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

Recognition of Latin American Passports
Vol. 3 – Folder 3.

00001

2-War Refugee Bd.
Mr. Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: July 3, 1944

NUMBER: 4225

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

It is stated in Swiss note of July 1, pursuant first paragraph notice number one summarized in Legation's cable of July 3, no. 4223, that Swiss Legation in Berlin confirms answer from German Foreign Office that no internment camp exists bearing names Bostorost in Silesia and Bergau near Dresden. It is suggested by Swiss Legation in Berlin that Bergau camp may be Bergen-Belsen near Celle, Hanover, which is a special camp for assembling exchangeable persons (especially Jews) who do not possess nationality of states which Switzerland represents. The second camp might well concern former internment camp for British men at Tostin Silesia.

With a view to undertaking inquiry concerning deported persons, a representative of the Swiss Legation in Berlin will visit Vittel camp early in July.

Foregoing has reference to American Interests, Germany.

HARRISON

DCR:VAG 7/7/44

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

00002

I - War Refugee Bd.
Mr. Pehle

CONTROL COPY

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

JB

FROM: American Legation, Bern.

TO: Department of State, Washington.

DATED: July 3, 1944.

NUMBER: 4237.

[redacted]

With reference to the Department's message (WRB 36) of June 2, Number 2149, the information given in my cable of July 3, Number 4225, with regard to designations of camps may be interesting.

This is in connection with American interests in Germany.

HARRISON.

DCR:LOW 7/6/44

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

000003

I-6 as Ref Board
Mr Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: June 26, 1944

NUMBER: 2173

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Following for McClelland and Minister Harrison

Reference to your 8103 of May 6.

Department and War Refugee Board consider that Pfifferling case should be dealt with in the light of Department's 1181 of April 7, 1221 of April 10, and paragraph two of 1921 of June 6. In view of Pfifferling's claim of Honduran nationality, Department's 1632 of May 10 is also applicable, and you should proceed at once to take all appropriate action necessary to safeguard Pfifferling's life as a Honduran national.

In view of Department's 1632 as well as of the other messages under reference it is not necessary to await affirmative word from Honduras. The messages under reference were intended to avoid just such delays as might be incident to awaiting confirmation of claims by the Latin American governments. The same is true as to claimants to United States citizenship pursuant to Department's 1269 of April 13.

Reference to your 3579 of June 5. List is not to be used for the present for purpose of investigating nationality claims. Main value of names is in eventually enabling you to take more effective protective action along lines of Department's 1270.

Kindly keep the Department advised.
THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 44.

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

NRL

000004

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND MCCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference to your 3103 of May 6.

Department and War Refugee Board consider that Pfifferling case should be dealt with in the light of Department's 1181 of April 7, 1221 of April 10, and paragraph two of 1921 of June 6. In view of Pfifferling's claim of Honduran nationality, Department's 1632 of May 10 is also applicable, and you should proceed at once to take all appropriate action necessary to safeguard Pfifferling's life as a Honduran national.

In view of Department's 1632 as well as of the other messages under reference it is not necessary to await affirmative word from Honduras. The messages under reference were intended to avoid just such delays as might be incident to awaiting confirmation of claims by the Latin American governments. The same is true as to claimants to United States citizenship pursuant to Department's 1269 of April 13.

Reference to your 3579 of June 5. Department and Board would appreciate having a list of names of deportees from Vittel, but main value of names is in eventually enabling you to take more effective protective action along lines of Department's 1270. List is not (repeat not) to be used for the present for purpose of investigating nationality claims.

In this connection, please press Swiss authorities for action regarding request to return Vittel deportees as set out in Department's 1270. Judging by your reports, the Swiss have not (repeat not) yet actually requested such return. You will also note that reports have reached Board that remaining Jews were removed from Vittel late April or May. Please make appropriate inquiry and request that Swiss protective steps under Department's 1270 be extended to cover any such additional removals.

Kindly keep the Department advised.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 44

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

B.A. L.S.L.

BAksin:LSLesser:als 6/14/44

****

June 15, 1944
1:55 p.m.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern

DATED: June 24, 1944, midnight

NUMBER: 2161

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Via air mail the Legation is being sent by the Department a copy and translation of the May 19, 1944 memorandum from Guatemala Foreign Office under cover of the despatch 1144, May 23, 1944 from the Embassy at Guatemala.

Below is the text of the translation of the memorandum in paraphrase.

Due note has been taken by the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala of the Honorable US Embassy's courteous memorandum, dated yesterday, concerning the orders which the Department of State issued for the immediate protection of all individuals who have documentation as nationals of the US, or who claim such nationality, pending investigations results to be conducted in the case of each individual.

The understanding is that such protection is extended to such persons who find their lives endangered in enemy-occupied territory.

The honorable Embassy is courteously requested by the Government of Guatemala to lend its valuable intervention in

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

00006

transmitting to the Swiss Government a like declaration on behalf of the Government of Guatemala, in the sense that to all individuals who find themselves in enemy-occupied territory and who own Guatemalan papers or claim the right to Guatemalan nationality there be granted the immunities, privileges, the rights, and the most complete protection enjoyed by Guatemalans of duly proved nationality.

Prompted by lofty humanitarian sentiments the Guatemalan Governments asks this protection for claimed Guatemalans, but reserves the right of investigation of each particular case and the right of rejection at a later time of individuals whose nationality cannot be proved conclusively.

No economic help of any kind is involved nor is the right of the interested individuals to be admitted to the national territory of Guatemala, until such time as their nationality shall have been duly proved involved in the protection which is herein requested in favor of such individuals.

To the Honorable Embassy of the United States the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs expresses its appreciation of the cooperation of the former in the execution of this negotiation.

Will you advise the Foreign Office of the gist of the above message.

HULL

DCR:EMS
8-5-44

00007

L - War Refugee Bd.
Mr. Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washing

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: June 24, 1944

NUMBER: 2149

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

The Department and the War Refugee Board are receiving reports indicating that there are held in camps situated in Germany and German-controlled territory, to which the protecting Powers and the International Red Cross have been granted no access or else such strictly limited forms of access that they have been unable effectively to assist the individuals in question, a number of unquestioned nationals and persons claiming the nationality of the United States and other American Republics. Belsen-Bergen near Hanover, Bergau near Dresden, Drancy near Paris and Theresienstadt are sites of such camps. Since late in 1943 the camp at Tost in Silesia appears to have been placed in this category. Possibly other camps of the same character exist.

The Swiss Government should be asked as protecting Power of the United States to investigate this situation. Please request it to endeavor to have its representatives visit the camps referred to for the purpose of investigating the claims of individuals held in these camps to citizenship of the United States or of other American Republics. Please make similar efforts regarding camps and other establishments which may exist in Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria or any other areas under control of German

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

00009

of German-dominated authorities.

Article 86 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention as applied to interned civilians by mutual agreement of the belligerents should be the base of the request to visit such camps. The extraordinary restrictions placed by the German authorities upon communications with these camps have deprived the persons detained there and the protecting Power of normal means of dealing with their claims to the protection of foreign states - hence in order to protect the vital interests of such detainees it is essential that visits be made to these camps. In this connection, reference is made to the case of Franz Kahn (Department's A-199, April 24 and previous) in which the extraordinary regulations attendant upon correspondence between him and the protecting Power have unjustifiably impeded the verification of his claim to American citizenship.

The International Red Cross Committee, despite extended efforts to visit the camps in question, has been unsuccessful in its exertions so far. Appreciation of the Department and the War Refugee Board for these efforts should be expressed. Also please express the hope that there will be no abatement of these efforts.

WRB CABLE NO. 36 TO BERN

HULL

00009

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

1. Reports reaching the Department and War Refugee Board indicate that a number of nationals and persons claiming the nationality of the United States and of other American republics may be held in camps situated in Germany and German-controlled territory to which the protecting powers and International Red Cross have either no (repeat no) or the most restricted access. Included in this category are the camps of Belsen-Bergen near Hanover, Bergau near Dresden, Dost or Tost in Silesia, and Drancy near Paris. There may be others.

Please draw the attention of the Swiss government, as the protecting power of the United States, to this situation and request it to take steps to insure supervision by it of any and all camps and other establishments in German and German-controlled territory in which persons holding or claiming United States citizenship are held. This request extends to camps and other establishments which are or may be established in Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania and any other area under the control of authorities allied with Germany.

You may, if you deem it advisable, draw the attention of the Swiss government to this Government's stand on persons in danger of enemy persecution who claim American citizenship, as expressed in Department's 1269 of April 13, 1944.

2. A similar request to exert efforts to extend its humanitarian activities to such camps and establishments is to be addressed to Intercross.

REPEAT TO AMERICAN MISSIONS TO BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GREAT BRITAIN, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA, WITH THE FOLLOWING NOTE:

The foregoing is repeated to you for your information. Please call this matter to the attention of appropriate authorities, so that they may be in a position to take parallel action.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 36

June 5, 1944
11:15 a.m.

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

BA. L.S.L. PM
DAbrahamson:LSLesser:jh:lcm 6/2/44

0 0 0 0 1 0

2-war Refugees Bd.
ml. file

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONTROL COPY

file

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 23, 1944

NUMBER: 4025

[redacted]

McClelland sends the following for WRB.

In connection with the request outlined in Department's message of April 10, Number 1221, the Legation wishes to be informed whether or not Haiti has acquiesced and plans to advise the Swiss Government that Haitian passports held by Jews in German occupied countries and Germany are recognized by Haiti. Recently the Haitian Legation was contacted in Bern by an interested Jewish organization in connection with four persons holding passports of this description, who are among the 162 persons listed as removed from Vittel and the Haitian Legation in Bern informed this Jewish delegation that such documents were fraudulent and of no value, as far as they were concerned.

WASHINGTON, D.C. RECEIVED

HARRISON

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

2-Loan Ref Board
Mr Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 17, 1944

NUMBER: 3871

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to your cables of April 7, April 10, April 22, May 27, and June 5 1944 numbers 1181, 1221, 1400, 1846, and 1921 and my telegram of April 13, 1944 No. 2297.

The following is the substance of material part of the June 13 memoire from the Foreign Office.

1. Passports of countries of Latin America (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Venezuela) have circulated since the outbreak of the war among Jews living in German occupied territories, Poland especially. Consulates of various countries mentioned in Japan, Switzerland, Portugal, New York, Sweden and perhaps Poland issued these passports. Instructions were requested of interested Governments when such passports of countries whose interests Switzerland protects in Germany expired and when bearers asked the Swiss Legation in Berlin to renew them. The interested Governments in general refused to authorize the extension of those passports which were not recognized by them. This fact was not brought to the attention of German authorities but the Swiss Legation in Berlin was deprived henceforth of the possibility

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

0 0 0 0 1 2

possibility of giving these people protection.

2. Of these passports a rather large number are Paraguayan. Since Spain represents Paraguay in Germany, it seems that a list of a limited number of persons who alone should benefit from Spain's protection was given to the Spanish Embassy in Berlin by the government of Paraguay. It is not known by the Federal Political Department whether the Spanish Government received subsequently instructions correcting this situation in conformity with Paraguayan Government's statement mentioned in the second paragraph of the American Legation's memorandum of April 10 (your 1181).

3. Admission to American civilian internment camps controlled by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, such camps being administered by anology pursuant to POW Convention, was secured by a certain number of bearers of Latin American passports, generally Eastern European origin. Thus these persons virtually became candidates for an exchange of civilians between American countries and Germany. Those remaining in Poland, on the other hand, remained under regulations governing other eastern Jews. A census of internees at Compiegne and Vittel was taken recently and there was removed from these camps a group of Jews. In certain cases this seems to have involved bearers of Latin American passports whose validity was questioned.

4. Jews

0 0 0 0 1 3

4. Jews who had not been able to establish American nationality had already been removed from Compiegne and Vittel by the German police at the time the contents of the American Legation's notice of April 14 (your 1221) was delivered to the German Government. It appeared from verbal statements made to the Swiss Legation in Berlin by a German Foreign Office official that the latter welcomed an opportunity while there was still time to support recognition by the United States of any one claiming ties with a country of Latin America as exchangeable. In the future German Foreign Office would be ready to consider as eligible for exchange against Germans in the United States 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.

5. Consequently it would seem logical to admit that the German Foreign Office, desiring to establish as large a basis as possible for foreseen exchanges, will do everything possible to exempt Jews bearing Latin American passports from deportation provided that an exchange agreement will effectively cover these Jews.

6. It is reported that there are still in Poland persons holding Latin American passports who until now have neither been interned nor considered for exchange, according to the

Swiss

0 0 0 0 1 4

Swiss Legation in Berlin. It appears that the best protection that could be given to them would be for the interested Governments to recognize officially all Latin American passports which Jews in Germany or other German occupied territories are holding and to make a formal declaration through protecting power to this effect. Of countries whose interests Switzerland protects in Germany until El Salvador and Venezuela have recently made such declarations through intermediary of Federal Political Department. As yet, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador and Costa Rica have not individually confirmed this attitude which should result from steps which the Department of State has taken with various countries of Latin America, mentioned in paragraph two of the April 10 memorandum of the American Legation.

7. Although not implying any guarantee, the foregoing permits the hope that the German Foreign Office concurs with the State Department's views. The concrete proposal leading to the exchange of lists contained in a recent communication with the government of Germany and submitted to the Federal Political Department by the American Legation on May 31 (See Department's cable of May 27, 1944 No. 1846) should constitute a basis for a practical talk in this matter.

8. However, the following must be submitted to the Legation's attention by the Federal Political Department:

the

0 0 0 0 1 5

the arrangements being considered will be effective only to the extent that the number of German citizens whose repatriation may be considered corresponds to the number of persons holding passports and other identity documents issued in the names of Latin American Republics. However, it has come to the Federal Political Department's attention that documents of this type are said to have been issued by the hundreds recently again.

9. Finally, any publicity whatsoever given to the action now being taken could compromise the essentially precarious status which one hopes to assure Jewish bearers of passports from Latin American countries.

We would appreciate information relative to success of steps referred to in paragraph two of above note which the American Embassy in Madrid undertook with the Spanish Government.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:HL
6/20/44

0 0 0 0 1 6

Three copies of Despatch No.8466 from BERN,6/12/44

For WAR REFUGEE BOARD Treasury Department

The Board has copy of the enclosure.

