Swiss as well as list of 163 names supplied by Swiss consulate, Paris. The importance of securing such lists, as well as the taking of the other measures indicated herein is emphasized by the fact, called to your attention by the Department's 2046 of June 16, that Anna Frumkin is the wife, Hermine Frumkin, the daughter and Eugenia Gorlin, the sister of a citizen of the United States.

5. Regarding Section four your 4223, July 3, notice number two, Part E, this Government's position against German determination on QUOTE merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin American documentation UNQUOTE relates not (repeat not) to priority of exchange or method of selection of individuals to be exchanged, but rather to the recognition of persons making such claims as being eligible for exchange, and the extension to them of treatment to which nationals of countries of which

000907

of which they claim nationality are entitled.

6. Regarding notice number two, Part F, refer Department's 2407 of July 13, WRB's 64 and Department's 2316 of July 6, 1944, WRB's 71. Further efforts being made to obtain various governments protected by Switzerland or Spain to request suitable action in Bern or Madrid. But without awaiting such requests, efforts should be persistently continued to obtain results on basis of this Government's attitude, and of attitude of such governments as have already communicated with Switzerland. In this connection, please discuss with Swiss officials informally the desirability of construing as liberally as possible, and of acting as speedily as possible upon any communications from any American republic touching upon the protection of persons from cruelty and persecution. Swiss officials certainly understand that the sole object involved is to save people from unprecedented bestiality and that delays in action brought about by a strict adherence to technicalities proper enough under ordinary circumstances merely result in these extraordinary times, in an additional number of innocent people being ruthlessly done to death.

7. In view of the situation in Hungary, special efforts should be devoted to obtaining German and Hungarian assurances with regard to the protection, eligibility for exchange, etc., of any persons in Hungary to whom documents in the name of an American republic have been issued. You are authorized to

request

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-6-

request Swiss authorities to make all necessary representations  
to this effect. In this connection, note is taken of your  
recommendation in last paragraph of notice one of your 4223.

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 78.

HULL

000909

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN AND WASHINGTON

1. Please express to the Swiss Foreign Office the Department's and the Board's sincere appreciation for its cooperation and efforts as reflected in your 4223 of July 3. Please consult with appropriate officials of the Swiss Foreign Office in an urgent endeavor to secure their prompt further assistance by intervention and otherwise in rescuing the Mikovsky, Frauckin and Gorlin families from QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE which according to your 4295 of July 6 and all other available information is but an euphemism for cold-blooded slaughter.

2. Please continue making representations in strongest terms on behalf of these families and all others to whom documents have been issued in the name of any American Republic. This Government is unable to accept the German position based on the alleged falsity of some such documents and must insist as heretofore that only the government in whose name document has been issued and not (repeat not) Germany may deny its validity and that unless and until such government expressly and specifically denies validity of a document issued in its name Germany must accord the person to whom such document has been issued the treatment, rights, immunities and privileges to which nationals of the country in whose name the document is issued are entitled. Furthermore, this Government can not (repeat not) accept the distinction sought to be drawn between issuers of such documents who are now in internment camps and those issuers who are elsewhere, and this is without regard to whether such persons have a knowledge of Spanish or any other language or were gassed in Poland or any other country. Accordingly, this Government takes a most serious view of German consignment of any persons to whom documents have been issued in the name of an American Republic to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE and must insist upon the return by the Germans to internment camps reserved for nationals of American Republics of all persons to whom such documents have been issued who have been removed from such camps for consignment to such QUOTE treatment UNQUOTE or similar treatment.

3. Please endeavor through any unofficial channels that may be available to you to convey the sense of the following to appropriate German and satellite officials in foreign offices and foreign police Foreign office and other officials who bear any responsibility for the consignment of persons to whom documents have been issued in the name of an American Republic to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE or similar treatment must exact personally to bear the consequences. If American Republics, horrified by the bestiality and brutality of Nazi mass-slaughter accord to some persons the protection

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

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

000910

of their passports or other documents, individual officials of the German and satellite foreign offices and foreign police ought to be anxious to avail themselves of such or any other opportunity to save innocent lives. If, instead, they indulge in fine reasoning and take action which is tantamount to sentencing such persons to persecution or death, they thereby assume the responsibility and invite the consequences therefor. Furthermore, their failure to seize every available opportunity to save lives will be considered as strong evidence of their concurrence with the policy of mass-slaughters of Jews and other civilian populations and their participation in such crimes, the consequences for which formed the subject of President Roosevelt's statement of March 24.

4. The Department and Board are confident that the Swiss Foreign Office recognizes that although the safety of citizens of the United States is the paramount concern of the American Government, the American people and Government are gravely concerned with the safety of the victims of Nazi persecution without regard to the nationality or stateless status of such victims. This grave concern has been manifested in many ways including the creation by the President of the War Refugee Board, and in the solemn warnings heretofore issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. As a consequence of this concern, and in view of Germany's open espousal of a policy of exterminating Jews and other civilian peoples, the Swiss Foreign Office will understand why this Government is unable to accept the German view that removal of persons claiming nationality of an American republic from internment camps for submission to the QUOTE general treatment accorded to eastern Jews UNQUOTE involves merely QUOTE internal German police measures UNQUOTE. Knowing Switzerland's humanitarian traditions and the great assistance she has been to victims of persecution from the earliest times to the present, the Department and Board are confident that the Swiss Foreign Office will find a way to intercede further on this score to secure from the Germans adequate assurances for the safety of all persons to whom passports and other documents have been issued in the name of an American republic whether such persons are in internment camps or elsewhere or have been in internment camps and removed therefrom. Please also request the Swiss to attempt again to secure for the Board a list of all those claiming nationality of an American republic who have been deported from Vittel and similar camps. Assume your airmail 8466, June 12, contains list of 228 names supplied by you to Swiss as well as list of 163 names supplied by Swiss consulate, Paris. The importance of securing such lists, as well as the taking of the other measures indicated herein is emphasized by the fact, called to your attention by the Department's of , that Anna Frank is the wife, Hermine Frankin, the daughter and Eugenia Gorlin, the sister of a citizen of the United States.

5. Regarding Section four your 4223, July 3, notice number two, Part E, this Government's position against German determination on QUOTE merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin American documentation UNQUOTE relates not (repeat not) to priority of exchange or method of selection of individuals to be exchanged, but rather to the recognition of persons making such claims as being eligible for exchange, and the extension to them of treatment to which nationals of countries of which they claim nationality are entitled.

6. Regarding notice number two, Part F, refer Department's of , AEB's 64 and Department's of WRB's 71. Further efforts being made to obtain various governments protected by Switzerland or Spain to request suitable action in Bern or Madrid. But without awaiting such requests, efforts should be persistently continued to obtain results on basis of this Government's attitude, and of attitude of such governments as have already communicated with Switzerland. In this connection, please discuss with Swiss officials informally the desirability of construing as liberally as possible, and of acting as speedily as possible upon any communications from any American republic touching upon the protection of persons from cruelty and persecution. Swiss officials certainly understand that the sole object involved is to save people from unprecedented bestiality and that delays in action brought about by a strict adherence to technicalities proper enough under ordinary circumstances merely result in these extraordinary times, in an additional number of innocent people being ruthlessly done to death.

7. In view of the situation in Hungary, special efforts should be devoted to obtaining German and Hungarian assurances with regard to the protection, eligibility for exchange, etc., of any persons in Hungary to whom documents in the name of an American republic have been issued. You are authorized to request Swiss authorities to make all necessary representations to this effect. In this connection, note is taken of your recommendation in last paragraph of notice one of your 4223.

4:35 p.m.  
July 10, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

THIS IS WRB CABLE BERN NO. 78.

L.S.L.  
BAKsin :als 7/10/44  
LESser

000912

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

*2-man Refugee Rel.  
m. Pahl*

FROM: American Legation, Bern.  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.  
DATED: July 21, 1944.  
NUMBER: 4665.  
x

*Control Copy  
to Hodel*

In view of the information with reference to Uruguay and Chile which was contained in messages from the Legation of July 14th, Number 4518 and Number 4502, the inquiry which was contained in the last paragraph of message of July 13, from the Department, Number 2407, was not forwarded to the Swiss.

HARRISON

DCR:LCW 7/22/44

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000913

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT  
RECEIVED COPY

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 2485

FOR McCLELLAND

The matter referred to in your 4025 of June 23rd has been discussed with the Foreign Minister of Haiti. The following is the substance of the Minister's reply as transmitted by Amembassy Port-au-Prince:

QUOTE The Haitian Government will issue instructions to the Legation at Bern to inform the German Government through the Swiss authorities that Haiti considers all of its passports held by persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory valid until an examination of each case shall have been made. This applies to those persons who were unable to comply with the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942, as well as to those persons holding documents whose validity is open to doubt.