000017

No. 8466

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, June 12, 1944.

CONTROL COPY

Subject: Latin American Interests - France
Transmission of list of persons removed by German authorities from Vittel internment camp.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, pursuant to the Department's telegram No. 2001 of June 10, 1944, a copy of the list of 162 persons who have been removed by the German authorities from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to an unknown destination and who allegedly claim citizenship of various Latin American republics.

Enclosure:

Copy of list of 162 persons removed from Vittel by German authorities - with original of despatch only.

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

0 0 0 0 1 8

No. 8466

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, June 12, 1944.

RECEIVED

Subject: Latin American Interests - France
Transmission of list of persons removed by German authorities from Vittel internment camp.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, pursuant to the Department's telegram No. 2001 of June 10, 1944, a copy of the list of 162 persons who have been removed by the German authorities from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to an unknown destination and who allegedly claim citizenship of various Latin American republics.

Enclosure:

Copy of list of 162 persons removed from Vittel by German authorities - with original of despatch only.

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

0 0 0 0 1 9

File
Vittel

LISTE DER INTERNIERTEN,
DIE VOR KURZEM MIT UNBEKANNTEM BESTIMMUNGS-
ORT AUS DEM LAGER VITTEL ENTFERNT WURDEN.

Nr.	NAME	GEBURTSORT UND	DATUM	STAATSANGEHOERIG-KEIT.
1.	GORLIN, Eugenia	Warschau/Polen	1. 1.03	Chile
2.	FRUMKIN, Anna	"	17. 8.12	Chile
3.	FRUMKIN, Hermine	"	16.11.39	Chile
4.	SZENBERG, Samuel	"	7. 2.91	Honduras
5.	SZENBERG, Estera	"	21. 5.98	Honduras
6.	SZENBERG, Bella	"	26. 6.23	Honduras
7.	SZENBERG, Jersy	"	18. 3.34	Honduras
8.	SZENBERG, Etla	Odessa/Russl.	17. 7.97	Honduras
9.	OSIEK, Sara	Bochnia/Polen	8. 6.83	Unbekannt
10.	LICHTMANN, Oskar*	Dobromil/Polen	26. 5.04	Costa Rica
11.	LICHTMANN, Anna	Krakau/Polen	8. 5.11	Costa Rica
12.	LICHTMANN, Regina	Krakau/Polen	21. 1.38	Costa Rica
13.	DODELZAK, Rachmir	Nowimiasto/Po.	15.12.08	Unbekannt
14.	DODELZAK, Rachel	Warschau/Polen	20. 7.20	Unbekannt
15.	DODELZAK, Ita	Warschau/Polen	11. 2.32	Unbekannt
16.	DODELZAK, Arkadios	Vittel/Frank.	15. 1.44	Unbekannt
17.	DODELZAK, Zysla	Grojek/Polen	10. 7.16	Unbekannt
18.	DODELZAK, Georges	Warschau/Polen	28. 7.41	Unbekannt
19.	RAPAPORT, Szapsja	Pinszum/Polen	18.12.88	Paraguay
20.	RAPAPORT, Gitla	Lukow/Polen	15. 1.97	Paraguay
21.	RAPAPORT, Matla	Pinczuw/Polen	27. 2.22	Paraguay
22.	RAPAPORT, Esther	Wodzislaw/Po.	26. 9.23	Paraguay
23.	BERGLAS, Chaim	Krakau/Polen	8.11.12	Paraguay
24.	BERGLAS, Alta	Wodzislaw/Po.	25. 5.16	Paraguay
25.	RAPAPORT, Israel	Wodzislaw/Po.	1920	Paraguay
26.	RAPAPORT, Dwojra	Alexandrow/Po.	6. 9.19	Paraguay
27.	RAPAPORT, Jacob	Pinczuw	1942	Paraguay
28.	FRUCHT, Amalia	Monaster-Chiska/Polen	8. 2.78	Nicaragua

* Mrs. Sarah Reiner
199 Fort Washington Av.
New York City

000020

Nr.	NAME	GEBURTSORT UND-DATUM		STAATSANGEHOERIG-KEIT.
29.	ROTTENBERG, Marcus	Krakau/Polen	10. 4.72	Paraguay
30.	ROTTENBERG, Sara	Deutschkreutz Ungarn	1.12.76	Paraguay
31.	GOLDSZTEJN, Nachman	Warschau/Polen	24.10.11	Unbekannt
32.	GOLDSZTEJN, Sura	"	9. 7.37	Unbekannt
34.	GOLDSZTEJN, Schasma	"	11.12.39	Unbekannt
35.	RAPAPORT, Jacob	Radimno/Polen	7. 1.08	Paraguay
36.	RAPAPORT, Ryfka	Warschau/Polen	30. 1.10	Paraguay
37.	RAPAPORT, Abraham	"	15.12.33	Paraguay
38.	RAPAPORT, Mayer	"	10. 7.35	Paraguay
39.	RAPAPORT, Itzig	"	30.10.37	Paraguay
40.	RAPAPORT, Chabsa	Sanok/Polen	9. 2.05	Paraguay
41.	RAPAPORT, Malka	Lodz/Polen	15. 5.05	Paraguay
42.	RAPAPORT, Rifka	Bielitz/Polen	20. 8.29	Paraguay
43.	RAPAPORT, Bela	Bielitz/Polen	10. 9.30	Paraguay
44.	RAPAPORT, Perla	Bielitz/Polen	15. 1.32	Paraguay
45.	RAPAPORT, David	Bielitz/Polen	18. 1.39	Paraguay
46.	RAPAPORT, Wolf	Sanok/Polen	16. 5.06	Paraguay
47.	RAPAPORT, Tauba	Warschau/Polen	18. 4.04	Paraguay
48.	RAPAPORT, Israel	Biltz/Polen	12.10.30	Paraguay
49.	RAPAPORT, Moses	Biltz/Polen	7. 8.33	Paraguay
50.	RAPAPORT, Myriam	Biltz/Polen	8. 6.27	Paraguay
51.	RAPAPORT, Symcha	Biltz/Polen	28. 2.09	Paraguay
52.	RAPAPORT, Golda	Warschau/Po	24. 4.09	Paraguay
53.	RAPAPORT, Israel	Bielitz/Polen	5. 8. 33	Paraguay
54.	RAPAPORT, Moses	Bielitz/Polen	28. 1.37	Paraguay
55.	RAPAPORT, Aron	Bielitz/Polen	7. 4.13	Paraguay
56.	RAPAPORT, Genia	Warschau/Po.	9. 6.16	Paraguay
57.	RAPAPORT, Ryfka	Bielitz/Polen	3. 4.37	Paraguay
58.	RAPAPORT, Moses	Bielitz/Polen	7. 5.39	Paraguay
59.	FRANKEL, Josef	Krakau/Polen	21. 2.76	Paraguay
60.	FRANKEL, Perla	Krakau/Polen	18. 7.78	Paraguay
61.	FRANKEL, Mathilde	Bielitz/Polen	16. 7.16	Paraguay
62.	FRANKEL, Mendel	Bielitz/Polen	8. 8.19	Paraguay
63.	FRANKEL, Alexandra	Bielitz/Polen	10. 3.04	Paraguay
64.	FRANKEL, Jochved	Gora-Kalvaria (Polen)	7. 6.05	Paraguay
65.	FRANKEL, Ruda	Warschau/Pol.	10. 1.23	Paraguay
66.	FRANKEL, Lajb	Bielitz/Polen	18. 8.26	Paraguay
67.	FRANKEL, Pinkus	Bielitz/Polen	17. 7.29	Paraguay
68.	FRANKEL, Martha	Bielitz/Polen	7. 2.31	Paraguay

Nr.	NAME	GEBURTSORT UND-DATUM		STAATSANGENOERIG-KEIT.
69.	FRANKEL, Doris	Bielitz/Polen	27. 8.37	Paraguay
70.	WETZSTEIN, Mierz.	Krakau/Polen	31. 1.03	Costa Rica
71.	WETZSTEIN, Stella	Krakau/Polen	26. 9.15	Costa Rica
72.	WENTLAND, Adam	Lodz/Polen	1. 8.09	Ekuador
73.	FLEISCHER, Estera	Lodz/Polen	21. 3.15	Ekuador
74.	WENTLAND, Judith	Warschau/Polen	15. 9.18	Ekuador
75.	WENTLAND, Christine	Warschau/Polen	1. 9.39	Ekuador
76.	GOLDBERGER, Henryk	Grybow/Polen	1. 2.03	Unbekannt
77.	GOLDBERGER, Maria	Krakau/Polen	10.12.07	Unbekannt
78.	ROSSHANDLER, Henryk	Tarnopol/Pol.	9. 5.97	Unbekannt
79.	ROSSHANDLER, Charl.	Krakau/Polen	24. 5.04	Costa Rica
80.	LANDAU, Alexander	Warschau/Polen	28. 9.97	Paraguay
81.	LANDAU, Jerzy	Warschau/Polen	23. 8.31	Paraguay
82.	ZEMSZ, Leon	Warschau/Polen	27. 3.90	Peru
83.	ZEMSZ, Blanca	Warschau/Polen	14.11.35	Peru
84.	ZEMSZ, Cecilia	Gredno/Russland	24. 6.09	Peru
85.	GARBINSKI, Enrico	Czerstochowa (Polen)	21.11.04	Peru
86.	GARBINSKI, Helena	Warschau/Polen	14. 8.08	Peru
87.	LIEBER, Joseph	Auchwitz/Schles.	5.12.99	Paraguay
88.	LIEBER, Frymota	" "	25. 5.02	Paraguay
89.	LIEBER, Henryk	Krakau/Polen	18. 1.31	Paraguay
90.	LIEBER, Fradla	Auchwitz/Schles.	8. 9.32	Paraguay
91.	AYZENSTADT, Romana	Warschau/Polen	27. 8.08	Peru
92.	AYZENSTADT, Marcel	Warschau/Polen	10. 5.33	Peru
93.	ROTTENBERG, Bela	Nisko/Polen	17. 7.11	Paraguay
94.	ROTTENBERG, Nathan	Antwerpen	6. 5.39	Unbekannt
95.	ROTTENBERG, Esther	"	28. 8.40	Paraguay
96.	ROTTENBERG, Naftalia	"	6.11.41	Paraguay
97.	ROTTENBERG, Frantz	Malines/Belg.	20.12.42	Paraguay

00002

Nr.	NAME	GEBURTSORT UND-DATUM		STAATSANGE-HOERIGKEIT
98.	ROTTENBERG, Naftalie	Antwerpen/Belgien	5. 3.37	Paraguay
99.	RAPAPORT, Jacob	Asuncion/Paraguay	8.11.85	Paraguay
100.	RAPAPORT, Rosa	Bielitz/Polen	8.12.11	Paraguay
101.	RAPAPORT, Sabina	Bielitz/Polen	8.12.11	Paraguay
102.	RAPAPORT, Anni	Bielitz/Polen	13. 2.17	Paraguay
103.	RAPAPORT, Saul	Biala/Polen	27.10.14	Paraguay
104.	RAPAPORT, Mina	Zgierz/Polen	6. 6.14	Paraguay
105.	WOLF, Sami	Biala/Polen	22. 7.99	Unbekannt
106.	WOLF, Rachel	" "	18.10.98	Unbekannt
107.	WOLF, Sigmund	Bielitz/Polen	6. 4.20	Unbekannt
108.	WOLF, Erna	"	9. 2.22	Unbekannt
109.	WOLF, Lobel	"	29. 1.24	Unbekannt
110.	POZNANSKI, Jacob	Pabjanice/Polen	22. 3.83	Paraguay
111.	POZNANSKI, Marjom	"	20. 1.15	Paraguay
112.	HORENSTEIN, Abraham	Ozorkow/Polen	2. 4.01	Honduras
113.	HORENSTEIN, Estera	Warschau/Polen	14.8.15	Honduras
114.	LISOWODER, Boris	Kamenetz/Russl.	15.12.93	Nicaragua
115.	LISOWODER, Cipa	Lodz/Polen	17.11.06	Nicaragua
116.	LISOWODER, Myrian	Lodz/Polen	11.10.27	Nicaragua
117.	LISOWODER, Alezandre	Lodz/Polen	6. 3.33	Nicaragua
118.	MICMAN, Estera	Warschau/Polen	7.11.99	Ekuador
119.	MICMAN, Jerzy	Warschau/Polen	31. 7.33	Ekuador
120.	TILBOR, Rosalia	Warshhau/Polen	12. 5.03	Ekuador
121.	TILBOR, Salomée	Warschau/Polen	1. 7.05	Ekuador
122.	WEINGORT, Osias	Bielitz/Polen	3. 3.19	Paraguay
123.	WEINGORT, Estera	Warschau/Polen	1. 3.20	Paraguay
124.	WEINGORT, Rose	Bielitz/Polen	10. 9.22	Paraguay
125.	MANDELBAUM, Celia	Krakau/Polen	17.10.25	Costa Rica
126.	BERGER, Abraham	Warschau/Polen	23. 4.08	Haiti
127.	BERGER, Eugenia	Warschau/Polen	2. 4.25	Haiti
128.	RAPAPORT, Simon	Bielitz/Polen	26. 6.13	Paraguay
129.	RAPAPORT, Riwka	Warschau/Polen	1. 1.16	Paraguay