QUOTE The Minister stated that this decision, which he will confirm to me in writing, will require the approval of the Council of Ministers, a meeting of which will be held soon, but that he does not anticipate any objections from that body.

QUOTE He added that it is purely a humanitarian measure and that the Haitian Government considers that many of the persons who will benefit by it are undesirable. I gathered that, after the conclusion of hostilities, unfavorable decisions will be reached in many cases. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 88.

HULL

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

000914

~~SECRET~~  
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FOR McLELLAND

The matter referred to in your 4025 of June 23rd has been discussed with the Foreign Minister of Haiti. The following is the substance of the Minister's reply as transmitted by Ambassador Fort-au-Prince:

QUOTE The Haitian Government will issue instructions to the Legation at Bern to inform the German Government through the Swiss authorities that Haiti considers all of its passports held by persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory valid until an examination of each case shall have been made. This applies to those persons who were unable to comply with the Decree-Law of February 4, 1942, as well as to those persons holding documents whose validity is open to doubt.

QUOTE The Minister stated that this decision, which he will confirm to me in writing, will require the approval of the Council of Ministers, a meeting of which will be held soon, but that he does not anticipate any objections from that body.

QUOTE He added that it is purely a humanitarian measure and that the Haitian Government considers that many of the persons who will benefit by it are undesirable. I gathered that, after the conclusion of hostilities, unfavorable decisions will be reached in many cases. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO BERN NO. 88

12:00 noon  
July 20, 1944

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

L.L. Lesser:ms 7/19/44  
Miss Chauncey, (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mahn, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

000915

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 21, 1944  
NUMBER: 2484

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR McCLELLAND

There follows for your information and guidance the substance of an airgram received from the Amembassy San Salvador:

QUOTE The note of April 17, 1944, from Dr. Arturo Ramon Avila, at that time Foreign Minister, to the Spanish Minister (in charge of German interests) reads in translation as follows:

INNERQUOTE The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador begs His Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain and Representative of the Interests of Germany in this Republic, if he perceives no objections, that he interest himself, with a view to safeguarding the lives of all those persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who claim (pretendan) to hold Salvadoran citizenship, in order that the German Government, for humanitarian reasons, extend to the said persons all the privileges, rights and immunities granted to interned civilians in conformity with the Convention of Geneva on Prisoners of War. Arturo Ramon Avila thanks in advance His Excellency the Duke of B allen for his courtesy in taking this action, which, if it appears opportune to him, he would appreciate done by cable, and renews to him the assurances of his distinguished consideration. San Salvador,

April 17,

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

000910

April 17, 1944. END OF INNERQUOTE

The note of May 20, 1944, from Dr. Julio Enrique Avila, the present Foreign Minister, to the Spanish Minister, reads in translation as follows:

INNERQUOTE The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador begs His Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain and Representative of the Interests of Germany in this Republic, to consider as modified the request referred to in the note verbale addressed to him by (the Foreign Minister's) predecessor, Dr. Arturo Hamon Avila, that he interest himself, if there are no objections, with a view to safeguarding the lives of all those persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who prove (justificuen) that they possess Salvadoran citizenship, in order that the German Government, for humanitarian reasons, extend to the said persons all the privileges, rights and immunities granted to interned civilians in conformity with the Convention of Geneva on Prisoners of War. Julio Enrique Avila thanks in advance His Excellency the Duke of Bailen for his courtesy in taking this action, which, if it appears opportune to him, he would appreciate done by cable, and renews to him the assurances of his distinguished consideration, San Salvador, May 20, 1944, END OF INNERQUOTE

The modification consists in the change of the words QUOTE persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who claim (pretendan) to hold Salvadoran citizenship UNQUOTE to QUOTE

Persons

000917

Persons who bear Salvadoran passports <sup>or who prove (Justifiquen)</sup> that they possess Salvadoran citizenship. UNQUOTE

The Embassy unsuccessfully tried to have the present Foreign Minister send a note verbale identical with that of his predecessor, but Dr. Avila insisted on making the modification. He informs me that he is contemplating no new steps.

The Spanish Minister confidentially informed me that he had not bothered to transmit the second request as he considered it so similar to the first. The Swiss Government is therefore undoubtedly still working under the more liberal terms of the first request. It is consequently strongly suggested that no further action be taken unless the situation changes. END OF QUOTE.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 87.

HULL

000918

**CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT DURN AND McLELLAND**

There follows for your information and guidance the substance of an airgram received from the Ambassador San Salvador: Q007N

The note of April 17, 1944, from Dr. Arturo Ramon Avila, at that time Foreign Minister, to the Spanish Minister (in charge of German interests) reads in translation as follows  
INNERQUOTE

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador begs His Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain and Representative of the Interests of Germany in this Republic, if he perceives no objections, that he interest himself, with a view to safeguarding the lives of all those persons who bear Salvadoran passports or the claim (pretense) to hold Salvadoran citizenship, in order that the German Government, for humanitarian reasons, extend to the said persons all the privileges, rights and immunities granted to interned civilians in conformity with the Convention of Geneva on Prisoners of War. Arturo Ramon Avila thanks in advance His Excellency the Duke of Salien for his courtesy in taking this action, which, if it appears opportune to him, he would appreciate done by cable, and renews to him the assurances of his distinguished consideration. San Salvador, April 17, 1944. END OF INNERQUOTE

The note of May 20, 1944, from Dr. Julio Enrique Avila, the present Foreign Minister, to the Spanish Minister, reads in translation as follows INNERQUOTE

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador begs His Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain and Representative of the Interests of Germany in this Republic, to consider as modified the request referred to in the note verbale addressed to him by (the Foreign Minister's) predecessor, Dr. Arturo Ramon Avila, that he interest himself, if there are no objections, with a view to safeguarding the lives of all those persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who swear (justify) that they possess Salvadoran citizenship, in order that the German Government, for humanitarian reasons, extend to the said persons all

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-73  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

the privileges, rights and immunities granted to interned civilians in conformity with the Convention of Geneva on Prisoners of War. Julio Enrique Avila thanks in advance His Excellency the Duke of Bailen for his courtesy in taking this action, which, if it appears opportune to him, he would appreciate done by cable, and renews to him the assurances of his distinguished consideration. San Salvador, May 20, 1944. END OF MESSAGE

The modification consists in the change of the words QUOTE persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who claim (pretend) to hold Salvadoran citizenship UNQUOTE to QUOTE Persons who bear Salvadoran passports or who prove (justify) that they possess Salvadoran citizenship. UNQUOTE

The Embassy unsuccessfully tried to have the present Foreign Minister send a note identical with that of his predecessor, but Dr. Avila insisted on making the modification. He informs me that he is contemplating no new steps.

The Spanish Minister confidentially informed me that he had not bothered to transmit the second request as he considered it so similar to the first. The Swiss Government is therefore undoubtedly still working under the more liberal terms of the first request. It is consequently strongly suggested that no further action be taken unless the situation changes. END OF MESSAGE

THIS IS WEE BERN CABLE NO. ~~87~~

10:15 a.m.  
July 19, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files  
L. Lesser:bnh 7-18-44

L. S. L.

000920

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*7c*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

KD-

AERGRAM

**CONTROL COPY**

Bern via Lisbon

Dated July 14, 1944

Rec'd 8 a.m., 21st

Secretary of State

Washington

424, Fourteenth

LATIN AMERICAN INTERESTS, FRANCE

Foreign Office note July 14 states No. 33

enclosure list transmitted Legation's airmail 8466.

June 12 is Lea Goldstein, born July 9, 1937, Warsaw,

alleged nationality unknown; date of birth No. 32

is January 27, 1909.

HARRISON

JT

000921

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

KD-

AIRGRAM

Bern via Lisbon

Dated July 14, 1944

Rec'd 8 a.m., 21st

Secretary of State

Washington

424, Fourteenth

LATIN AMERICAN INTERESTS, FRANCE

Foreign Office note July 14 states No. 33  
enclosure list transmitted Legation's airmail 8466,  
June 12 is Lea Goldstein, born July 9, 1937, Warsaw,  
alleged nationality unknown; date of birth No. 32  
is January 27, 1909.

HARRISON

JT

000922

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

FROM: American Legation, Bern ✓  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 14, 1944  
NUMBER: 4518  
X

Department is no doubt giving constant attention (please refer to last paragraph of my message of June 17, No. 3871, to the possibility of having declarations concerning the recognition of Bolivian and Paraguayan papers in hands of individuals residing in German controlled areas and Germany forwarded through Spain as protecting power by Bolivia and Paraguay. Department may also desire to take up with Government of Mexico the subject of forwarding of similar statement through Sweden, as power protecting the interests of Mexico in Germany, in the event such steps have not been taken previously.

A With regard to general question of Latin American documentation in German controlled countries, the suggestion that such Latin American Governments as have not previously made arrangements for their interests in Hungary to be taken care of urgently ask Switzerland or other neutral country to assume such representation is made by the Legation for the consideration of the Department. All Latin American countries without direct representation in Hungary except Uruguay, Chile, Brazil and possibly El Salvador, would seem to be concerned in this.

HARRISON

DOR:GFW  
7-22-44

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

000923

*2-year Refugee Fed  
Mr. Peble*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 13, 1944  
NUMBER: 2407  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

FOR ATTENTION OF MINISTER HARRISON AND MCGLELLAND, BERN,  
SWITZERLAND.

Reference is made to your 3871 of June 17. Please express Board's sincere appreciation to Foreign Office for its cooperation. The Board recognizes Switzerland's deep concern for the fate of victims of Nazi persecution and is confident that continued efforts of Swiss and American Governments must result in some degree of success.

1. In regard to renewal of passports held by persons in enemy territory, United States practice, as you are aware, is not to authorize their extension beyond their two-year period of validity. Nevertheless, Swiss authorities issue Swiss certificates of identity to holders of such passports. It is suggested that a similar practice, if necessary, be adopted in the case of passports issued in the names of other American republics whose interests are protected in enemy territory by Switzerland. The suggestion is based on the premise that while a passport's duration as a travel document is limited to the period of its validity, its value as prima facie evidence of nationality continues. Accordingly, it is our understanding that the request to Switzerland to extend protective action to all persons threatened with

enemy

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

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enemy persecution who hold passports and other documents issued in the name of the American republics until affirmatively advised to the contrary by the government concerned applies without regard to the time-limit indicated in any such passport. To hold otherwise, would be to attach more value to a simple consular letter certifying national status than to a passport. It is greatly hoped that, in the interest of avoiding delay, the Swiss can carry out the foregoing without communicating further with any of the governments concerned. Kindly advise concerning such governments and the changes of procedure needed to achieve the foregoing, however, if the Swiss cannot secure this result without instructions from the governments whose passports were issued.

Please discuss this matter with appropriate Swiss authorities and endeavor to secure their cooperation in developing some procedure that will assure the continued protection of holders of expired Latin-American passports regardless of their extension.

2. It is understood that Paraguay requested Spain in May to extend protection to all holders of Paraguayan documents. Spanish assistance in bringing about the return of deportees from Vittel was requested by United States and certain other American republics. On April 19 Spanish Government assured us that it would attempt to learn the facts as soon as possible with a view toward endeavoring to arrange for the return of these refugees. Early in June, Spanish Foreign Minister, in reply to request by Nicaragua, offered to use his good offices to secure the return to Vittel of any bearers

bearers of Nicaraguan passports who might have been removed therefrom.

3. Please request assistance of Swiss authorities in ascertaining identity and whereabouts of all persons removed from Compiègne and Vittel and other civilian internment camps who hold passports or other documents issued in the name of any American republic, and their best efforts to secure the return of such persons to such camps.

4. Note is taken of German readiness to consider as eligible for exchange against Germans desiring to be repatriated all Jews interned in these camps who bear Latin American identity documents as well as those elsewhere known to the German Foreign Office, and of German readiness to accept the recognition by the United States of the status of such persons as a basis for their treatment and eligibility for exchange. It is consequently assumed that German authorities will henceforth refrain from passing on the validity of Latin American documents. Please confirm. It would also appear that United States recognition of status will alone suffice, and affirmative approaches by individual Latin American countries are not considered essential by Germans. On the assumption that we properly state German attitude, please explore with Swiss authorities the possibility of proceeding on this basis. We assume Swiss are fully aware of circumstances making action on this basis desirable in speedily achieving humanitarian results.

5. Honduras and Costa Rica have authorized this government to transmit to Switzerland their demands that persons holding  
passports

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passports issued in their names be protected. Refer to Department's 1632 of May 10 concerning Honduras, and 1993 of June 10 concerning Costa Rica, which we assume you have transmitted to appropriate Swiss authorities. A similar communication from Guatemala is on its way to you.

This government has been informed that a telegram was sent by Ecuador to Swiss Government early in May requesting safeguarding of persons claiming Ecuadorian nationality. It is also understood that similar instructions, with regard to persons holding Uruguayan documents, were cabled from Montevideo to Uruguayan Minister at Bern on June 15.

6. In connection with persons eligible for exchange, your attention is drawn to the problem of persons in enemy-controlled areas in whose names Latin American documents have been issued, but who are not in physical possession of these documents because delivery has been impossible. In order that such persons may not be placed at any disadvantage because of circumstance beyond their control, please secure from available sources names, ages and last known addresses of such persons. On this subject please consult Sternbuch, Riegner, Saly Meyer, and other representatives of rescue organizations. Please notify Board when such list is secured, giving your views and informal opinion of Swiss authorities as to the advisability of making the same available to the Germans in an effort to protect such persons.

7. Please note that the term QUOTE German-controlled UNQUOTE territory or areas as used in this message and in all other communications

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-8-

communications dealing with protection of persons holding documents issued in the names of American republics included Hungary. Should there be any possibility of doubt on this score, the Swiss authorities should be informed accordingly and requested to transmit said information to German and Hungarian authorities. In this connection, you are requested to inquire and report which American republics, if any other than the United States, are represented in Hungary and Switzerland.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 64.

HULL

11 11 11 9 12 13

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCGLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference is made to your 3871 of June 17. Please express Board's sincere appreciation to Foreign Office for its cooperation. The Board recognizes Switzerland's deep concern for the fate of victims of Nazi persecution and is confident that continued efforts of Swiss and American governments must result in some degree of success.

1. In regard to renewal of passports held by persons in enemy territory, United States practice, as you are aware, is not to authorize their extension beyond their two-year period of validity. Nevertheless, Swiss authorities issue Swiss certificates of identity to holders of such passports. It is suggested that a similar practice, if necessary, be adopted in the case of passports issued in the names of other American republics whose interests are protected in enemy territory by Switzerland. The suggestion is based on the premise that while a passport's duration as a travel document is limited to the period of its validity, its value as prima facie evidence of nationality continues. Accordingly, it is our understanding that the request to Switzerland to extend protective action to all persons threatened with enemy persecution who hold passports and other documents issued in the name of the American republics until affirmatively advised to the contrary by the government concerned applies without regard to the time-limit indicated in any such passport. To hold otherwise, would be to attach more value to a simple consular letter certifying national status than to a passport.

Please discuss this matter with appropriate Swiss authorities and endeavor to secure their cooperation in developing some procedure that will assure the continued protection of holders of expired Latin-American passports regardless of their extension.

2. It is understood that Paraguay requested Spain in May to extend protection to all holders of Paraguayan documents. Spanish assistance in bringing about the return of deportees from Vittel was requested by United States and certain other American republics. On April 19 Spanish government assured us that it would attempt to learn the facts as soon as possible with a view toward endeavoring to arrange for the return of these refugees. Early in June, Spanish Foreign Minister, in reply to request by Nicaragua, offered to use his good offices to secure the return to Vittel of any bearers of Nicaraguan passports who might have been removed therefrom.

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- 2 -

June 30, 1944

these camps who bear Latin American identity documents as well as those elsewhere known to the German Foreign Office, and of German readiness to accept the recognition by the United States of the status of such persons as a basis for their treatment and eligibility for exchange. It is consequently assumed that German authorities will henceforth refrain from passing on the validity of Latin American documents. Please confirm. It would also appear that United States recognition of status will alone suffice, and affirmative approaches by individual Latin American countries are not considered essential by Germans. On the assumption that we properly state German attitude, please explore with Swiss authorities the possibility of proceeding on this basis. We assume Swiss are fully aware of circumstances making action on this basis desirable in speedily achieving humanitarian results.

5. Honduras and Costa Rica have authorized this government to transmit to Switzerland their demands that persons holding passports issued in their names be protected. Refer to Department's 129 of April 26 concerning Honduras, and 1993 of June 10 concerning Costa Rica, which we assume you have transmitted to appropriate Swiss authorities. A similar communication from Guatemala is on its way to you.

This government has been informed that a telegram was sent by Ecuador to Swiss government early in May requesting safeguarding of persons claiming Ecuadorean nationality. It is also understood that similar instructions, with regard to persons holding Uruguayan documents, were cabled from Montevideo to Uruguayan Minister at Bern on June 15.

6. In connection with persons eligible for exchange, your attention is drawn to the problem of persons in enemy-controlled areas in whose names Latin American documents have been issued, but who are not in physical possession of these documents because delivery has been impossible. In order that such persons may not be placed at any disadvantage because of this circumstance beyond their control, please secure from available sources names, ages and last known addresses of such persons. On this subject please consult Sternbuch, Riegner, Saly Meyer, and other representatives of rescue organizations. Please notify Board when such list is secured, giving your views and informal opinion of Swiss authorities as to the advisability of making the same available to the Germans in an effort to protect such persons.