Nr.	NAME	GEBURTSORT UND-DATUM		STAATSANGE-HOERIGKEIT
130.	BLUMENKOFF, Aron	Brzeic/Polen	7. 9.84	Paraguay
131.	BLUMENKOFF, Rywka	Czyzew/Polen	1885	Paraguay
132.	BLUMENKOFF, Juda	Warschau/Polen	14. 3.07	Paraguay
133.	BLUMENKOFF, Wolf	Warschau/Polen	6. 6.09	Paraguay
134.	BLUMENKOFF, Christine	Warschau/Polen	16. 6.38	Paraguay
135.	BLUMENKOFF, Ruchla	Warschau/Polen	1914	Paraguay
136.	FRYDMAN, Chaja	Warschau/Polen	28. 7.03	Unbekannt
137.	LEIKIN, Helene	Warschau/Polen	1. 1.11	Unbekannt
138.	JAKUBOWICZ, Sura	Warschau/Polen	15. 8.16	Unbekannt
139.	KOLIER, Frederick	Lemberg/Polen	14.10.06	Paraguay
140.	KOLIER, Helene	Warschau/Polen	13. 1.15	Paraguay
141.	KAGENELSON, Joehok	Korelice/Polen	11. 5.84	Honduras
142.	KAGENELSON, Zivi	Lodz/Polen	23. 5.26	Honduras
143.	MALCOWSKY, Saul	Warschau/Polen	14.12.82	Venezuela
144.	MALCOWSKY, Sara	Ekaterinoslaw	15. 5.89	Venezuela
145.	MALCOWSKY, Maurice	Haiffa/Pal.	21.10.24	Venezuela
146.	BAUMINGER, Leon	Krakau/Polen	30. 5.07	Unbekannt
147.	BAUMINGER, Iaja	Siereza/Polen	16. 4.14	Unbekannt
148.	LINDENBAUM Sonja	Krakau/Polen	2. 5.93	Costa Rica
149.	WOLMAN, Henryk	Glowno/Polen	8. 1.02	Paraguay
150.	WOLMAN, Hema	Warschau/Polen	26. 8.06	Paraguay
151.	MUSZYNSKI, Leon	Warschau/Polen	15.3.18	Haiti
152.	MUSZYNSKI, Lili	Warschau/Polen	11. 4.20	Haiti
153.	RAPAPORT, Aron	Biela/Polen	19.11.15	Paraguay
154.	RAPAPORT, Ryfka	Warschau/Polen	3.12.16	Paraguay
155.	ROTTENBERG, Rosa	Antwerpen/Belg.	6. 8.10	Paraguay
156.	ROTTENBERG, Lazare	"	8.10.88	Paraguay
157.	ROTTENBERG, Naftalie	"	28.10.39	Paraguay
158.	ROTTENBERG, Herrmann	"	6.11.40	Paraguay
159.	ROTTENBERG, Wolf	"	18. 4.42	Paraguay
160.	BRINKMANN, Mira	Frankfurt/Main	31.12.21.	Unbekannt
161.	BRINKMANN, Jenny	"	8. 6.93	Unbekannt
162.	BRINKMANN, Charlotte	"	5. 9.28	Unbekannt
163.	BRINKMANN, Erica	"	20. 4.25	Unbekannt

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: June 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1921

CONTROL COPY

From War Refugee Board to Minister Harrison and McClelland

1. Please ask Swiss government and Intercross for all available information regarding conditions in concentration camps of Bergau near Dresden and Dost or Tost in Silesia, numbers and treatment of persons held there including those with Latin American documents, facilities enjoyed by Intercross therein, etc.

2. Reference is made to your 2937 of May 9 and 3171 of May 18. It is not clear therefrom to what extent this Government's attitude regarding status and treatment of persons claiming American and Latin American nationality and persons holding documents issued in names of such countries, as set out in Department's 1221 of April 10 and 1269 of April 13, has been taken note of by Swiss authorities and urged by them on German government. Your 3171 rather indicates that Germany is still undertaking to pass on merits of individual claims, and there is no mention therein of Swiss protest. You will recall that this Government has taken the view that such claims are to be honored by Germany until notified that claim is rejected by country in whose name the

the document

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

00025

the document has been issued or whose nationality is claimed.

Please urge Swiss authorities to insist on this point, and advise us as to where this matter stands.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 31

HULL

1 JUN 7 PM 3 39

000026

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AND McCLELLAND, BERN, SWITZERLAND

1. Please ask Swiss government and Intercross for all available information regarding conditions in concentration camps of Bergau near Dresden and Dost or Tost in Silesia, numbers and treatment of persons held there including those with Latin American documents, facilities enjoyed by Intercross therein, etc.

2. Reference is made to your 2937 of May 9 and 3171 of May 18. It is not (repeat not) clear therefrom to what extent this Government's attitude regarding status and treatment of persons claiming American and Latin American nationality and persons holding documents issued in names of such countries, as set out in Department's 1221 of April 10 and 1269 of April 13, has been taken note of by Swiss authorities and urged by them on German government. Your 3171 rather indicates that Germany is still undertaking to pass on merits of individual claims, and there is no (repeat no) mention therein of Swiss protest. You will recall that this Government has taken the view that such claims are to be honored by Germany until notified that claim is rejected by country in whose name the document has been issued or whose nationality is claimed.

Please urge Swiss authorities to insist on this point, and advise us as to where this matter stands.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 31

****
May 30, 1944
10:35 a.m.

BA.
BAksin:jp 5/29/44

00027

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECIEVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 5, 1944

NUMBER: 3579

[redacted]

Reference is made herewith to the ultimate paragraph of Legation's cable of May 18, no. 3171.

From the Swiss Foreign Office the Legation has received a list of 162 persons removed from Vittel for unknown destination of whom 3 allegedly claim Chilean citizenship, 8 Costa Rican, 8 Ecuadorian, 4 Haitian, 9 Honduran, 5 Nicaraguan, 87 Paraguayan, 3 Venezuelan, 7 Peruvian, and 29 unknown.

Since the list contains error in numbering, Legation is requesting Swiss to confirm whether 162 or 163 persons involved.

You are asked to please instruct whether the Department wishes nominal list sent telegraphically which includes date and place of birth.

There were born in Poland a large proportion of the persons concerned.

Foregoing refer to Latin American interests--Germany and France.

HARRISON

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

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

00028

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED June 2 1944
NUMBER 3606

[redacted]

Following is from Sternbuch for Union of Orthodox Rabbis

The Vittel situation is not clear and for some time there has been no direct news. It is not known how many internees remain at Vittel and who are among those at the Drancy concentration camp near Paris. Necessary steps to bring internees back to Vittel have been taken by the American Legation at Bern

In connection with Bergen-Belsen and York Camp Bergau near Dresden we wish to refer to last explanations by us. Unfortunately, there has been no change in the situation there. No authorization to contact or visit this camp or to send parcels of food is held by IRC. Your intervention is expected by us.

We urgently ask you to find a solution to the problem of proposed passports without regard to the Vittel situation. Those papers are received by us only from one Consulate up to the present time This is absolutely insufficient for rescue work carried on by us. At various places such papers are useful means and they have so far helped in Slovakia and Hungary. Jews in Hungary are requesting them most urgently to be emitted by different states.

We are quite desperate regarding the increasingly terrible Hungarian situation. There are already on deportation limts 3,000 Jews. It is urgently requested by Rabbi of Neutra and others that airmail be sent to the towns of Munkacs, Kaschau and Presov. 15,000 Jews per day are deported to Poland over this route since May 15. The people are in despair that nothing has been done until the present. It is requested that you intervene and not miss another hour in this matter as this is one means of rescue.

As yet our courier from Lithuania has not returned. Chief Rabbi Hager of Wysnitz and family have been saved and arrived yesterday in Bucharest.

Negotiations with Slovakia for the purpose of opening further labor camps for refugees from Hungary have been started by us with the Vatican's aid. The cost of setting up these camps has been underwritten by us provided there is no restriction on admission of new refugees.

From the

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

[illegible] the Rabbi of Neutra we have received a message wherein he bitterly complains of not having enough money for this rescue work. He must support about (8) people from Hungary who are saved daily besides those coming from Poland. Moreover, all Jews in hiding as well as in numerous labor camps must be fed. The Rabbis are all without livelihood. A further 200,000 francs have been placed at his disposal and he wires that for the vast rescue program this sum is ridiculous. At least $1,000,000 are expected by him and he calls heaven and earth as witnesses that if he had had more money he could have saved the Gaon of Tschechoiry [illegible] many others.

[illegible] brought [illegible] from Freiland [illegible] Nearly all [illegible] are being [illegible] up in the most inhumane way. In Czechoslovakia [illegible] Bohemia-Moravia under dictate of Germans and other areas are under the direction of local authorities which are quite as brutal as in the east. Szombathely is an absolutely closed ghetto now and nearer circumstances are unknown. Jews of Galanta are [illegible] in Strenkow having been permitted to carry with them [illegible] anything. The way things look in concentration camps of Kaszeg and Kassa cannot be described by me. The dogs are in wood without cover. In Kaschau 15,000 and in Ungvar about 20,000 are living in brick factories. They are in houses in Nagyvarad but approximately 13,000 are in a few streets which are walled off with boards. It is the same in Munkacs. It is declared by Buurpleit Mefremu that this is technique used to break down the resistance of masses psychologically to prepare them for the worst which has come true. Jewish deportation has become the naked truth and is mercilessly carried on. Today in Munkacs Kaschau Nyiregyhasa etc., other transports are to follow tomorrow. About 310,000 of our brethern, orthodox, reservoir of the country are now being subjected to these measures. Avoiding further misfortune is solely dependent on your grasping this situation and on your coming to our aid. We are absolutely dependent on you for life or death. We can perhaps be partially or totally saved if you can and will keep us, but we are lost if not. Do not sit still and do not think about it long. Take action at once and awake those who can aid us as long as there is yet time to do so.

A million Swiss francs were promised at once by wire but a million dollars are requested by them. We wish to know what action should be taken

HARRISON

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

00030

MAY 23 1944

Gentlemen:

The following very confidential message for you from Isaac Sternbuch was received from the American Legation, Bern, under date of May 18, 1944:

"You are advised that Perlberger has been transferred to Bergen from Westerborg but we are not aware whether this means the rescue of Perlberger. Until now all further attempts have been in vain. Passport and certificate are possessed by him. With respect to Rabbi Lewin, it was only your conjecture that he might be at Bergen and this does not seem to be the case. The news from that camp is most unfavorable in part. Attempts have been made by the Chilean Legation in Bern to obtain information from protecting Poler but have not been successful.

"Rabbi Kaplan, Lyon, has been contacted by us and his suggestions regarding help are awaited.

"It is very pleasing to us to learn that the American Embassy in Madrid is also energetically intervening apparently with some success. It is hoped that the people will be returned to Vittel and we await news with new courier.

"(1) It is necessary for every passport to be filled in normally with name and year the person was born. Every one has asked in accompanying letter to have a photo added in place of residence. Only if we have passports here do they have some worth to us. It would be best to get permission giving the Consulates of respective countries in Switzerland power to promptly hand over to us the passports.

"(2) Return of courier from Vittel bringing us recent news is expected by us.

"(3) No disturbances known at Titmoning. Situation is still uncertain at Bergen Belsen near Hannover although we receive good news. Celle is province where Bergen Belsen is located and is not a camp. It is estimated by us that about 150 to 200 persons with South American papers are interned at these camps. About 1400 internees holding South American papers, for whom Spain and Switzerland are the protecting powers, are held in a large camp at Bergau near Dresden. Deportations are taking place and the situation of those two camps is very bad.

"On April 5 last we transmitted to Griffel 25,000 francs. Please let us know whether further $25,000 can be transmitted by us. It is requested that you state the amount of Swiss francs if such can be done."

I am sure you will appreciate the extremely confidential nature of the foregoing message.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Agudas Israel World Organisation,
226 West 97th Street,
New York 25, New York.

FH:lab 5/23/44

War Refugee Bd.
Mr Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, BERN

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 18, 1944

NUMBER: 3171

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Following is for War Refugee Board's attention.

Reference is made herewith to the Legation's telegram of May 9, 1944, no. 2937 and Department's telegram of April 13, 1944, no. 1270.

It is stated in a Swiss note dated May 12 that the question of internees allegedly removed from Vittel was discussed by the Swiss Legation in Berlin during the recent visit to the German Foreign Office.

Police authorities actually are proceeding with a most careful examination of the identity papers of citizens of American Republics held in internment camps, according to information received by Feldscher. These internees are not disturbed when they are able to furnish satisfactory proof of nationality. However, there are removed from the camps those persons who are not able to establish without any possible doubt that they are citizens of an American Republic. Such action applies to both Compiegne and Vittel.

It was added by Feldscher, in communicating the foregoing by letter dated May 5, that he knows that without having the right to make claims for such nationalities, a large number of citizens of Poland, and citizens of other Eastern European countries have obtained Nicaraguan, Honduran, Paraguayan, et cetera passports. It is extremely difficult to verify, however, whether t

there are

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

00033

there are among the deported persons citizens of countries whose interests are protected by the Swiss. A report that 163 persons have been removed from Vittel has been made by the Swiss Consulate at Paris which had been instructed to make a first-hand investigation of the matter. A list of these persons is possessed by the Consulate and thus the Swiss Legation in Berlin will be able to determine whether there are among the former internees of Vittel citizens of Latin American countries whose interests are protected by Switzerland.

Attention is also called by Reldscher to the fact that the authorities in Germany are also proceeding by degrees to apply stricter measures to persons claiming to be nationals of the U.S. On the basis of files at the Swiss Legation in Berlin, some internees held in the camps up to the present don't possess United States nationality or are still considered as "alien relatives" of citizens of the United States. It appears that general regulations will be applied by the German authorities to all persons who are refused protection by the United States Government. The substance of Swiss note ends here.

The Swiss Foreign Office was requested by the Legation to try to furnish a list of 163 civilians deported with an indication of their alleged claims of citizenship, also a list of persons at Vittel whose documentation status is such as to lead to the belief that they may be treated in a similar way. A request to have a representative of the Swiss Consulate in Paris proceed to Compiegne to conduct an investigation similar to that carried out at Vittel was also made by the Foreign Office.

HARRISON

00034

(as) Ref. BL
Mrs Riddle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 18, 1944

NUMBER: 3166

Copying

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Following is for WRB from McClelland for Agudas Israel World Organization from Sternbuch.

You are advised that Perlberger has been transferred to Bergen from Westerberg but we are not aware whether this means the rescue of Perlberger. Until now all further attempts have been in vain. Passport and certificate are possessed by him. With respect to Rabbi Lewin, it was only your conjecture that he might be at Bergen and this does not seem to be the case. The news from that camp is most unfavorable in part. Attempts have been made by the Chilean Legation in Bern to obtain information from protecting Poler but have not been successful.

Rabbi Kaplan, Lyon, has been contacted by us and his suggestions regarding help are awaited.