7. Please note that the term QUOTE German-controlled UNQUOTE territory or areas as used in this message and in all other communications dealing with protection of persons holding documents issued in the names of American republics includes Hungary. Should there be any possibility of doubt on this score, the Swiss authorities should be informed accordingly and requested to transmit said information to German and Hungarian authorities.

*Ba. The* CABLE TO BERN NO. 64

BAKzin:LSLesser:ar 6/29/44

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

11:09:30

L.A. Passport

*Handwritten notes and signatures at the top of the page.*

Via Air Mail Pouch

No. 8694

Bern, July 8, 1944.

Subject: Transmission of communications from Swiss Foreign Office concerning treatment accorded by German authorities to persons claiming citizenship of American Republics.

# CONTROL COPY

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's telegram No. 4223 of July 3, 1944, which transmitted the substance of two NOTICES from the Swiss Foreign Office concerning the treatment and deportation of persons claiming the citizenship of various American Republics.

There is now enclosed, for the Department's information and consideration, pursuant to the final sentence of the Legation's telegram under reference, a copy of each of the subject notices, together with a translation thereof. As indicated in the Legation's telegram cited above, these documents have been received under cover of a note dated June 27, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office.

It may be observed that certain references have been marked with asterisks in Enclosure No. 4. This has been done for the Department's convenience. In addition to the references so marked, it is believed that the Department may wish to study the attached documents in conjunction with the Legation's telegram No. 3871 of June 17 - 9 a.m.

Respectfully yours,  
For the Minister:

George Tait  
First Secretary

Enclosures

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Enclosures:

- No. 1 - Copy of Notice concerning treatment of citizens of American nations;
- No. 2 - Copy of Notice concerning deportation of citizens of the United States and Latin American Republics;
- No. 3 - Translation of Enclosure No. 1;
- No. 4 - Translation of Enclosure No. 2.

File No. 640.1  
TJB/hs  
In quintuplicate to Department.

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Enclosure No. to despatch 7694  
dated July 8, 44 from the American  
Legation, Bern.

COPY  
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NOTICE

relative au traitement des ressortissants  
des Nations américaines (note verbale A.I.  
no. 8639 de la Légation des Etats-Unis à  
Berne, du 9 juin 1944).

Les camps de BERGAU près BRUNNEN et BERNHARDTSTADT  
en Silésie, sont totalement inconnus à la Légation  
qui toutefois entreprendra sans délai toutes démarches  
utiles en vue d'établir leur nature et leur objet.  
Les rapports seront remis aussitôt que possible sur  
les camps dont il s'agit.

Il y a lieu de signaler à ce propos que depuis  
quelque temps des personnes admises à des échanges  
de civils, mais ne possédant pas l'indigénat des  
nations américaines ou d'autres Etats représentés  
par la Suisse sont détenues au camp d'internement  
de BERGEN BELSEN près de CELLE à Hanovre.

Il s'agit en l'occurrence de la catégorie bien  
connue des "Alied relatives", c'est à dire des  
proches parents de ressortissants américains ne  
possédant pas l'indigénat des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.  
Ces personnes ne pouvant être admises dans des camps  
d'internement réservés aux ressortissants des nations  
américaines, sont détenues en attendant l'échange  
dans ce camp ad hoc qui renferme aussi par exemple  
les personnes ne possédant pas l'indigénat britannique  
admises pour l'échange civil avec la Palestine.

b) Quant au reste du contenu de cette note, il  
y a lieu de faire valoir à l'exception des cas déjà  
signalés des familles GORLIN et FRUEKIN (Chile) et  
MALKOWSKY (Vénézuéla) éloignés de Vittel dans le  
courant du mois d'avril et en faveur desquels la  
Légation de Suisse a déjà entrepris des démarches  
réitérées, aucun ressortissant authentique des  
nations américaines n'a été, à la connaissance de  
la Légation, déporté ou privé autrement des droits  
découlant de sa nationalité américaine.

Même dans des cas où les gouvernements respec-  
tifs, saisis en l'occurrence par les Autorités suisses,

ne

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ne sont pas encore prononcés définitivement sur le statut des ressortissants dont il s'agit, les Autorités allemandes continuent à les traiter comme des ressortissants de nations américaines.

Il y a lieu d'ajouter qu'il est fort possible que des Juifs polonais ou d'autres régions de l'Europe Orientale se soient faits forts d'un faux passeport d'un Etat de l'Amérique Latine et que les Autorités allemandes ayant pu établir que ces documents n'étaient pas authentiques, les aient soumis au régime général pour les Juifs des Territoires de l'Est. Des cas de ce genre ne sont en général pas connus à la Légation, les personnes dont il s'agit n'ayant pas eu la possibilité de s'adresser à ses services.

Il y a lieu de préciser ici que le Ministère allemand des Affaires Etrangères n'a donné le 11 mai, au Chef de la Division spéciale, des assurances formelles que pour des personnes se trouvant déjà à cette date dans des camps d'internement civils pour ressortissants du continent américain.

Quant aux personnes en possession de passeports plus ou moins contestables, dans des territoires de l'Est, une protection ne pourrait leur être assurée qu'en fournissant au Gouvernement allemand des listes y relatives et en notifiant des déclarations semblables à celles récemment faites par le Venezuela et l'Honduras, en spécifiant encore plus clairement que la déclaration pour toutes pièces d'identité ibéro-américaines de tout genre pouvant se trouver en possession des intéressés.

Berlin, le 20 juin 1944.

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July 1944 2 8694

COPY  
hs

SCHWEIZERISCHE GESANDTSCHAFT

in Deutschland

Berlin W B  
Pariser Platz 2

Abteilung Schutzmachtangelegenheiten

AE/mb.

NOTICE

relative à la déportation des ressortissants  
des Etats-Unis et des Républiques de l'Amérique  
latine (Notice No. 8640 de la Légation des  
Etats-Unis d'Amérique à Berne, du 6 juin 1944).

\*\*\*\*\*

ad.l.:

What action was taken by the appropriate  
Swiss authorities subsequent to that indi-  
cated in the Division's kind note No. 22241  
of May 3, 1944 (B.24.USA(2) 64-E/Jw) and  
which is continued in the Division's note  
No. 24134 of May 12, 1944 (B.24.2.A-3-E/Js)  
to the effect that the German authorities  
should be asked to accord recognition to  
anyone claiming United States' citizenship  
until such time as the case has been re-  
viewed by the Department of State.

Le 3 mai, le chef de section compétent au  
Ministère Allemand des Affaires étrangères, déclara  
au représentant de la Légation, sur sa demande, qu'  
aucune des personnes éloignées du camp de Vittel,  
n'avait pu donner une preuve de nationalité d'une  
république de l'Amérique latine. Ces personnes,  
pour la plus grande partie des Juifs des terri-  
toires de l'est, avaient prétendu en son temps,  
être ressortissantes du Paraguay ou d'autres Etats

du

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du continent américain. Sur la base de cette déclaration, elles avaient été assimilées aux ressortissants des pays se trouvant en guerre avec l'Allemagne, protégées par la Légation de Suisse, et avaient été par conséquent internées dans les camps réservés aux ressortissants de la Grande-Bretagne, des Etats-Unis et des Républiques de l'Amérique latine.

A la longue, il s'est avéré que ces personnes ne possédaient aucune preuve de la nationalité dont elles avaient voulu se prévaloir et avaient été en conséquence éloignées d'un camp où elles n'avaient aucun droit de rester.

Le fonctionnaire compétent de l'Auswärtiges Amt déclara également qu'il ne pouvait accéder à la requête de la Légation, tendant à lui faire remettre une liste des personnes éloignées de Vittel, car les personnes en question n'avaient aucun droit à la protection de la Suisse, et il ne s'agissait en somme que d'une mesure de police intérieure allemande. Cette démarche a été l'objet de la note No. 24134 du 12 mai de la Division des Intérêts étrangers à Berne à la Légation des Etats-Unis en cette ville.

Il ressortait des déclarations du Geheimrat SCHNE qu'aucun ressortissant des Etats-Unis n'avait été touché par les mesures de déportation d'internés des camps de Vittel et de Compiègne.

Au courant du mois d'avril, la Division des Intérêts étrangers à Berne a fait parvenir à la Légation, une liste ayant été remise par la Légation des Etats-Unis, portant 238 noms de personnes ayant été déportées du camp de Vittel au cours des mesures dont il s'agit.

Il ressort d'un examen qu'aucune des personnes portées sur cette liste ne figurent dans les registres de ressortissants des Etats-Unis de notre Légation. Un peu plus tard, le Consulat de Suisse à Paris faisait parvenir à la Légation une liste de 163 personnes déportées des camps d'internement. Cette liste avait été remise par les Autorités d'occupation. Aucune des personnes y mentionnées ne pouvait se recommander de la nationalité américaine.

Il y a lieu d'ajouter qu'il n'existe pratiquement pas de faux passeports des Etats-Unis; ce fait est connu des Autorités allemandes qui font preuve,

à l'égard des ressortissants américains, d'une très grande réserve en ce qui concerne la déportation. "L'épuration" des camps d'internement est dirigée contre les prétendus ressortissants de l'Amérique latine et se fonde sur le fait qu'une très grande quantité de faux-passeports de Honduras - Costa Rica - Nicaragua - Guatemala - Equateur - Haiti - Paraguay sont en possession de la population juive de la Pologne et d'autres régions de l'Europe orientale.

ad.2.:

Similar information with regard to anyone claiming Latin-American citizenship with a view toward the conclusion of an agreement for the exchange of Latin-American civilians against German civilians.

Un examen des deux listes de personnes éloignées des camps de Vittel et de Compiègne, parvenues à la Légation a fait ressortir qu'il s'agissait pour la plus grande partie d'internés prétendant être ressortissants du Paraguay. Cette république de l'Amérique du sud étant représentée en Allemagne et pays occupés par l'Ambassade d'Espagne à Berlin, il n'a pas été possible à la Division Spéciale de contrôler si les personnes en question avaient des droits à l'indigénat de cette république sud-américaine.

Il s'avéra que seules les personnes suivantes, portées sur les listes dont il s'agit, étaient connues de la Légation:

- 1) Eugenia GORLIN - Chile
- 2) Anna FRUMKIN - "
- 3) Hermine FRUMKIN - "
- 143) Saul MALCOWSKY - Venezuela
- 144) Sara MALCOWSKY - "
- 145) Maurice MALCOWSKY - "

Les numéros sont ceux de la liste du Consulat de Suisse à Paris.

Par note verbale du 4 novembre 1943, No. 1132, la Légation du Chile à Berne avait fait savoir que les passeports des familles GORLIN et FRUMKIN, ayant

été établis par les consulats du Chile à Kobé (Japon), devaient être considérés non valables comme toutes les pièces émanant de cette représentation consulaire.

Par note verbale No. 28110 du 30 mars 1944, la Légation du Chile déclarait avoir eu vent de la déportation des prénommés, et elle priait la Division Spéciale d'entreprendre toutes démarches utiles en leur faveur.

Par notes verbales des 5 mai et 20 juin, le Ministre allemand des Affaires étrangères a été saisi des cas des familles CORLIN et PRUMKIN et de vives instances ont été faites pour que ces ressortissants chiliens soient ramenés à un camp d'internement.

Des démarches analogues ont été entreprises en faveur de la famille MALCOWSKY.

ad.3.:

What reply, if any, has been received with regard to the two above-numbered paragraphs from Minister Feldscher.

Il a été répondu à cette question dans les deux paragraphes précédents.

ad.4.:

Since the Legation has been given to understand that individuals interned at Vittel have not been informed of the request made by the Government of the United States to the German Government, as contained in the Legation's notice No. 8138 of April 14 and the Legation's confidential note A.I. No. 8174 of April 19, it would be greatly appreciated if it might be possible for the Division to ask that Minister Feldscher inform those persons concerned.

La Légation a sollicité l'autorisation des Autorités allemandes pour faire visiter le camp de Vittel par un représentant du Consulat de Suisse à Paris, en vue de faire part aux internés américains des communications de leur gouvernement ci-

dessus

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dessus mentionnées. L'autorisation a été accordée en principe et le camp sera visité dans ces prochains jours.

sd.5.1

What reason, if any, have the German authorities given for deporting people claiming United States or Latin-American citizenship.

Il a été répondu à cette question dans les paragraphes 1 et 2 ci-dessus. Les Autorités allemandes réitèrent en toutes occasions qu'aucun interné en mesure de fournir des preuves de sa nationalité américaine ou de son indigénat d'une république de l'Amérique latine n'a été déporté. Elles font remarquer qu'un assez grand nombre de personnes revendiquaient l'indigénat d'une république sud-américaine sans pouvoir en fournir la moindre preuve ou bien invoquant à l'appui des documents évidemment faux. Ces personnes ne parlaient pas l'espagnol et n'avaient jamais quitté le territoire polonais. La police allemande des étrangers s'estime fondée à ne pas reconnaître des documents fabriqués ad hoc et à assimiler les porteurs de ces papiers au reste de la population de la Pologne ou des autres pays occupés.

Il y a lieu d'ajouter à ce propos qu'à la suite d'une démarche entreprise par la Légation des Etats-Unis à Berne, auprès du Chef du Département Politique fédéral, la Légation de Suisse à Berlin a demandé et obtenu du Ministère allemand des Affaires étrangères, en date du 11 mai, l'assurance formelle que dorénavant même des porteurs de pièces d'identité contestables, relevant de pays de l'Amérique latine, pour autant qu'ils se trouvent déjà dans des camps d'internement pour ressortissants du Continent américain, ne seront plus soumis à des mesures de déportation. Un rapport circonstancié a été remis à ce sujet, en date du 15 mai, par le Ministre de Suisse à Berlin, au Chef du Département Politique fédéral. Depuis cette démarche aucun nouveau cas de déportation de porteurs de pièces d'identité sud-américaines n'a été signalé.

Aucune

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Aucune assurance n'a pu être fournie pour les porteurs de pièces d'identité sud-américaines contestables, ne se trouvant pas déjà en date du 11 mai dans des camps d'internement.

ad.6.1

The Legation would be greatly appreciative if it might be possible for the Swiss authorities to protest to the German authorities against the action of the Germans in passing on the merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin-American documentation.

En admettant que le terme "merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin-American documentation" vise les titres de priorité pour l'échange de civils, il y a lieu de faire ressortir que la Légation a souvent fait remarquer aux Autorités allemandes que les ressortissants de l'Amérique du nord ou du sud englobés dans des groupes civils d'échanges n'étaient souvent pas ceux que la Légation de Suisse avait proposés et recommandés et auxquels le Gouvernement américain portait le plus d'intérêt.

A ces remontrances verbales, le Ministère des Affaires étrangères a répondu que de son côté le Gouvernement du Reich n'avait aucune influence sur la composition des groupes de rapatriements de civils allemands se trouvant en Amérique et qu'il devait également accueillir des personnes auxquelles il ne portait qu'un intérêt secondaire.

Dans ces conditions, les Autorités allemandes ne pouvaient pas admettre le bien fondé des réclamations américaines. De l'avis de la Légation les groupes d'échanges étant formés en Allemagne par les Autorités intérieures et surtout par la police, sans tenir grand compte des suggestions de la Division Spéciale, une composition satisfaisante des groupes d'échanges ne peut être obtenue que si les listes formelles sont échangées avant le départ du groupe, par les Gouvernements intéressés.

Sauf les cas des familles GORLIN, FRUMKIN et MAICOWSKY, aucune personne pouvant se prévaloir à

juste

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juste titre de l'indigénat d'une nation américaine n'a été privée des droits qui en découlent au courant de l'année 1944, à la connaissance de la Division Spéciale. La Légation protège encore quelques centaines de ressortissants des Etats-Unis et de l'Amérique latine dont les papiers, soumis par son entremise aux autorités compétentes ("pending case"), n'ont pas encore été reconnus par les Etats dont il s'agit. Malgré cela ces personnes sont admises à rester jusqu'ici dans les camps d'internement prévus pour les ressortissants du Continent américain. Une certaine quantité de cas de ce genre, attendant une solution depuis une année ou deux déjà, les Autorités allemandes ont demandé ces derniers temps formellement, si tel ou tel ressortissant de nations américaines est effectivement reconnu comme tel par son gouvernement et s'il est admis pour l'échange des civils.

ad.7.1

Information whether any Latin-American country or countries have requested the Swiss Government as the Protecting Power to recognize individual claims to such nationality pending review of the case by the Government or Governments concerned.

La Légation de Suisse à Berlin représente en Allemagne tous les Etats de l'Amérique latine à l'exception du Mexique représenté par la Suède, de la Bolivie et du Paraguay représentés par l'Espagne. Aucun des Etats de l'Amérique latine représentés par la Suisse n'a fait saisir la Légation de la question dont il s'agit. Seuls le Venezuela et l'Honduras ont fait signifier aux Autorités allemandes, dans la première moitié du mois de juin, que tous les porteurs de papiers d'identité émanant de ces Gouvernements devaient être traités en conforaité des règles internationales, valables pour les internés civils.

Berlin, le 20 juin 1944.