It is very pleasing to us to learn that the American Embassy in Madrid is also energetically intervening apparently with some success. It is hoped that the people will be returned to Vittel and we await news with new courier.

(1) It is necessary for every passport to be filled in normally with name and year the person was born. Every one has asked in accompanying letter to have a photo added in place of residence. Only if we have passports here do they have some worth to us. It would be best to get

permission given

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

00093

permission ~~given~~ giving the Consulates of respective countries in Switzerland power to promptly hand over to us the passports.

(2) Return of courier from Vittel bringing us recent news is expected by us.

(3) No disturbances known at Titmoning. Situation is still uncertain at Bergen Belsen near Hannover although we received good news. Celle is province where Bergen Belsen is located and is not a camp. It is estimated by us that about 150 to 200 persons with South American papers are interned at these camps. About 1400 internees holding South American papers, for whom Spain and Switzerland are the protecting powers, ~~were~~ are held in a large camp at Bautzen near Dresden. Deportations are taking place and the situation of those two camps is very bad.

On April 5 last we transmitted to Griffel 25,000 francs. Please let us know whether further $25,000 can be ~~made~~ transmitted by us. It is requested that you state the amount of Swiss francs if such can be done.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:HL 5/20/44

5/24/44 Mrs. Schoen

1 copy only

FURTHER TEXT OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: merican Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: May 16, 1944

NUMBER: 3122

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

or GRB from McClelland for Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch.

Since March of 1943 there has been a camp at Bergen near Hannover. Bergen Belsen is located in province called Celle. Between 150 and 200 people in this camp possess South merican papers at present time. Many have been deported so far. Near Dresden at Bergau there is another larger camp with at least 1,400 internees whose protective powers are Switzerland and Spain. It is understood that in these two camps the situation is worse than at Theresienstadt camp. To our surprise the Red Cross has not been admitted to them thus far. It is said that internees there are actually starving and do not receive any Red Cross parcels. Apparently they are not permitted to receive mail or to dispatch it. Camp is excluded from outer world and news is very rare. ccording to reports deportations have been made.

It is urgent that steps be taken by protecting powers for both camps similar to other camps [as Department's pril 22 telegram to Legation at Bern indicated.]

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

indicated. Red Cross parcels and free post should be accorded internees of these two camps. It might be that transfer could be promoted to Vittel or other safer places.

It is very difficult to get assistance to those in Hungary. Various things are being tried but to date with no evident success. As yet situation is not clear. courier with eighty South American papers has been sent by us once again. If Turkish transit permits were given many families would like to try to emigrate illegally. However, until now this has not been the case. For people who escape through or from Rumania such transit possibilities are urgent. The family of Bonbow-Halberstamm has arrived in Bucharest now.

Although we are in contact with Griffel he cannot render great assistance as long as transit through Turkey is not allowed. Our recommendation is that no larger amounts be sent to that place. If he can do something positive he can get as much money as he needs from us.

Only San Salvador papers are available for this rescue work. It is requested that whatever steps are necessary be taken by you in order that such papers can be granted by some other Consulates in Switzerland also. In order to save his family of twenty-seven persons the Wisnitzer Rabbi Hager of Gross Wardein has asked for help. Twenty thousand Swiss francs have been

sent

sent via courier to him.

Our telegraphic requests for certificates which Jim Lowin passes on are being handled very slowly by Jewish agency at Jerusalem. In our opinion it would be most helpful if we intervened by wire.

With various good results our rescuing of men from Italy and France to Switzerland has been begun.

Pressing calls for help are coming to us from Theresienstadt Krakau and other towns for clothing and food parcels to name the lives of people hiding in vicinity. Calls are coming from working camps in Poland also. Kindly inform us if we may participate in this matter.

Their parents having been deported approximately one hundred children have crossed the border into Switzerland illegally and these children are from our best families in Belgium and Holland. Part of them we were able to place with families but as there were not sufficient private places available, part had necessarily to go to Klosters. Permission from Swiss, supported by Polish Legation, has been received to supervise their education and to place them in children's homes. For 100 to 150 children it costs 150 francs monthly per child at present moment in a home. However,

only half

only half of this sum can be raised by us. Permission is hereby requested by us to help in this work also.

HARRISON.

5/28/40
Message delivered to Mrs Schwab

RECEIVED
MAY 28 10 11 AM
FBI - WASHINGTON, D.C.

war Religious Bd
Mr. Pehle
1 copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 12, 1944

NUMBER: 3019

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

With reference to the last paragraph of your cable of May 8, 1944, No. 1595, you are requested to see my cable of May 9, 1944, No. 2937. It is assumed that the reference made by the Department to its cable of April 13, 1944, No. 1269 should be to the Department's cable of that date, No. 1270.

OK?
OK.

HARRISON

DCR:LDB:HL 5/15/44

WASHINGTON D.C.
WAR RELIGIOUS BOARD
RECEIVED

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

War Dept Cable
Fwd Cable
1 Copy only

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: May 10, 1944

NUMBER: 1631

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland:

Doing utmost for Vittel internees. Hopeful. Advise us if detention place of deportees from Vittel known, also if you have details condition internees Belsen-Bergen and other internment camps.

Regarding proposed large number passports advise if after Vittel matter you have positive definite hopes such passports useful, since we question their effectiveness but ready cooperate on receipt report. Suggest you send funds Lithunia, Hungary, Rumania via couriers to Rabbis, scholars, religious leaders for use in redeeming themselves and communities from extinction through all possible methods. Advise if you have reports from couriers to Lithunia and Hungary. Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbis Kotler and Kalmanowitz.

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 16.

HULL

CABLE SECTION, W.R.B.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 12 1944 11 AM
RECEIVED

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

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, SWITZERLAND

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch, Postfach 168, St. Gallen, Switzerland:

QUOTE Doing utmost for Vittel internees. Hopeful. Advise us if detention place of deportees from Vittel known, also if you have details condition internees Belsen-Bergen and other internment camps.

Regarding proposed large number passports advise if after Vittel matter you have positive definite hopes such passports useful, since we question their effectiveness but ready cooperate on receipt report. Suggest you send funds Lithuania, Hungary, Rumania via couriers to Rabbis, scholars, religious leaders for use in redeeming themselves and communities from extinction through all possible methods. Advise if you have reports from couriers to Lithuania and Hungary. Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee Rabbis Kotler and Kalmanowitz UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 16.

****

May 8, 1944
2:10 P.M.

B.A. ffh
BAksin:jp 5/4/44

Files

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars, Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 818)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE REctor 2-4235

Message sent to State. BB.

April 26, 1944

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

Att: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

May we respectfully request you to please send the attached message to Mr. Sternbuch in Switzerland?

As we are most anxious to have news in the Vittel matter, we await any messages that may have been received which would give us any information.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

See cable 1631 5/10/44

00004

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars, Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE REctor 2-4235

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO ISAAC STERNBUCH IN
SWITZERLAND THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN

DOING UTMOST FOR ~~VITTEL~~ INTERNEES HOPEFUL ~~ADVISE US IF DETENTION PLACE KNOWN ALSO IF YOU HAVE DETAILS CONDITION~~ INTERNEES BELZENBERG ~~AND OTHER INTERNMENT CAMPS.~~ ~~RE-FERRING NEGOTIATIONS SECURE TEN THOUSAND~~ PASSPORTS ADVISE IF AFTER VITTEL MATTER YOU HAVE POSITIVE DEFINITE HOPES SUCH PASSPORTS USEFUL, SINCE WE QUESTION THEIR EFFECTIVENESS BUT READY COOPERATE ON RECEIPT YOUR REPORT. SUGGEST YOU SEND FUNDS ~~LITHUANIA HUNGARY ROUMANIA~~ VIA COURIERS TO RABBIS SCHOLARS RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR USE IN REDEEMING THEMSELVES AND COMMUNITIES FROM EXTINCTION THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE METHODS. ADVISE IF YOU HAVE REPORTS FROM COURIERS TO LITHUANIA AND HUNGARY

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBI ARON KOTLER
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle
1 copy only
Files

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: May 10, 1944

NUMBER: 1632

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

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

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

HULL

MAY 13 1944 WASHINGTON, D.C. RECEIVED

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

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 9, 1944
NUMBER: 2938

[redacted]

The confidential information contained in the Department's cable of April 29, 1944, No. 1503, second paragraph was communicated to me by the Papal Nuncio in Bern, and I informed him that the Department has expressed the warm appreciation of the American Government for the Holy See's activities.

An acknowledgment dated May 4 expressing appreciation was received by me from Monsignor Vernardini and a copy of a cable which Nuncio At Madrid addressed to Cardinal Maglione on April 26 regarding the Spanish Government's attitude was enclosed in the acknowledgment. The matter has been taken up with the Spanish Government by the Papal Nuncio at Madrid. The following is the substance of the cable:

Several times this Government has concerned itself with the fate of the Jews because of their situation, terribly dominated by the German authorities, but the Berlin Government has made known that intervention is not favored by it. Spanish Jews but no others can be looked after by Spain. With regards to Jews at Vittel, however, expedient efforts will be made by this government with the view to exchanges of Jews and civilian internees in America.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:HL 5/11/44

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

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

Ws > Ref Board
Mr Riddle

1 Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 9, 1944

NUMBER: 2938

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

The confidential information contained in the Department's cable of April 29, 1944, No. 1503, second paragraph was communicated to me by the Papal Nuncio in Bern, and I informed him that the Department has expressed the warm appreciation of the American Government for the Holy See's activities.

An acknowledgment dated May 4 expressing appreciation was received by me from Monsignor Vernardini and a copy of a cable which Nuncio at Madrid addressed to Cardinal Maglione on April 26 regarding the Spanish Government's attitude was enclosed in the acknowledgment. The matter has been taken up with the Spanish Government by the Papal Nuncio at Madrid. The following is the substance of the cable:

Several times this Government has concerned itself with the fate of the Jews because of their situation, terribly dominated by German authorities, but the Berlin Government has made known that intervention is not favored by it. Spanish Jews but no others can be looked after by Spain. With regards to Jews at Vittel, however, expedient efforts will be made by this government with the view to exchanges of Jews and civilian internees in America.

HARRISON

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

DCR:IBS:HL 5/11/44

MAY 10 1944 WASHINGTON, D.C. RECEIVED

War Ref Board
Vittel Mr Pehle
Copy only

File

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: May 9, 1944

NUMBER: 2937

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]L

Following is for War Refugee Board

We refer herewith to Department's telegram of April 10, 1944, No. 1221 and Legation's cable of April 24, 1944, No. 2603.

Given below is the substance of a note from the Swiss Government dated May 3:

The Swiss Legation in Berlin received instructions from the Foreign Office to obtain all information concerning the alleged transfer to an unknown prison of 238 persons previously at Vittel looking toward their immediate return there. It is reported by the Swiss Legation in the letter dated April 28 that German Foreign Office representative stated that there is no information concerning this alleged transfer to the prison from Vittel. Therefore, the Swiss Consulate in Paris was instructed by the Swiss Legation in Berlin to proceed to Vittel to make an inquiry in person. They will promptly report the results. Bisang told Tait during an informal discussion at the Foreign Office on May 5 that according to a preliminary report from Feldscher, the latter had been told the following by an unnamed person in the German Foreign Office:

One. Provided the Jews are able to satisfactorily establish

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

Latin American nationality, the government of Germany is disposed to arrange an exchange between 238 Jews against Germans in American custody.

Two. It was ~~so stated~~ further stated by the German official that the Germans were even prepared to propose an exchange such as this.

Three. It was also added by the German official that the German Government wished to arrange for a general exchange of civilians as it had frequently indicated.

It was anticipated by the Swiss that a complete report from Feldschur will be received shortly and the note will then be transmitted.

HARRISON

DGR:IDR:HV. 5/11/44

RECEIVED
CONFIDENTIAL
SOUTHERN
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
SO DI WA 15 PM 10 05

wa Ref Dr
Mr Reddy
1 copy only.

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: May 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1595

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Reference is made to your 2282 of April 13, specifically to passage regarding reply by Cuba to Vatican.

For your information, Ambassador Braden has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no (repeat no) objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Ambassador Winant has been instructed to request a similar British assurance to Cuba. Tittman has been asked to inform Vatican accordingly with a view to further Vatican action.

As regards actual admission, Ambassador Braden has been asked to ascertain Cuba's attitude. Should he find that Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, he has been authorized to repeat to Cuba the assurance given to other Latin American republics to the effect that Cuba will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned but that they will be routed elsewhere.

Ambassador Hayes has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittel.

Among the Latin American countries approached, Honduras and

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

00005

Venezuela have already acceded to all our requests referred to in Department's 1221 of April 10 to you.

Refer to your 2510 of April 20. Appreciate your speedy action concerning 238 deportees. War Refugee Board received unconfirmed report that most or all of 238 deportees from Vittel have been or are being placed in Camp Drancy near Paris. Please take all necessary steps through Swiss, Intercorss and otherwise to assure their welfare.

Please advise whether Swiss authorities have made the demarches requested in our 1221 of April 10 and in our 1269 of April 13.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 12

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 1 3 28 PM '44

HULL

00052

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, SWITZERLAND

Reference is made to your 2282 of April 13, specifically to passage regarding reply by Cuba to Vatican.

For your information, Ambassador Braden has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no (repeat no) objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Ambassador Winant has been instructed to request a similar British assurance to Cuba. Tittman has been asked to inform Vatican accordingly with a view to further Vatican action.

As regards actual admission, Ambassador Braden has been asked to ascertain Cuba's attitude. Should he find that Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, he has been authorized to repeat to Cuba the assurance given to other Latin American republics to the effect that Cuba will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned but that they will be routed elsewhere.

Ambassador Hayes has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittel.

Among the Latin American countries approached, Honduras and Venezuela have already acceded to all our requests referred to in Department's 1221 of April 10 to you.

Refer to your 2510 of April 20. Appreciate your speedy action concerning 238 deportees. War Refugee Board received unconfirmed report that most or all of 238 deportees from Vittel have been or are being placed in Camp Drancy near Paris. Please take all necessary steps through Swiss, Intercorss and otherwise to assure their welfare.

Please advise whether Swiss authorities have made the demarches requested in our 1221 of April 10 and in our 1269 of April 13.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 12

~~April~~
May 2, 1944
9:50 a.m.