000941

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch  
dated July 1944 from the American  
Legation, Bern. 2694

TRANSMISSION

NOTICE

concerning the treatment of citizens of  
American nations (note A.I.No. 8639 dated  
June 9, 1944, from the Legation of the  
United States).

The camps Bergau near Dresden and Bentstorf  
in Silesia are entirely unknown to the Swiss lega-  
tion which will nevertheless undertake without delay  
all necessary measures with a view to establish both  
their nature and their object. Reports will be trans-  
mitted as soon as possible regarding these camps.

In this connection, for some time, persons whose  
inclusion in civilian exchanges is contemplated but  
not possessing citizenship of American or other states  
represented by Switzerland, are held in the internment  
camp of Bergen Belsen near Celle, Hanover.

This brings up the well-known category "alien  
relatives", i.e. those near relatives of American  
nationals not possessing American citizenship. These  
persons not being admitted to internment camps re-  
served for nationals of the American nations, are  
detained, while awaiting exchange, in this temporary  
camp which likewise holds, for example, persons not  
possessing British nationality but approved for ci-  
vilian exchange with Palestine.

b) With regard to the contents of the remainder  
of this note, it is appropriate to indicate that,  
with the exception of cases already reported involv-  
ing the families GORLIN and FRANKIN (Chile) and  
WALKOWSKY (Venezuela) removed from Vittel during  
April and on whose behalf the Swiss Legation has  
made repeated representations, no authentic national  
of the American nations has been, to the knowledge  
of the Legation, deported or otherwise deprived of  
rights resulting from his American nationality.

Even in cases where the respective governments,  
on the basis of information furnished by the Swiss  
authorities, have not definitely ruled regarding the  
status of the citizens in question, the German autho-  
rities continue to treat them as nationals of American  
nations.

It

It should be added that it is quite possible that Polish and other Jews from Eastern Europe thought it advisable to obtain a false passport from a Latin American State, but that the German authorities having established that these documents were not authentic, have subjected them to the general treatment accorded Eastern Jews. Cases of this character are not in general known to the Legation since the persons concerned have not had the possibility to approach the Swiss authorities.

It should here be pointed out that the German Foreign Office only on May 11 gave to the Chief of the Special Division (of the Swiss Legation at Berlin) formal assurances limited to persons who were already on that date in civilian internment camps reserved for nationals of the American continent.

As to persons in possession of more or less doubtful passports in Eastern territories, no protection could be assured them, except by furnishing the German Government with appropriate lists and in communicating declarations similar to those recently made by Venezuela and Honduras in specifying even more clearly the declaration regarding all Latin American identity papers of every kind found to be in possession of the persons concerned.

Berlin, June 20, 1944.

TJR/hs

4  
July 8/44  
8694

TRANSLATION

SWISS LEGATION  
in Germany  
Foreign Interests Section

AE Mb  
Berlin W 8  
Parlase Platz 2

NOTICE

regarding the deportation of citizens of the United States and of Latin American Republics (Notice No. 8648 of June 6, 1944, from the Legation of the United States of America, Bern).

Question 1:

What action was taken by the appropriate Swiss authorities subsequent to that indicated in the Division's kind note No. 22241 of May 3, 1944 (B.24.USA(2) 64-E/Jw \*) and which is continued in the Division's note No. 24134 of May 12, 1944 (B.24.2 A-3-E/Jw \*\*) to the effect that the German authorities should be asked to accord recognition to anyone claiming United States' citizenship until such time as the case has been reviewed by the Department of State.

On May 3, the Chief of the competent section of the German Foreign Office stated to a representative of the Legation, in reply to the latter's request, that none of the persons removed from the Vittel camp had been able to offer proof of nationality of a Latin American Republic. These persons, for the most part Jews from the Eastern territories, had previously claimed to be nationals of Paraguay or other states of the American continent. On the basis of this declaration, they were assimilated with nationals of countries at war with Germany, protected by the Swiss Legation, and had in consequence been interned in camps reserved for nationals of Great

Britain

- \*) Legation's telegram No. 2937 of May 9, 1944.
- \*\*\*) Legation's telegram No. 3171 of May 18, 1944.

000944

Britain, the United States, and Latin American Republics.

In due course, it developed that these persons possessed no proof of the nationality which they claimed and were in consequence removed from a camp where they had no right to stay.

The competent official of the German Foreign Office likewise stated that he could not accede to the request of the Legation that the latter be furnished with a list of persons from Vittel, because the persons in question had no right to Swiss protection and that the question merely involved internal German police measures. This representation was the subject of note No. 24134 of May 12 from the Division of Foreign Interests at Bern to the United States Legation at that city.

It appears from statements, made by Secret Counsellor SEHNE, that no national of the United States has been affected by deportation measures taken against internees at Vittel and Compiègne.

During April, the Division of Foreign Interests at Bern transmitted to the (Swiss) Legation a list forwarded by the American Legation bearing 238 names of persons deported from the Vittel camp during this action.

Following examination, it was established that none of the persons appear in the register of United States nationals at the Swiss Legation. A little later, the Swiss Consulate at Paris forwarded to the Legation a list of 163 persons deported from internment camps. This list was furnished by the authorities of occupation. None of these persons claimed American nationality.

It should be added that false passports of the United States are practically non-existent. This fact is known to the German authorities who have shown the greatest reserve regarding the deportation of American nationals. The "cleaning" of internment camps is directed against persons claiming Latin American citizenship and is based on the fact that a very great number of false Honduran, Costa Rican, Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, Ecuadoran, Haitian, and Paraguayan passports are in possession of the Jewish population in Poland and other regions of Eastern Europe.

Question 2

Question 2:

Similar information with regard to anyone claiming Latin-American citizenship with a view toward the conclusion of an agreement for the exchange of Latin-American civilians against German civilians.

An examination of two lists of persons removed from the Vittel and Compiègne camps, forwarded to the Legation disclosed that this concerns for the most part internees alleging to be Paraguayan citizens. As this South American republic is represented in Germany and occupied countries by the Spanish Embassy at Berlin, it has not been possible for the Special Division (of the Swiss Legation at Berlin) to determine whether the persons in question had a claim to the citizenship of this South American republic.

It appeared that only the following persons enumerated on the lists in question were known to the Legation:

- 1) Eugenia GORLIN - Chile
- 2) Anna FRUMKIN - Chile
- 3) Hermine FRUMKIN - Chile
- 143) Saul MALCOWSKY - Venezuela
- 144) Sara MALCOWSKY - Venezuela
- 145) Maurice MALCOWSKY - Venezuela

The numbers correspond to those of the list from the Swiss Consulate at Paris.)\*

By note No. 1132 of November 4, 1943, the Chilean Legation at Bern stated that the passports of the Gorlin and Frumkin families having been issued by the Chilean Consulate at Kobe (Japan), were to be considered invalid as all papers issued by this consular representation.

By note No. 20110 of March 30, 1944, the Chilean Legation declared that it had heard of the deportation of the above-named persons and it requested the Special Division to undertake all necessary representations on their behalf.

By notes dated May 5 and June 20, the German Foreign Office gave consideration to the cases of the Gorlin and Frumkin families and strong representations were made for the return of these Chilean citizens to an internment camp. Similar

\*) Transmitted to Department as enclosure to Legation's airmail No. 8466 of June 12, 1944.

000940

Similar representations have been undertaken on behalf of the Malcowsky family.

Question 3:

What reply, if any, has been received with regard to the two above-numbered paragraphs from Minister Feldscher.

Reply to this question has been made in the two preceding paragraphs.

Question 4:

Since the Legation has been given to understand that individuals interned at Vittel have not been informed of the request made by the Government of the United States to the German Government, as contained in the Legation's notice No. 8138 of April 14 \*) and the Legation's confidential note A.I. No. 8174 of April 19, \*\*) it would be greatly appreciated if it might be possible for the Division to ask that Minister Feldscher inform those persons concerned.

The Legation has sought authorization of the German authorities to have a representative of the Swiss Consulate at Paris visit the Vittel camp with a view to informing the American internees of the communications from their government mentioned above. Authorization has been given in principle and the camp will be visited in the near future.

Question 5:

What reason, if any, have the German authorities given for deporting people claiming United States or Latin-American citizenship.

Reply to this question has been made in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The German authorities take every opportunity to reiterate that no internee in a position to furnish proof of his American nationality or of his citizenship of a Latin American republic has been deported. They have observed that

\*) Final paragraph of Department's telegram No. 1221 of April 10, 1944;

\*\*\*) Department's telegram No. 1269 of April 13, 1944.

a relatively large number of persons claimed the citizenship of a South American republic without being able to furnish the slightest proof or supported this with obviously false documents. These persons did not speak Spanish and have never left Polish territory. The German Foreign Office considered that they have the right not to recognize the subject false documents and to assimilate the bearers of these papers with the rest of the population of Poland or other occupied countries.