Ba. L-SL.

BAkzin:jp 4/29/44

War Ref Bd
Mr Pehle
1 Copy only

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: May 6, 1944

NUMBER: 1580

[redacted]

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON FOR TITTMAN

Reference is made to our 1502 of April 29, specifically to passage regarding reply by Cuba to Vatican.

Please inform Holy See that American Ambassador in Habana has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Also that American Ambassador in London has been asked to request that a similar assurance be given by Britain to Cuba. Also that Department believes it advisable for Vatican to approach Britain directly requesting such assurances and would appreciate Vatican doing so.

As regards actual admission, Ambassador Braden has been asked to ascertain Cuba's attitude. Should he find that Cuba is not agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, he has been authorized to repeat to Cuba the assurance given to other Latin American republics to the effect that Cuba will not be expected to admit persons concerned but that they will be routed elsewhere.

Department hopes that Vatican will pursue its efforts in Cuba on this basis and, should it require assistance of American Ambassador in Habana, it will be glad to instruct him accordingly.

HULL

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

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1944
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

CABLE TO HAROLD H. TITTMAN, JR., AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, VATICAN CITY

Reference is made to our ____ of _____, specifically to passage regarding reply by Cuba to Vatican.

Please inform Holy See that American Ambassador in Habana has been instructed to convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents. Also that American Ambassador in London has been asked to request that a similar assurance be given by Britain to Cuba. Also that Department believes it advisable for Vatican to approach Britain directly requesting such assurances and would appreciate Vatican doing so.

As regards actual admission, Ambassador Braden has been asked to ascertain Cuba's attitude. Should he find that Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, he has been authorized to repeat to Cuba the assurance given to other Latin American republics to the effect that Cuba will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned but that they will be routed elsewhere.

Department hopes that Vatican will pursue its efforts in Cuba on this basis and, should it require assistance of American Ambassador in Habana, it will be glad to instruct him accordingly.

April 29, 1944
10:30 a.m.

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

RG. L.S.L.

Bakzin:jp 4/27/44

No. 8103

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, May 6, 1944.

Subject: Honduran Interests - Germany
Arrest of Kurt Pfifferling.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to enclose, for possible submission to the Honduran Government, a translation of a note dated May 2, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office together with a translation of its attached letter addressed on March 14, 1944, to the Swiss Consulate at Stuttgart, which is now located at Markgroeningen, Germany, by the Wurtemberg Ministry of the Interior. Both these communications concern Kurt PFIFFERLING, who claims to be a Honduran citizen and who has been arrested by the Gestapo.

It may be observed that the Swiss Foreign Office states that Kurt Pfifferling has requested that the International Committee of the Red Cross be informed of his present address. However, as the Legation has no record of Pfifferling, it is taking no action with regard to this request pending the receipt of a statement from the Honduran Government regarding his alleged nationality.

Enclosures:

No. 1 - translation of Swiss Foreign Office note of May 2, 1944.

No. 2 - translation of letter dated March 14, 1944.

1944 JUN 10 AM 11 00
WASHINGTON, D.C.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED

File No. 704
GMG/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

00005

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch No. 8103
of May 6, 1944, from the American
Legation at Bern.

Translation

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

B.24.Ho (2)3-Pfifferling.-DG/Qe.

At the request of the Swiss Legation at Berlin the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that a Honduran citizen formerly a resident of the Netherlands, Mr. Kurt Pfifferling, was recently arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Welzheim, Wurtemberg, Germany.

In this connection the Federal Political Department submits herewith a copy of a letter addressed on March 14, 1944, to the Swiss Consulate at Stuttgart, which has recently been moved to Markgroeningen, by the Wurtemberg Ministry of the Interior.

The Federal Political Department would be grateful to the Legation of the United States if it might be advised, for the information of the Swiss Legation at Berlin, whether Mr. Pfifferling may be considered as a Honduran citizen.

Furthermore Mr. Pfifferling requested that his present address be communicated to the International Red Cross.

The Federal Political Department takes this occasion to renew to the Legation of the United States of America the assurance of its high consideration.

Bern, May 2, 1944.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUN 10 11 00 AM '44

Enclosure:

copy of letter.

To the Legation of the United States of America,

Bern.

GMG/mak

00057

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 8103
of May 6, 1944, from the American
Legation at Bern.

Translation

The Minister of the Interior
in Wurtemberg

Stuttgart, March 14, 1944.

No. II B 578/1 Pfifferling, Kurt Werner.

To the
Swiss Consulate,
Markgroeningen.

Reference: Letter of March 6, 1944, No. 2/93-38p
Protection of Foreign Interests, Honduras.

Kurt Werner Pfifferling and his parents are Jews and lived at Amsterdam at the beginning of the current war. One and a half or two years ago, the Pfifferling family acquired Honduran citizenship which was not recognized by the security police detachment of The Hague. The son, Kurt Werner, was dispatched by train to the East, together with other Jews living in the Netherlands. Some of these Jews, among them Pfifferling, managed to saw the side-wall of the freight car and to escape from the moving train. Pfifferling first went to Berlin and was able from there to reach the Netherlands again by secret means. There he was arrested by the state secret police and temporarily transferred to the police prison at Welzheim. The Stuttgart office of the state secret police was recently requested by the Berlin office to transfer Pfifferling to Berlin, which will be done in the near future. It is not known whether criminal proceedings have been instituted against Pfifferling or whether he has requested legal counsel.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED
01 MAR 1944

In representation:

signed: Dill

Authenticated: Lanz
Secretary of the Government.

DWM/mak

Over. Cf. Bd. Mr. Pike

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern

DATED: May 5, 1944

NUMBER: 1568

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland:

QUOTE Easterman and Rubenstein cable re Vittel that they have been in close contact with Red Cross who have reassured them concerning position which they are carefully watching. Please contact Red Cross and forward all information available. World Jewish Congress Leon Kubowitzki UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 14

HULL

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

00054

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, BERN

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Gerhard Riegner, 37 Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland:

QUOTE Easterman and Rubenstein cable re Vittel that they have been in close contact with Red Cross who have reassured them concerning position which they are carefully watching. Please contact Red Cross and forward all information available. World Jewish Congress Leon Kubowitski UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB CABLE TO BERN NO. 14

May 3, 1944
4:40 p.m.

BA. L.S.L.
BAkzin:jp 5/2/44

00063

Recognition of L.A. Passports

U.N. Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle
1 copy

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, Bern,

TO: Secretary of State, Washington,

DATED: May 3, 1944

NUMBER: 2814.

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

Reference is made herewith to your telegram of April 29, 1944, no. 1503.

On April 14, we took up with the Foreign Office in person and in writing the subject matter of the Department's telegram dated April 10, 1944, no. 1221.

HARRISON

MAY 3 PM 3 21

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
RECEIVED

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

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington,

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern,

DATED: April 29, 1944.

NUMBER: 1503.

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON

Appreciate information contained in your 2282 of April 13. Had we had earlier knowledge of Vatican efforts we would have supported it with adequate assurances to Latin American countries as indicated below. In the circumstances, our 1221 of April 10 becomes still more urgent, and you are requested to proceed accordingly with all possible despatch, if you have not done so already.

When so doing, please note that in contemplating exchange of Jewish holders of Latin American papers for Germans in Western Hemisphere this Government has advised Latin American countries that it does not (repeat not) expect such countries physically to admit any of these persons but will make arrangements for refuge elsewhere.

This information may be conveyed by you to Nuncio in confidence.

We are communicating with Vatican and requesting its

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

00003

its support in our efforts on this basis. We are also communicating with our missions in Latin America in the light of information conveyed in your 2282 of April 13.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 6.

HULL

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 MAY 4 PM 4 03

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

Appreciate information contained in your 2282 of April 13. Had we had earlier knowledge of Vatican efforts we would have supported it with adequate assurances to Latin American countries as indicated below. In the circumstances, our 1221 of April 10 becomes still more urgent, and you are requested to proceed accordingly with all possible despatch, if you have not done so already.

When so doing, please note that in contemplating exchange of Jewish holders of Latin American papers for Germans in Western Hemisphere this Government has advised Latin American countries that it does not (repeat not) expect such countries physically to admit any of these persons but will make arrangements for refuge elsewhere.

This information may be conveyed by you to Nuncio in confidence.

We are communicating with Vatican and requesting its support in our efforts on this basis. We are also communicating with our missions in Latin America in the light of information conveyed in your 2282 of April 13.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 6

****
April 24, 1944
2:15 P.M.

BA. L.S.L.

BAkzin:jp 4/20/44

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington,

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern,

DATED: April 29, 1944.

NUMBER: 1502.

CONTROL COPY

FOLLOWING FOR HARRISON'S ATTENTION

PLease transmit the substance of the following message to Harold H. Tittman, Jr., American Representative, Vatican City.

The following telegram has been received from Minister Harrison at Bern, dated April 13:

QUOTE Details of approaches which the Vatican made to various Governments of South American in an attempt ot work out relief measures for Jews interned in Germany or German-occupied territory who hold documentation issued by those Governments were supplied to me on April 9 by the Papal Nuncio, Bern. Apparently the question of eventual immigration to respective countries in course of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documentation. The following is the substance of the replies.

1. Because

00003

1. Because of laws forbidding admission, a negative reply was made by Panama with respect to Polish Jews.

2. Both Nicaragua and Costa Rica are disposed to recognize passports which their respective Consuls issued up to eight families which could remain in these Republics only during the war if the families are neither industrialists nor farmers.

3. They would be received in Bolivia.

4. A negative reply was made by Salvador and Guatemala.

5. In structions to verify and recognize passports have been issued by Chile.

6. Each case would be considered individually by Uruguay.

7. No action could be taken by Haiti.

8. Passports could not be recognized by Peru.

9. Passports could be recognized by Cuba if no objection is made by Great Britain and the United States.

10. Passports of Polish Jews at Vittel have been recognized by Paraguay.

Bolivia

Bolivia and Paraguay are represented in Germany by Spain and the rest of the countries listed above are represented by Switzerland. We assume that they will inform their respective protective powers concerning any action which they take in the future following representations of the American Government.

It is stated by the Nuncio that in the present reportedly aggravated situation of certain victims the Holy See had requested its Madrid representative to ask the government of Spain to inform the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin of gravity of peril of Polish Jews who have Paraguayan documentation and to insist to him upon the urgency of effective protection for them.

Information had been received by the Nuncio that the cause of the trouble arose when the proposal was made to exchange these Jews for Germans located in South America. Jews who had Paraguayan passports were included in the list by Germany. A protest was made by Paraguay which stated that the passports had been illegally issued and Paraguay refused to recognize the passports. The Germans withdrew as a result of this and protection was

suspended

suspended by Spain. I have been further informed by Nuncio that this has been confirmed by International Red Cross which has promised its intervention if an exchange is objective conditioned on Holy See's action. UNQUOTE.

While grateful to the Holy See for its generous initiative, the Department regrets not to have been earlier informed thereof. It was clear to this Government that in most, if not in all, Latin American countries concerned neither consent to exchange nor even simple recognition of documents could be obtained unless it is understood that the governments concerned are not expected physically to admit these persons. The abasnce of such assurances in the Vatican approach has presumably caused the Latin American countries to reply as reported and Spain to suspend protection of persons involved. The result was the deportation of 238 such Jews from Civilian internees camp at Vittel and imminent danger to all of them, reported to number several thousands.

On

On April 10, the following cable was sent to Minister Harrison:

QUOTE Although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1958 of March 30 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans

that

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

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States. UNQUOTE.

Simultaneously we cabled our missions in Latin American countries concerned:

QUOTE Minister Harrison at Bern has informed us

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

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

nationals

00007

nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places elsewhere.

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

and

and of the Latin American countries will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its 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. UNQUOTE.

Furthermore, Ambassador Hayes at Madrid was asked to request Spanish support in this action.

In conveying the above information to the Holy See, please express to the appropriate officials this Government's warm appreciation of the Holy See's efforts to rescue persons involved, and our hope that the Holy See will cooperate with

us

00073

us in this humanitarian task by urgently supporting in Latin America and Spain our steps now detailed to you.

Furthermore, please obtain confirmation of details reported in Harrison's telegram and clarification of apparent contradictions contained in two passages of said telegram referring to Paraguay.

In view of extreme urgency of issue involved, prompt action is necessary. Please keep Department advised of progress. Department will keep you informed of further steps undertaken in this matter.

Substance of this telegram is being communicated to Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

HULL

RECEIVED
CATHOLIC BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1941

00074

CABLE TO HAROLD H. TITTMAN, JR., AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, VATICAN CITY

The following telegram has been received from Minister Harrison at Bern, dated April 13:

QUOTE Details of approaches which the Vatican made to various Governments of South America in an attempt to work out relief measures for Jews interned in Germany or German-occupied territory who hold documentation issued by those Governments were supplied to me on April 9 by the Papal Nuncio, Bern. Apparently the question of eventual immigration to respective countries in course of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documentation. The following is the substance of the replies.

1. Because of laws forbidding admission, a negative reply was made by Panama with respect to Polish Jews.
2. Both Nicaragua and Costa Rica are disposed to recognize passports which their respective Consuls issued up to eight families which could remain in these Republics only during the war if the families are neither industrialists nor farmers.
3. They would be received in Bolivia.
4. A negative reply was made by Salvador and Guatemala.
5. Instructions to verify and recognize passports have been issued by Chile.
6. Each case would be considered individually by Uruguay.
7. No action could be taken by Haiti.
8. Passports could not be recognized by Peru.
9. Passports could be recognized by Cuba if no objection is made by Great Britain and the United States.
10. Passports of Polish Jews at Vittel have been recognized by Paraguay.

Bolivia and Paraguay are represented in Germany by Spain and the rest of the countries listed above are represented by Switzerland. We assume that they will inform their respective protective powers concerning any action which they take in the future following representations of the American Government.

It is stated by the Nuncio that in the present reportedly aggravated situation of certain victims the Holy See had requested its Madrid representative to ask the government of Spain to inform the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin of gravity of peril of Polish Jews who have Paraguayan documentation and to insist to him upon the urgency of effective protection for them.

Information had been received by the Nuncio that the cause of the trouble arose when the proposal was made to exchange these Jews for Germans located in South America. Jews who had Paraguayan passports were included in the list by Germany. A protest was made by Paraguay which stated that the passports had been illegally issued and Paraguay refused to recognize the passports. The Germans withdrew as a result of this and protection was suspended by Spain. I have been further informed by Nuncio that this has been confirmed by International Red Cross which has promised its intervention if an exchange is objective conditioned on Holy See's action. UNQUOTE

While grateful to the Holy See for its generous initiative, the Department regrets not to have been earlier informed thereof. It was clear to this Government that in most, if not in all, Latin American countries concerned neither consent to exchange nor even simple recognition of documents could be obtained unless it is understood that the governments concerned are not expected physically to admit these persons. The absence of such assurances in the Vatican approach has presumably caused the Latin American countries to reply as reported and Spain to suspend protection from persons involved. The result was the deportation of 238 such Jews from Civilian internees camp at Vittel and imminent danger to all of them, reported to number several thousands.

On April 10, the following cable was sent to Minister Harrison:

QUOTE Although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1958 of March 30 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans that this Government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons in German-controlled territory and

that in this connection, the United States considers that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries will be eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States. UNQUOTE

Simultaneously, we cabled our missions in Latin American countries concerned:

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

In view of the perilous situation in which these internees find themselves, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the only way of safeguarding the lives of these unfortunate victims of Nazi persecution is forthwith to initiate through proper channels negotiations for an exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places elsewhere.

Proceeding on this basis, please approach the govern-

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

Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its 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. UNQUOTE

Furthermore, Ambassador Hayes at Madrid was asked to request Spanish support in this action.

In conveying the above information to the Holy See, please express to the appropriate officials this Government's warm appreciation of the Holy See's efforts to rescue persons involved, and our hope that the Holy See will cooperate with us in this humanitarian task by urgently supporting in Latin Americanand Spain our steps now detailed to you.

Furthermore, please obtain confirmation of details reported in Harrison's telegram and clarification of apparent contradictions contained in two passages of said telegram referring to Paraguay.

In view of extreme urgency of issue involved, prompt action is necessary. Please keep Department advised of progress. Department will keep you informed of further steps undertaken in this matter.

Substance of this telegram is being communicated to Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

****

April 24, 1944
2:15 p.m.

BA. L.S.R.

BAksin:jp 4/21/44

war Ref. Bd.
Mr Pehle
(Copy only)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: Amlegation, Bern

DATED: April 22, 1944

NUMBER: 1400

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

Reference Department's 1221 of April 10 and 1181 of April 7. Our Embassy in Madrid has been fully advised concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American countries. The Department's above-mentioned No. 1221 of April 10 was repeated to Madrid. Our Embassy there was requested urgently to report to the Spanish Government this Government's preoccupation with this matter and inform it of our pending discussions with Latin American countries regarding a further exchange of civilians with Germany, of our view that persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers are eligible for such exchange and of our expectation that pending such exchange they would be accorded the same treatment which Germans wish to see accorded their civilians in the Western Hemisphere. It was requested that the Spanish Government be urged to act in Madrid and Berlin to the end that these persons be given every possible protection and that it take steps immediately to correct the impression which might have been created in Berlin regarding the alleged lack of concern of the countries of the Western Hemisphere in the treatment of persons holding papers issued in their name.

With respect to the 238 persons who you reported to have been evacuated from Vittel, our Embassy was instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure their return to Vittel.

Please convey the above information to Riegner, Isaac Sternbuch and other interested organizations. Explain to them fully the steps which this Government is taking through the Swiss Government and advise them that cables have been sent to the Latin American countries in whose names papers have been issued opening discussion on the subject of exchange of nationals.

On behalf

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

00073

On behalf of the War Refugee Board, please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

"Please ascertain conditions at Camp Zelle. Inform us if you have contact with said camps and what can be done."

Such message should be delivered after you have fully advised Sternbuch as requested above.

HULL

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED
1944 APR 25 AM 11 05

CABLE TO BERN

Reference Department's _____ of April 10 and _____ of April 7. Our Embassy in Madrid has been fully advised concerning the situation of internees at Vittel and other camps who hold passports, consular documents and other papers issued in the name of certain Latin American countries. The Department's above-mentioned No._____ of April 10 was repeated to Madrid. Our Embassy there was requested urgently to report to the Spanish Government this Government's preoccupation with this matter and inform it of our pending discussions with Latin American countries regarding a further exchange of civilians with Germany, of our view that persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding Latin American papers are eligible for such exchange and of our expectation that pending such exchange they would be accorded the same treatment which Germans wish to see accorded their civilians in the Western Hemisphere. It was requested that the Spanish Government be urged to act in Madrid and Berlin to the end that these persons be given every possible protection and that it take steps immediately to correct the impression which might have been created in Berlin regarding the alleged lack of concern of the countries of the Western Hemisphere in the treatment of persons holding papers issued in their name.

With respect to the 258 persons who you reported to have been evacuated from Vittel, our Embassy was instructed to request the Spanish Government to make every effort to secure their return to Vittel.

Please convey the above information to Riegner, Isaac Sternbuch and other interested organizations. Explain to them fully the steps which this Government is taking through the Swiss Government and advise them that cables have been sent to the Latin American countries in whose names papers have been issued opening discussion on the subject of exchange of nationals.

On behalf of the War Refugee Board, please deliver the following message to Isaac Sternbuch from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee:

> "Please ascertain conditions at Camp Zelle. Inform us if you have contact with said camps and what can be done."

Such message should be delivered after you have fully advised Sternbuch as requested above.

* * * * * * * *

April 15, 1944
10:10 A.M.
JHMann:db 4/14/44

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

JHMann R.S.L.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 20, 1944

NUMBER: 2510

[redacted]

The following message refers to your number 1269 dated April 13, and to number 1270 also dated April 13, 1944.

The Government of Switzerland has been requested by the Legation to extend protection to Hager and Wachtel whose cases were mentioned in my number 1994 dated March 31 until specifically advised to the contrary and similar action will be taken on cases of this kind in the future. On April 14 we requested the immediate return to Vittel of two hundred and thirty-eight persons.

It is assumed by the Legation that the authority given in the telegram under reference to extend protection to documentation applicants who are awaiting the decision of the Department applies only to such refugee cases and does not alter the customary procedure of withholding protection to ordinary cases which are referred to the Department for decision such as cases of cooperation in the war effort of the enemy, doubtful loyalty, repatriation, first time application, et cetera. In later cases the Legation will continue to request the Swiss representative to withhold protection until the decisions of the Department are received, unless instructed otherwise.

HARRISON

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

DCR:MPL
4/28/44

Wow Refugee
Gl
Mr Pell
1 copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 19, 1944

NUMBER: 2464

[redacted] CONTROL COPY

The following message is sent for the Agudas Israel World Organization (see number 1165 dated April 5, 1944, from the Department) by Sternbuch.

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

The following is for the Department:

According to his knowledge it is stated by Sternbuch that only the Consulates of Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and San Salvador have issued false passports in Switzerland although they have been issued elsewhere in Europe by Consulates of other countries named above.

HARRISON

4/24/44
Message sent to Agudas Israel at request of Mr. Pa Bro
RPA

DCR:MPL
4/20/44

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

RECEIVED
APR 20 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

CORRECTION

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: April 13, 1944

NUMBER: 2297

CONTROL COPY

In line twenty-one of page two of this message delete "o(*)rd" and insert in its place "of record".. The line should then read "are, I suppose, usually of record identity has not been proved al-".

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASH. D.C.
'44 APR 21 AM 9 58

00008

File
Vittel

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 13, 1944

NUMBER: 2297

CONTROL COPY

I have communicated to the Swiss Foreign Minister the substance of your message number 1181 dated April 7.

The Kullman report has not been seen by me as yet. Although your statement was the first official confirmation received, I had private intimations concerning the action of the Government of Paraguay.

An objective review of irregular documentation situation with especial reference to Paraguayan and Dominican Consuls was given in my despatch number 5824 dated August 10, 1943, and first reports regarding difficulties of persons in German occupied territory who had been supplied with this irregular documentation was given in my number 6921 dated December 27.

Many cables on this subject with information of interest have been dispatched since the latter date. Since Kullman did not review the subject in detail with the Legation all of these should be consulted as possibly supplementing the report of Kullman.

As quoted by you the Kullman report appears to imply that the Government of Switzerland without consultation with the Central and South American Governments concerned, has acted unilaterally in these cases. In several cases of which the

Legation

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

Legation has knowledge this assumption does not seem to be borne out by the records. (Kindly refer to the following messages: (1) Number 6087 dated September 30, 1943 from Bern which reported the dismissal of Consul Hugli by the Government of Paraguay; (2) dated October 26, 1943, Department's FFS number 78 which foretold positive action by Peru in renunciation of passports issued irregularly by the Peruvian Consul and instructed consular and diplomatic officers (American) to suspend action on all cases of all visa applicants who presented Peruvian passports; (3) number 2678 dated November 1, 1943 from the Department which reported the dismissal of Consul Bauer by the Dominican Republic.

That the Kullman report is critical also of the authorities of Switzerland in measures they have formerly taken in attempts to suppress traffic in irregular documentation, is the impression conveyed.

Of this irregular documentation probably by far the greater part is in the hands of bona fide refugees from oppression by the Germans. That those who hold such documentation and who are now interned are not (repeat not) suspect may surely be assumed. While the names of persons to whom passports have been issued are, I suppose, usually o(*)rd identity has not been proved although the issue has been widespread without proper control which would appear impracticable in any event.

The authorities of Switzerland have found irregular passports possessed by suspect persons in Switzerland and in one known case at least irregular documentation has been issued by a

foreign

foreign consular officer to an individual in Switzerland to illegally conceal identity. That extortionate fees were being collected was also discovered by the Swiss.

It would seem that the authorities of Switzerland have on the whole been motivated by considerations quite similar to those which occasioned several circular and special instructions from the Department. The dangers inherent in practice especially with reference to the possible involvement of agents of the enemy were pointed out in these instructions. Furthermore, cases were found which were thought to be of immediate concern to the national security of the Swiss. Consequently I do not believe that criticism of the authorities of Switzerland or of remedial action taken by them is justified and it would not be appropriate at the present juncture if the Kullman report actually contained such.

Furthermore, among the Swiss there is no lack of understanding of or sympathy with these victims who might find surcease or means of escape from the oppression of the Nazis by the use of documentation under discussion and I have reason to believe that what it feels it consistently can to alleviate their condition will be done by the Government of Switzerland. It is understood by the Department that the Swiss are required to guide their activities and relations with several beligerents so as not to impair their usefulness as the protecting power for many purposes both difficult and complicated.

4- #2297 from Bern

Vatican activities in behalf of interned Jews were reported in my number 2283 dated April 13 - please refer to that message.

HARRISON

(*) Apparent omission

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED
1944 APR 18 PM 10 46

DCR:MPL
4/17/44

00000

War Refugee Bd
Jan Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMLEGATION, Bern

DATED: April 13, 1944

NUMBER: 1269

CONTROL COPY

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR THE MINISTER.

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

> Upon the receipt from the Swiss Government of all pertinent information available to the Germans relating to any claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within territory under enemy control, the Department will undertake fully to investigate the matter. While any particular claim to United States citizenship is under investigation by the Department and until the Swiss Government is specifically advised to the contrary by the Department, the claimant must be presumed to be a citizen of the United States and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled with the exception that financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended until the Department specifically authorizes such assistance.

The foregoing is in reference to the Department's 1151, April 5, 1944.

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

00008

March 25, 1944

10:40 a.m.

To: Mr. Stettinius

From: J. W. Pehle

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

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

(Signed J. W. Pehle

LSLesser:als 3/24/44

PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

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

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

LS:Lessersals 3/24/44

00004

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: AMLEGATION, BERN

DATED: April 13, 1944

NUMBER: 1270

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made to your 2173 of April 7.

Following the Department's 1221 of April 10, you are requested urgently to approach the Swiss Government at once asking that they take all necessary action to obtain the immediate return to Vittel by the Germans of the 238 persons reported in your 2173 to have been evacuated to some prison. Please report promptly the result of your approach.

HULL

WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHINGTON, D.C. RECEIVED

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

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

Reference is made to your 2173 of April 7.

Following the Department's of April 10, you are requested urgently to approach the Swiss government at once asking that they take all necessary action to obtain the immediate return to Vittel by the Germans of the 238 persons reported in your 2173 to have been evacuated to some prison. Please report promptly the result of your approach.

cc: Sec'y, Abrahamson, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Pehle, Stewart, Central Files, Room 194; Cable Control File, Room 387½.

L.S.L. cleared with JJD.

als 4/11/44

00093

Mr Vitel

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: AMLEGATION, BERN

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATED: APRIL 13, 1944

NUMBER: 2282

X [redacted]

CONTROL COPY

Details of approaches which the Vatican made to various Governments of South America in an attempt to work out relief measures for Jews interned in Germany or German-occupied territory who hold documentation issued by those Governments were supplied to me on April 19 by the Papal Nuncio Bern. Apparently the question of eventual immigration to respective countries in course of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documentation. The following is the substance of the replies.

1. Because of laws forbidding admission, a negative reply was made by Panama with respect to Polish Jews.

2. Both Nicaragua and Costa Rica are disposed to recognize passports which their respective Consuls issued up to eight families which could remain in these Republics only during the war if the families are neither industrialists nor farmers.

3. They would be received in Bolivia.

4. A negative reply was made by Salvador and Guatemala.

5. Instructions to verify and recognize passports have been issued by Chile.

6. Each case would be considered individually by Uruguay.

7. No action could be taken by Haiti.

8/ Passports

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

00094

8. Passports could not be recognized by Peru.

9. Passports could be recognized by Cuba if no objection is made by Great Britain and the United States.

10. Passports of Polish Jews at Vittel have been recognized by Paraguay.

Bolivia and Paraguay are represented in Germany by Spain and the rest of the countries listed above are represented by Switzerland. We assume that they will inform their respective protective powers concerning any action which they take in the future following representations of the American Government.