It may be added in this connection that following a representation made by the United States Legation at Bern to the Chief of the Federal Political Department, the Swiss Legation at Berlin requested and obtained from the German Foreign Office on May 11 the formal assurance that henceforth even bearers of doubtful identity papers of Latin American countries, provided that they are already in internment camps for citizens of the American continent, will no longer be subjected to deportation action. A circumstantial report has been forwarded on this subject on May 15 by the Swiss Minister at Berlin to the Chief of the Federal Political Department. Since this representation, no new case of deportation of bearers of South American identity papers has been reported. It has not been possible to provide any assurance for bearers of doubtful South American identity papers who were not already in internment camps on May 11.

Question 6:

The Legation would be greatly appreciative if it might be possible for the Swiss authorities to protest to the German authorities against the action of the Germans in passing on the merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin-American documentation.

In admitting that the term "merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin American documentation" envisages priority claims for the civilian exchange, it must be observed that the Legation has often pointed out to the German authorities that citizens of North and South America included in the civilian exchange groups were often

not

000948

not those whom the Swiss Legation had proposed and recommended and in whom the American Government had the greatest interest.

To these strong oral representations the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has replied that for its part the German Government had no voice in the composition of the German civilian repatriation groups in America, and that it also had to accept persons in whom it had only a secondary interest.

In these circumstances, the German authorities were not able to admit that the strong American representations were well founded. According to the Legation's view, inasmuch as exchange groups are constituted in Germany by the domestic authorities and especially by the police, without giving any substantial consideration to the suggestions of the Special Division, a satisfactory composition of exchange groups can only be obtained if the formal lists are exchanged by the interested governments before the departure of the groups.

To the knowledge of the Special Division, except for the cases of the Gorlin, Frankin and Malcowsky families, no person who is able to show a valid claim to the citizenship of an American country has been deprived of rights pertaining thereto during the year 1944. In addition, the Legation protects several hundred citizens of the United States and of Latin America whose papers submitted through the intermediary of the competent authorities ("pending case"), have not yet been recognized by the countries concerned. Despite this, these persons have been thus far permitted to remain in the internment camps foreseen for citizens of the American continent. In a certain number of cases of this category, already awaiting decision for a year or two, the German authorities formally inquired recently whether this or that citizen of American countries is effectively recognized as such by his government and if he is accepted for the civilian exchange.

Question 7:

Information whether any Latin American country or countries have requested the Swiss Government as the Protecting Power to recognize individual claims to such nationality pending review of the case by the Government or Governments concerned.

The

000949

RECEIVED  
THE REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Swiss Legation at Berlin represents in Germany all countries of Latin America with the exception of Mexico, which is represented by Sweden, of Bolivia and Paraguay represented by Spain. None of the Latin American countries represented by Switzerland has taken up this question with the (Swiss) Legation. Only Venezuela and Honduras notified the German authorities, during the first half of June, that all bearers of identity papers issued by these governments are to be treated in accordance with international regulations applicable to civilian internees.

Berlin, June 20, 1941.

GT and TJH/hs

000950

*War Ref. Bd.*  
*m. Finkle*  
*Copy only*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON  
TO: ALLEGATION, BERN  
DATED: July 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 2318

**CONTROL COPY**

11 MAY 1944

TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Rabbi Zwi Taubes, Zurich, Switzerland, from Dr. Stephen Wise, 1834 Broadway, New York:

QUOTE Matter brought to attention War Refugee Board. If reference is to Jews holders Salvadorian passports, effort being made to persuade Salvador to designate a protecting power. If reference to another matter please explain.

STEPHEN S. WISE  
WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN no. 69.

HULL

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

000951

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND ECCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Rabbi Zwi Taubes, Zurich, Switzerland, from Dr. Stephen Wise, 1834 Broadway, New York:

QUOTE Matter brought to attention War Refugee Board. If reference is to Jews holders Salvadorian passports, effort being made to persuade Salvador to designate a protecting power. If reference to another matter please explain.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
STEPHEN S. WISE UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 69

10:10 a.m.  
July 4, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

*Ra. L.S.L.*  
Bazsin:or 7/3/44

*dittoed*

000952

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

1834 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, 23, N. Y.

LONDON  
55 New Cavendish St, W 1

GENEVA  
37 Quai Wilson

BUENOS AIRES  
Corrientes 1979

JERUSALEM  
Vaad Leumi P. O. B. 471

MONTREAL  
1121 St. Catherine St. W

MEXICO CITY  
Sonora 1744

CABLES: CONGRESS, NEW YORK  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 6-1900

June 29, 1944

In reply refer  
to: No. 123

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As I informed Mr. Lesser over the phone on June 21st Dr. Wise received a cable from Rabbi Zwi Taubes, Zurich dated June 20th, the text of which follows:

"The special delegate of your government at Bern sent on June 8th requests to War Refugee Board to assume protecting power for Jews in Hungary entreat to intervene personally for immediate arrangement protecting power extremely urgent as danger increasing permanently."

May I ask you to wire the following message to Rabbi Taubes through the facilities of the State Department:

"To: Rabbi Zwi Taubes, Zurich. From: Dr. Stephen Wise, World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York.

Matter brought to attention War Refugee Board. If reference is to Jews holders Salvadorian passports, effort being made to persuade Salvador to designate a protecting power. If reference to another matter please explain."

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Sincerely yours

*A. Leon Kubowitzki*  
A. Leon Kubowitzki, Head  
Rescue Department

ALK:ef

000953

*DW*

*was Refugee Ed.  
m. Peck*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Legation, Bern  
DATED: July 6, 1944  
NUMBER: 2316

RECEIVED  
M. D. C.  
JUL 10 PM 3 24

*Appy only*  
**CONTROL COPY**

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Reference is made to your 3871 of June 17 part 6.  
Amembassy Managua reports that on April 28 Nicaraguan Foreign  
Office despatched the following telegram to Swiss Foreign  
Office:

QUOTE I request Your Excellency to address himself to the  
German Government asking that international conventions cover-  
ing prisoners of war be applied to all internees in concentra-  
tion camps who are the bearers of Nicaraguan passports. Accept,  
etc. UNQUOTE

Please clear up apparent contradiction and advise of  
precise situation with regard to Nicaragua.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 71.

HULL

*d*

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

000954

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference is made to your 3871 of June 17 part 6. Amembassy Managua reports that on April 22 Nicaraguan Foreign Office despatched the following telegram to Swiss Foreign Office:

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

Please clear up apparent contradiction and advise of precise situation with regard to Nicaragua.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 71

\*\*\*\*\*

July 5, 1944  
10:45 a.m.

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann,  
Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files.

BAKzin:ar 7/4/44  
f. h. z.

700955

*Handwritten notes in top left corner.*

RECEIVED  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
BERN

*2-Quar Ref. Bd.  
m. Rehle*

**CONTROL COPY**

*SPH*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: July 8, 1944  
NUMBER: 4221  
X

Reference is made herewith to Department's cable of June 6, no. 1921, WEB no. 31.

The June 27 note received from the Foreign Office June 29 encloses two notices dated June 20. In my no. 4223 today I am transmitting English translation. There follows by airmail a copy and translation of both notices.

HARRISON

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

000956

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

CONTROL COPY

BJR - 254

Bern

This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (~~SECRET~~)

Dated July 3, 1944

Rec'd 7:23 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

4223, July 3, noon (SECTION ONE)

Notice number one: Swiss Legation Berlin has  
no knowledge of camps Bostortost Silesia and Bergau  
near Dresden but will nevertheless immediately under-  
take all necessary measures with a view to establishing  
both nature and object thereof. Reports concerning  
said camps will be transmitted earliest possible.

For some time in connection with foregoing there  
have been held internment camp of Bergenbelsen near  
Celle, Hanover whose inclusion civilian exchanges is  
contemplated but not possessing American citizenship  
or citizenship other Swiss represented countries.

"Alien relatives" that is, those close relatives  
of American nationals not possessing American citizen-  
ship are not being admitted internment camps reserved  
for nationals of American nations. While awaiting  
exchange they are detained in above-mentioned temporary  
camp in

000957

-2- #4223, July 3, noon(SECTION ONE) from Bern.

camp in which are held, for example, persons approved for Palestine Civilian Exchange but not possessing British nationality. (Note: Please see penultimate paragraph Department's 1846, May 27, indicating more lenient attitude in this regard).

It is appropriate to indicate with respect to remainder of Department's 1921 that to the knowledge of Swiss Legation no authentic national of American nations has been deported or otherwise deprived of rights resulting from his American nationality except for Venezuelan family Malkowsky and Chilean families Gorlin and Frumkin on whose behalf Swiss Legation made repeated representations as a result of their removal during April from Vittel.