It is stated by the Nuncio that in the present reportedly aggravated situation of certain victims the Holy See had requested its Madrid representative to ask the Government of Spain to inform the Spanish Ambassador at Berlin of the gravity of peril of Polish Jews who have Paraguayan documentation and to insist to him upon the urgency of effective protection for them.

Information had been received by the Nuncio that the cause of the trouble arose when the proposal was made to exchange these Jews for Germans located in South America. Jews who had Paraguayan passports were included in the list by Germany. A protest was made by Paraguay which stated that the passports had been illegally issued and Paraguay refused to recognize the passports. The Germans withdrew as a result of this and protection was suspended by Spain. I have been further informed by Nuncio that this has been confirmed by International Red Cross which has promised its intervention if an exchange is

objective

objective conditioned on Holy See's action. It is not known to me whether details of this proposal for exchange and its results are given in Kullmann's report quoted in your telegram of April 7, 1944, no. 1181. I discussed with Kullmann the idea of exchange and I urged him to foster it but I had not previously known that the idea had been taken up formally.

HARRISON

RECEIVED
State Department
14 APR 13 AM 10 45

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: April 10, 1944

NUMBER: 1221

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

FOLLOWING FOR MINISTER HARRISON, BERN.

Following our 1181 of April 7 and referring to your 1958 of March 30 and your 1994 of March 31, although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1958 of March 30 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans that this Government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons

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

00097

for persons in German-controlled territory and that in this connection, the United States considers that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries will be eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German Government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States.

For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to our Missions in the Latin American countries concerned. We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information informally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 1994 of March 31.

1944 APR 14 AM 10 54

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
RECEIVED

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN

Following our of April 7 and referring to your 1958 of March 30 and your 1994 of March 31, although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your 1958 of March 30 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

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

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German Government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States.

For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to our Missions in the Latin American countries concerned. We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information informally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 1994 of March 31.

BAksin
LSLesser:als 4/8/44

00009

War Refugee Bd.
Mr Pehle

Regulation
1-A Passports

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 7, 1944

NUMBER: 2194

CONTROL COPY

In the second paragraph of my number 1958 dated March 30 the words "veteran certificates" and also in my number 2163 dated April 7, third paragraph, "Vatican certificates" mean certificates of approval for the permanent immigration to Palestine of individual Jews. The Government of Palestine issued these certificates.

HARRISON

APR 10 1944

DOR:MPL
4/10/44

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To:

(1) MR. LESSER (Room) (Bldg.)

(2) (Room) (Bldg.)

(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

Mr. McCormack called and gave me the following message:

Provost Marshal General confirmed the fact that the 4 names listed below are all carried on their books as their nationals despite the fact that State has never authenticated or disapproved that they are or are not American nationals. The names are:

Nettie, Lieba and Hirach Wachtel.
Malka Hagar.

Refer to 1994 for Bern
(March 31)

From: A. Sheppe 4/10/44 (Date)

(Room) (Bldg.)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

0 0 0 1 0 1

War Ref Bd
Mr Pehle
copy
Files

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 7, 1944

NUMBER: 2173

CONTROL COPY

Communication of the following to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, New York, is desired by Pines, Rosenbaum, Rubinfeld and Sternbuch:

A report that four American citizens and two hundred and thirty four interned South Americans who were the subject of my telegram transmitted through the Department of State (Bern Legation's message number 1994 dated March 31, 1944) were evacuated from the internment camp at Vittel on March 31 to some prison the location of which is unknown, has been received by us. That the Swiss Minister and the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin declined protective offices was also stated in this report. Before it will be too late please intervene with Madrid and Bern.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/8/44

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

000102

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 7, 1944

NUMBER: 2163

[redacted]

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

A summary of a message to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch follows. Please refer to my number 1944 dated March 31, 1944.

1. To report on the situation a courier has been despatched by me to Hungary. It is my suggestion that the possibility of arranging an exchange of Jews in Hungary against German civilians from Africa or other Allied occupied territory be examined by you with the Government of America.

2. Aid us in obtaining Vatican certificates, number unlimited. Lists of thousands of families in Hungary could be telegraphed to Jerusalem by me. A certificate is useful in occupied countries for obtaining internment against exchange up to the present time.

3. Southern American passports for ten thousand families would be another possibility for rescue. Through the consulates of those countries in Switzerland, passports should be handed to us confidentially. Since the receivers would know that these passports are valid only during war time as a means of saving lives, they (passports) could not be misused. Only to well known Rabbis and other reliable persons would passports be given.

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

4.

000103

2- #2163 from Bern

4. Regarding possibilities of rescue I am constantly in touch with Griffel by telegram.

5. To all occupied areas I have extended rescue activities. A courier is now en route with instructions to assist 150 Rabbis and prominent persons although since occupation contact with Lithuania has been interrupted.

The foregoing is signed Pines, Sternbuch, Rosenbaum and Rubinfeld.

HARRISON

DGR:MPL
4/8/44

APR 10 1944

0 0 0 1 0 4

1 - W - Referred to (Mr Pehle)

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

TO: American Legation, Bern

DATED: April 7, 1944

NUMBER: 1181

[redacted] CONTROL COPY Files

The Department has received from London Kullmann's report of his discussions with you, the Swiss authorities, the Polish Minister, the International Red Cross and representatives of voluntary agencies concerning the attitude of Switzerland towards those who assisted Poles, including Polish Jews, in France to obtain passports issued in the names of Latin-American countries, and the attitude of the German authorities with respect to the persons in enemy-controlled areas holding such passports. This Government is approaching the Latin-American Governments and is urgingthem on humanitarian grounds to take no action, at least until after the war, to revoke or cancel such passports or to indicate that they are or may be revoked or cancelled or may be considered ineffective or invalid. As you probably know, the Government of Paraguay has already advised this Government and the Intergovernmental Committee that it has not cancelled and is not considering cancelling such passports issued in its name.

There is some hope that Poles, including Polish Jews, holding such passports will contine to receive more favorable treatment than persons who do not. It is this Government's view that any action that might result in endangering their lives or subjecting

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

000105

subjecting them to transportation or worsening of their condition should be avoided. It is also of the view that all appropriate action calculated to protect the lives and welfare of these persons should be taken.

Accordingly, you are requested to approach appropriate officials of the Swiss Government and advise them of this Government's views. You should request appropriate officials of the Swiss Government to approach the Germans in an effort to induce them to continue to recognize the validity of Latin-American passports held by persons in Vittel and elsewhere unless the Government in whose name the passport has been issued takes affirmative action to cancel or revoke it or deny its validity. In this connection, Kullmann and others report that the Swiss Government has taken legal action against the persons in Switzerland who were instrumental in securing these passports and that the Swiss Government has also undertaken an inquiry regarding the authority of some of the persons who have issued such passports. It is this Government's view, and appropriate Swiss authorities should be so advised, that the validity of the passports in question is not in issue and should not be put in issue by Swiss authorities in the absence of affirmative renunciation by the Latin-American Governments concerned. In any event, it would seem that such action and inquiry might, on humanitarian grounds, if no other, be postponed until after the war, and you should so inform the Swiss Government.

For your information, Kullmann has reported that the Swiss

authorities

000106

authorities are definite that any approach to the Germans would not only be ineffectual but would do more harm than good. This Government cannot agree with that view. The Department and the War Refugee Board have reason to believe and are strongly of the view that it is of the utmost importance and can only help persons subject to enemy persecution that German authorities be kept continuously aware that the treatment of Jews and others in enemy-controlled areas is being followed with the closest attention.

Please keep the Department advised of any develppments in regard to this situation.

APR 9 1944

000107

MAR 16 1944
5:35 p.m.
5:35 p.m.

To: Mr. Warren

From: Lawrence S. Lesser

Herewith a proposed cable to Bern concerning the persons in France holding Latin-American passports. This is in substitution for the proposed cable attached to Mr. Pehle's memorandum to Mr. Stettinius dated February 21, 1944. As you know, this substitution is necessitated by the delay in transmitting the earlier message and the receipt in the interim of No. 1708, 2nd, from London, dated March 2, 1944. The latter was received by the War Refugee Board late in the afternoon of March 14, 1944. The urgency in connection with the attached cable, and the companion cable to various Missions in Latin-America submitted by Mr. Pehle to Mr. Stettinius on March 11 is apparent.

LSLesser:als 3/16/44

000108

PROPOSED CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN

~~This is WRB Cable Bern No. XXX~~

The Department has received from London Kullmann's report of his discussions with you, the Swiss authorities, the Polish Minister, the International Red Cross and representatives of voluntary agencies concerning the attitude of Switzerland towards those who assisted Polish citizens, including Polish Jews, in France to obtain passports issued in the names of Latin-American countries, and the attitude of the German authorities with respect to the persons in enemy-controlled areas holding such passports. This Government is approaching the Latin-American governments and is urging them on humanitarian grounds to take no action, at least until after the war, to revoke or cancel such passports or to indicate that they are or may be revoked or cancelled or may be considered ineffective or invalid. As you probably know, the government of Paraguay has already advised this Government and the Intergovernmental Committee that it has not cancelled and is not considering cancelling such passports issued in its name.

There is some hope that Polish citizens, including Polish Jews, holding such passports will continue to receive more favorable treatment than persons who do not. It is this Government's view that any action that might result in endangering their lives or subjecting them to transportation or other worsening of their condition should be avoided. It is also of the view that all appropriate action calculated to protect the lives and welfare of these persons should be taken.

Accordingly, you are requested to approach appropriate officials of the Swiss government and advise them of this Government's views. You should request appropriate officials of the Swiss government to approach the Germans in an effort to induce them to continue to recognise the validity of Latin-American passports held by persons in Vittel and elsewhere unless the government in whose name the passport has been issued takes affirmative action to cancel or revoke it or deny its validity. In this connection, Kullmann and others report that the Swiss government has taken legal action against the persons in Switzerland who were instrumental in securing these passports and that the Swiss government has also undertaken an inquiry regarding the authority of some of the persons who have issued such passports. It is this Government's view, and appropriate Swiss authorities should be so advised, that the validity of the passports in question is not in issue and should not be put in issue by Swiss authorities in the absence of affirmative renunciation by the Latin-American governments concerned. In any event, it would seem that such action and inquiry might, on humanitarian grounds, if no other, be postponed until after the war, and you should so inform the Swiss government.

[illegible] 3/16/44

0 0 0 1 0 9

For your information, Kullmann has reported that the Swiss authorities are definite that any approach to the Germans would not only be ineffectual but would do more harm than good. This Government cannot agree with that view. The Department and the War Refugee Board have reason to believe and are strongly of the view that it is of the utmost importance and can only help persons subject to enemy persecution that German authorities be kept continuously aware that the treatment of Jews and others in enemy controlled areas is being followed with the closest attention.

Please keep the Department advised of any developments in regard to this situation.

GED L.S.L.
LSLesserials 3/16/44

000110

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle
for info
1 copy only
700

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: April 6, 1944

NUMBER: 2139

CONTROL COPY

[redacted]

US URGENT

The following message is for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis Vaadhahatzala from Sternbuch.

Regarding interned at Vittel, substance was sent to you through the Department of State by the American Legion at Bern in my last report. It is urgently necessary that the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin, who either ignores the interests of Paraguayan citizens or is not watching them well enough, take energetic action. (See Legation's number 1994 dated March 31 for the Department.) Firmness by Spanish Ambassador is urgently necessitated because of the fact that the Geneva ruling against Jews, according to the Red Cross, has been particularly drastic for about three weeks. Kindly take immediate action and urge intervention with the Government of Spain at Madrid by the Paraguayan Government.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/7/44

APR 7 1944

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

000111

TELEGRAM SENT

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

April 5, 1944

Midnight

~~RECORDED~~

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1:53
FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO HARRISON.

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

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

HULL
(GLW)

WRB:GLW:KG
4/3/44

WE ARA SWP

0 0 0 1 1 2

Asst Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle
Copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Legation, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: March 31, 1944

NUMBER: 1994

[redacted]

With reference to the situation of the Jews who reportedly have been interned in Vittel, Isaac Sternbuch has approached the Legation. (Please refer also to my number 1958 dated March 30, 1944.) A total of two hundred and thirty eight persons comprised of children and adults most of whom have obtained documentation of ten Latin American Governments - Peru, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Honduras and others, are involved.

According to Sternbuch interested persons are attempting some kind of remedial action with Government whose officials abroad have issued the false documents which these persons possess. The statement has been made repeatedly that the State Department has interested itself and is urging the Governments concerned to find some means of alleviation either by assuming complete recognition of nationality or by assuming responsibility in some other way for the victimized persons. Kindly inform me if this report is authentic. We have now clandestinely received information that largely because of some alleged action by the Spanish Embassy in Berlin as the protecting power of the Paraguayans, these persons are about to be or already have been removed elsewhere by the German authorities.

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

000113

authorities. The Swiss Foreign Interests Division has told me informally that the Government of Spain had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bonafides not only of the Paraguayans but of all suspected claims and that other Governments denied responsibility and claims. However there is not available to me a complete picture of the affair.

The following four persons who claim U.S. nationality are contained in the list of internees concerned: Nettie and Lieba Wachtel, Malka Hagar and Hirsch. According to the records of the Legation, applications for documentation of Nettie and Lieba Wachtel and Hirsch as American citizens were submitted to the Department. In a list received from the Swiss authorities and transmitted to the Department as Legation's dispatch 6037 dated September 3, Malka Hager was reported as an American citizen. We have not yet received the Department's decisions concerning citizenship claims of these persons.

Interested Jewish circles in Switzerland and Sternbuch are fearful of the fate awaiting the above described group and believe that it may be possible to arrange with authorities of Germany an exchange of Germans who may at present be in North and South America for members of this group. Such arrangements it is realized would require time for negotiations and meantime pending submission of such proposal to German authorities it is Sternbuch's hope that the German authorities might be prevailed upon to postpone any summary action

000114

action by which the group would be affected. The possibility that the Department might be willing to telegraph the American Embassy at Madrid asking it to communicate with the Spanish Foreign Office with a view to appropriately communicating with the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin in the premises, was therefore suggested to the Legation by Sternbuch. Sternbuch further suggested that in such an arrangement the Spanish Ambassador in Berlin might be asked to request the authorities of Germany to withhold any action until there could be an investigation of the possibility of arrangements for exchange against the Germans.