German authorities continue to treat persons in question as nationals of American nations even in cases where respective governments on basis of information furnished by Swiss authorities have not definitely ruled regarding their status.

Polish and other Eastern European Jews, it is quite possible, thought it advisable to obtain a false Latin American passport, German authorities have subjected them to general treatment accorded to eastern Jews having

000950

-3- #4223, July 3, noon (SECTION ONE) from Bern.

Jews having established that these documents not authentic. As persons concerned have not had possibility approach Swiss authorities cases this character not generally known to the Legation.

Formal assurances limited to persons who were on May 11 in civilian internment camps reserved for nationals of American continent were only given on that date by German Foreign Office to Swiss Legation.

No protection could be assured persons possessing more or less doubtful passports in eastern territories except by furnishing appropriate lists to German Government and communicating declarations similar to those which Honduras and Venezuela recently made in stating even more the declaration regarding all identity papers of Latin American countries of every kind found to be in possession of persons concerned.

HARRISON

RB  
WSB

000959

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

GEM-330

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

Bern

Dated July 3, 1944

Rec'd noon.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.



4223, July 3, noon (SECTION TWO)  
Notice two.

A. None of persons removed from Vittel had been able furnish proof Latin American nationality according statement made May 3 by chief competent section German Foreign Office to representative Swiss Legation Berlin in reply to latter's request. For most part these persons are Jews from east who previously claim to be Paraguayan nationals or nationals other American countries. They were assimilated on the basis of this declaration with nationals of countries at war with Germany and under protection Swiss Legation. They were consequently interned in camps reserved for nationals of Latin American Republics, United States and Great Britain.

These persons it developed in due course possessed no proof of nationality which they claimed. Consequently they were

000960

-2-#4223, July 3, noon (SECTION TWO) from Bern.

they were removed from camp where they had no right to be. It was further stated by competent German Foreign Office official that he could not accede to Legation's request for list of persons removed from Vittel because question merely involved internal German police measures and persons concerned had no right to Swiss protection. (Legation's telegram No. 3171, May 18 summarized this representation). Deportation measures taken at Vittel and Compiègne have effected no United States national according to the statements secret Counselor Sethe. The Swiss Foreign Office transmitted during April to Swiss Legation Berlin the list bearing 238 names deported from Vittel as result of measures taken by Germans which received from American Legation.

None of these persons appeared in Swiss Legation's register of United States nationals - it was established following examination. Swiss Consulate at Paris somewhat later forwarded list of 163 persons deported from internment camps to the Swiss Legation. The authorities of occupation furnished this list and none of these persons claimed American nationality.

United States false passports are practically nonexistent. German authorities have shown greatest reserve regarding

000961

-3-#4223, July 3, noon (SECTION TWO) from Bern.

reserve regarding deportation American nationals. as this fact is shown to them. It is against persons claiming Latin American citizenship that "cleaning" of internment camps is directed. It rests on fact that Jewish population in Poland and other Eastern European regions is in possession very large number false Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Haitian, Honduran, Ecuadoran, Paraguayan and Nicaraguan passports.

B. It was disclosed by an examination of two lists of persons removed from Compiègne and Vittel camps forwarded to Swiss Legation that large number internees concerned alleged to be Paraguayan citizens. Swiss Legation has not been able to determine whether persons concerned have claim to Paraguayan citizenship because Spanish Embassy Berlin represents Paraguayan interests in Germany and occupied countries.

HARRISON

WSB  
RR

000962

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*1 - was by Board - Pella*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

LFG-156  
This telegram must be  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (RECORDED)

Bern  
Dated July 3, 1944

REC'D 5:13 p.m.  
DIVISION OF

JUL 5 1944

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

4223, July 3, Noon, (SECTION THREE)

Among persons appearing on lists in question  
only following bearing numbers corresponding to those  
of list from Swiss Consulate Paris (Note: Transmitted  
to Department with Legation's airmail 8466, June 12  
Department's telegram  
pursuant/No. 2001, June 10) were known to Swiss Legation:

143 Saul Malcowsky, Venezuelan; 144 Sara Malcowsky,  
Venezuelan; 145 Maurice Malcowsky, Venezuelan; 1  
Eugenia Gorlin, Chilean; 2 Anna Frumkin, Chilean;  
3 Hermine Frumkin, Chilean.

Chilean Legation Bern stated in note November 4,  
1943 that as passports of Gorlin and Frumkin families  
were issued by Chilean Consulate Kobe, they were to  
be considered invalid as all documents issued by this  
Consular representation. It was declared by Chinese  
Legation in note of March 30, 1944 that deportation  
above named persons had come to its attention and  
Swiss Legation Berlin was requested by it to undertake

on their

000963

-2- #4223, July 3, Noon, (SECTION THREE), from Bern

on their behalf all necessary representations.

German Foreign Office in notes dated May 5 and June 20 considered cases of Gorlin and Frankin families and strong representations for return to an internment camp of these Chileans were made. On behalf of Malcowsky family similar representations made.

C. Authorization of German authorities have been sought by Swiss Legation to have representative Swiss Consulate Paris visit Vittel Camp with a view to informing American internees of communications from their Government (Note: Please see penultimate paragraph Department's 1222, April 10 and its 1269, April 13). Camp will be visited near future as authorization given in principle.

D. Every opportunity taken by German authorities to reiterate that there has been deported no internee able furnish proof Latin America citizenship or American nationality. Relatively large number of persons, German authorities observed, claimed citizenship of South America Republic supporting this with documents evidently false or being able furnish slightest proof. These persons never left Polish territory and Spanish is not spoken by them. Right is claimed by German

Foreign

000964

-3- #4223, July 3, Noon, (SECTION THREE), from Bern

Foreign Police to assimilate bearers of false documents  
with rest of population of Poland or other occupied  
countries and not to recognize subject false document.

HARRISON

WMB WFS

000965

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*was by G. P. Pelt*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BAS - 378

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

Bern

Dated July 3, 1944

Rec'd 4:40 a.m. 4th.



Secretary of State,  
Washington.

4223, July 3, noon (SECTION FOUR)

Swiss Legation Berlin following representation made by American Legation to chief of Federal Political Department requested and on May 11 obtained from German Foreign Office formal assurance that henceforth there would not be subjected to deportation action even bearers of doubtful Latin American identity papers on the condition that persons concerned already in internment camps for citizens American continent. On May 15 Swiss Minister at Berlin forwarded to chief of Federal Political Department a circumstantial report on subject. No new case of deportation bearers South American identity papers reported since this representation. It has not been possible to provide any assurance for bearers of doubtful South American identity papers who were not already on May 11 in internment camps.

E. With

000966

-2- #4223, July 3, noon (SECTION FOUR) from Bern.

E. With regard to request that Swiss authorities protest to German authorities against their action in passing on "merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin American documentation" it must be pointed out in admitting that above quoted term envisages priority claims for civilian exchange that Swiss Legation has often indicated to German authorities that North and South American citizens included in civilian exchange groups were often persons other than those proposed and recommended by Swiss Legation and in whom greatest interest shown by American Government.

German Foreign Office replied to these strong oral representations that German Government also had to accept persons in whom it had only secondary interest and had no voice in composition German Civilian repatriation groups in America. German authorities unable in circumstances to admit that strong American representatives were well founded.

According to view Swiss Legation owing to the fact that exchange groups constituted in Germany by domestic authorities particularly police no substantial consideration being given to Swiss Legation's suggestions  
satisfactory

000967

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satisfactory composition exchange groups can be only obtained through exchange by interested governments prior to departure of groups of formal lists. Except in cases of Malcowsky, Gorlin and Frumkin families no person able show valid claim to citizenship of American country has been deprived of rights pertaining there to during 1944 to knowledge Swill Legation. Additionally several hundred citizens of United States and Latin America protected by Swiss Legation whose papers forwarded through intermediary competent authorities ("pending case") not yet recognized countries concerned. Nevertheless these persons thus far permitted remain in internment camps foreseen for citizens of American Continent. German Authorities in certain number cases this category already awaiting decision for one or two years formerly inquired recently whether one or another citizens of American countries is effectively recognized by his government as such and whether he is accepted for civilian exchange.

F. All Latin American countries represented in Germany by Swiss Legation Berlin except that Sweden represents Mexico, and Spain represents Bolivia and Paraguay, The matter in question (note: recognition of individual

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of individual claims to nationality of Latin American countries pending review of case by government concerned) has been taken up with Swiss Legation by no Latin American country which Switzerland represents. Only Venezuela and Honduras during first half of June signified to German authorities that all bearers of identity papers issued by Venezuelan Honduran Governments are to be treated in accordance with international regulations applicable civilian internes.

End notices.

End of message.

HARRISON

BB  
WSB

000969