Accordingly Sternbuch's proposal is being submitted to the Department by me. Urgency is stressed by Sternbuch. That representations may also have been made in London to the International Committee and possibly in Washington too, I have reason to believe.

Until the status of the Hager and Wachtel cases is definitely determined I am requesting the authorities of Switzerland to ask the Germans to take no action.

My despatch number 6921 dated December 28, sent to the Department in microfilm number 33 reported the developments reported in the foregoing.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/1/44

0 0 0 1 1 3

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: The American Minister, Bern

TO: The Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: March 30, 1944

NUMBER 1958

CONTROL COPY

Files

[redacted] in substance

There follows a summary of a message to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis from Sternbuch - refers to Department's message dated March 25, number 1012.

From two hundred and thirty eight Jews interned in the American camp in Vittel an urgent appeal has been received. Distinguished Rabbis who were saved a year ago by receiving various South American passports are included in this group. Paraguay and some states, but not others, recognized these passports. On the grounds that they possess merely accommodation passports and are not eligible for exchange these people on March 20 were isolated for deportation.

That most of the persons in this group were included in the U. S. War Department's exchange list was written by Schabse Frenkel of 113 Wilson Street in Brooklyn to his parents in Vittel. For a protecting power to officially inform the Germans that an exchange is being prepared for these people, is the only chance of saving them. Since all of these persons have veteran certificates and could go to Palestine from Lisbon they will be no burden to the United States in case the exchange is effected.

Consideration

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

000110

2- #1958 from Bern

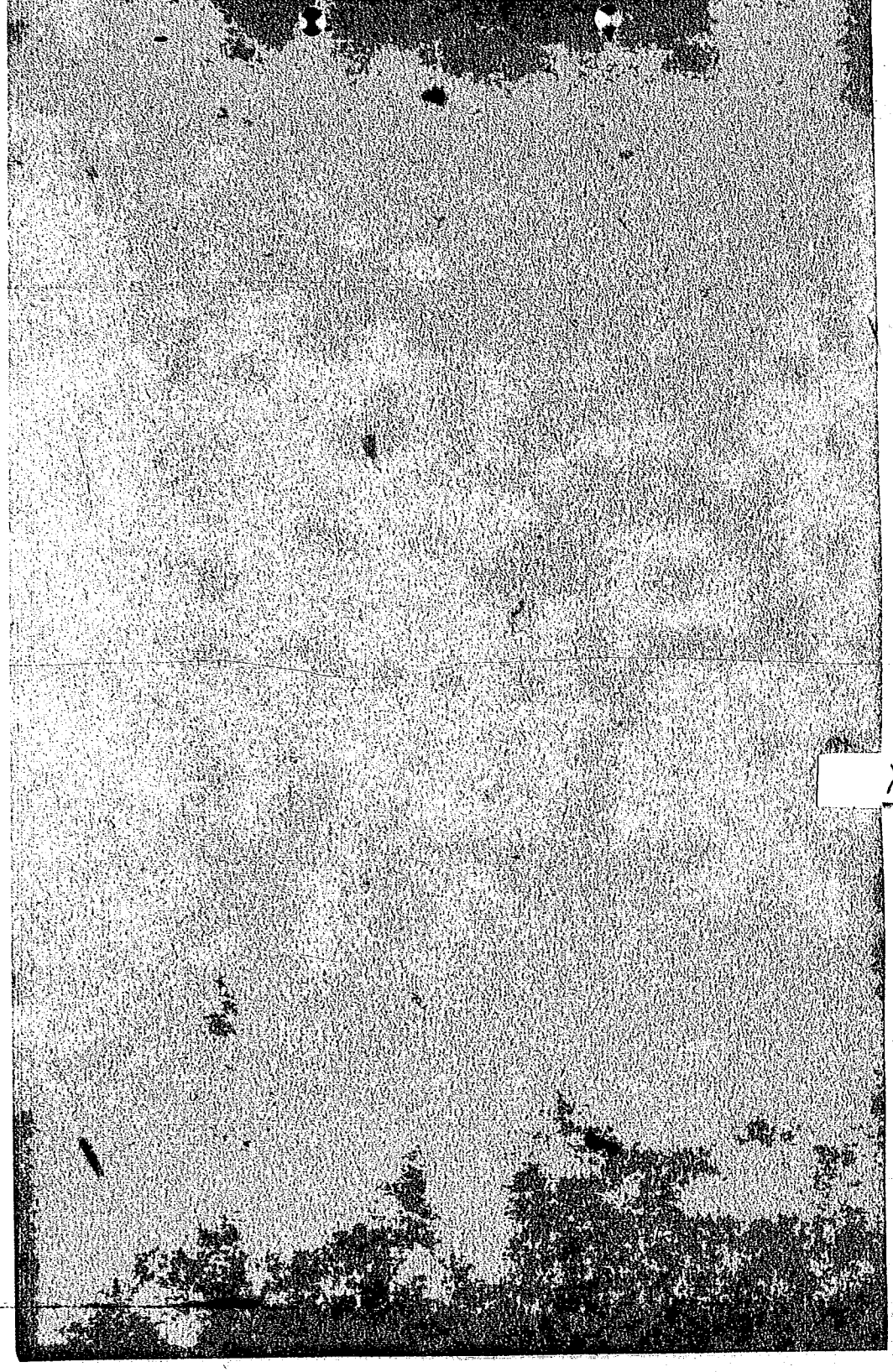
Consideration should also be given to the rescue of another few thousand (besides the Vittel group) of distinguished persons who are interned at Tittmoning and other camps. We have little news of them and have received no appeal.

A means of preventing deportation would be a few hundred Germans in Texas and their wives in Cuba who are awaiting exchange. The foregoing is number 5665 and it was signed by thefollowing: Sternbuch, Vaadha Hatzala, Pines, Rubenfeld and Rosenbaum.

HARRISON

DCR:MPL
4/1/44

000117



X

0 0 0 1 1 8

Recognition of S.A. Passports

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RS-1785
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. ~~(RESTRICTED)~~

Ankara

Dated November 29, 1944

Rec'd. 10:07 p.m.

1944 NOV 30 PM 2 19

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State

Washington

2272, November 29, 7 p.m.

FROM KATZKI TO PEHLE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Ankara's No. 195

The State Department radio bulletin of November 17 number 277 included a general request for the names and other data regarding persons alleging the possession of American citizenship now interned at Bergen-Belsen. We have been advised that the representatives of the Jewish agency and the Agudath Israel in Switzerland might have such information as well as that regarding the holders of South American passports. Accordingly, I have requested the Istanbul representatives of these organizations to telegraph their delegates in Geneva to deliver to McClelland in Switzerland such information as they might have. The representatives are for the Jewish agency Dr. Chaim Pozner, Palestine office of the Jewish agency, 8 Rue Petitot, Geneva, and for the Agudath Israel Maitre Mathieu

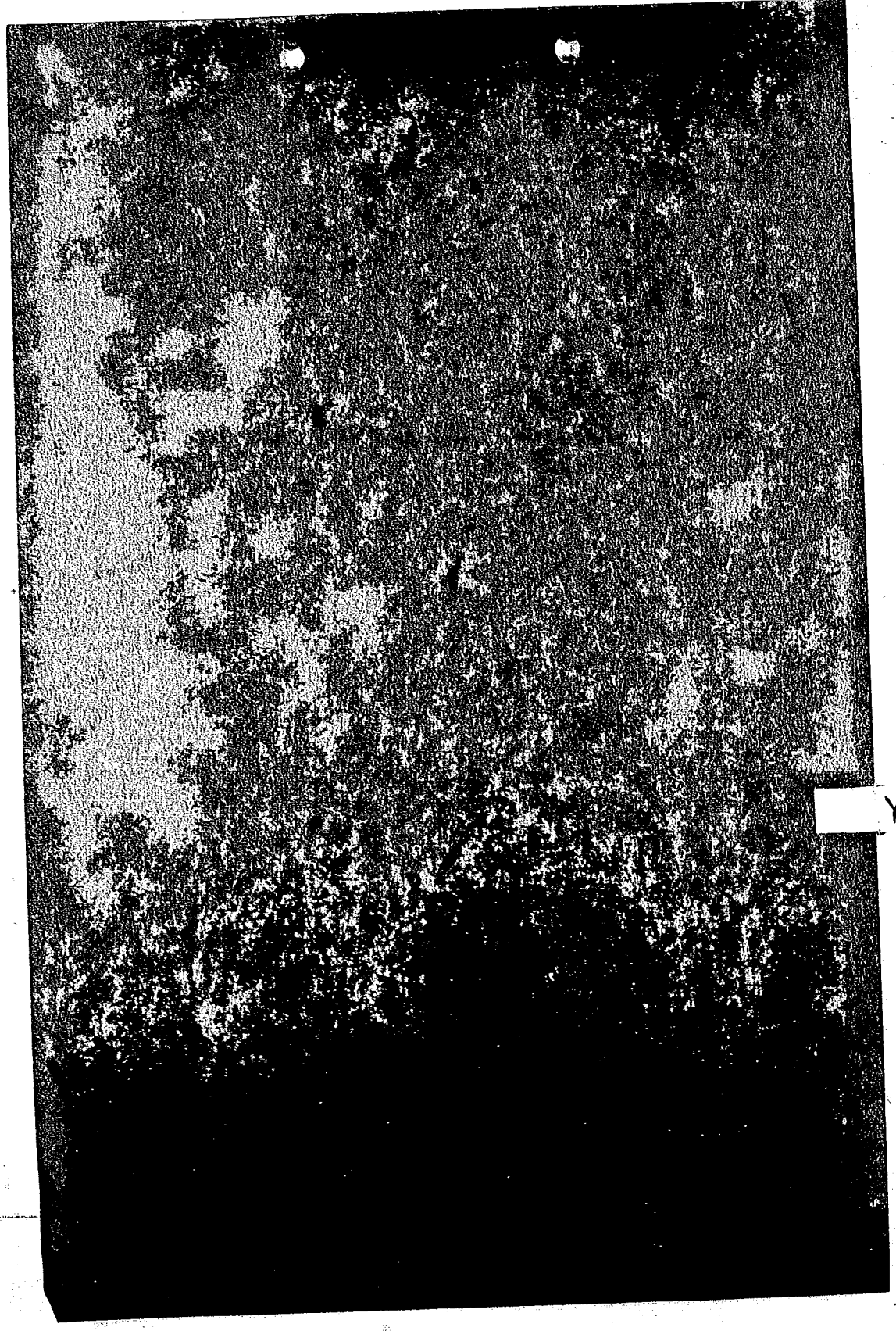
RS-#2272, November 29, 7 p.m. from Ankara

Israel Maitre Mathieu Muller, Rue de Deux Ponts 30, Geneva.

You might wish to advise McClelland to follow up on these matters.

STEINHARDT

WMB


Y

Secret

A- 448

8:10 p.m.

Oct. 3, 1944

AMEMBASSY

MONTEVIDEO

CONTROL COPY

1944 OCT 10 34

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Rabbi Aaron Milefsky, 896 Soriano, Montevideo, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz;

QUOTE As per last alarming information received by us the Germans placed more than one hundred bearers of Paraguayan documents formerly in Vittel under jurisdiction of Gestapo and probably deported them to annihilation camp at Auschwitz. Please arrange influential delegation to Paraguay and make strong representations that Paraguayan Government should instruct their ambassador at Madrid to request good offices of Spain to strongly protest against evacuation of those people from camp for civilian internees and energetically demand to grant them the same rights, privileges, and immunities which Germans expect for their nationals. Paraguay should make it clear to Germany that should any harm befall these persons Germany would be held strictly accountable for every life. The Paraguayan ambassador at Madrid should diligently and constantly follow up this matter until he will obtain positive results. For your information United States Government is doing utmost to save these people, but Paraguay's direct action is vital. Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz. UNQUOTE

HULL

WRB:HMV:KG
9/30/44

RPA

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

000123

AIRGRAM TO AMEMBASSY, MONTIVIDEO, URUGUAY

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Rabbi Aaron Milefsky, 896 Soriamno, Montivideo, from Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz:

QUOTE As per last alarming information received by us the Germans placed more than one hundred bearers of Paraguayan documents formerly in Vittel under jurisdiction of Gestapo and probably deported them to annihilation camp at Auschwitz. Please arrange influential delegation to Paraguay and made streng representations that Paraguayan Government should instruct their ambassador at Madrid to request good offices of Spain to strongly protest against evacuation of these people from camp for civilian internees and energetically demand to grant them the same rights, privileges, and immunities which Germans expect for their nationals. Paraguay should make it clear to Germany that should any harm befall these persons Germany would be held strictly accountable for every life. The Paraguayan ambassador at Madrid should diligently and constantly follow up this matter until he will obtain positive results. For your information United States Government is doing utmost to save these people, but Paraguay's direct action is vital.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ UNQUOTE

4:30 p.m.
September 28, 1944

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

Copy sent to Vaad Hatzalah 9/29/44 RS

RAkzin:LSLesser:tmh 9-26-44 L. S. L.

000123

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE REctor 2-4235

September 22, 1944.

MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED TO RABBI AARON MILEFSKY
896 SORIANNO , MONTIVIDEO URUGUAY THROUGH THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY IN URUGUAY.

AS PER LAST ALARMING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY US THE GERMANS PLACED ~~THE~~ more than one hundred BEARERS OF PARAGUAYAN DOCUMENTS FORMERLY IN VITTEL UNDER JURISIDCTION OF GESTAPO AND PROBABLY DEPORTED THEM TO ANNIHILATION CAMP AT AUSCHWITZ, ~~STOP IMPERATIVE YOU~~ Please ARRANGE INFLUENTIAL DELEGATION ~~TO~~ TO PARAGUAY AND MAKE STRONG Re PRESENTATION THAT PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD INSTRUCT THEIR AMBASSADOR AT MADRID TO REQUEST GOOD OFFICES OF SPAIN TO STRONGLY PROTEST AGAINST EVACUATION OF THESE PEOPLE FROM CAMP FOR CIVILIAN INTERNEES AND ENERGETICALLY DEMAND TO GRANT THEM THE SAME RIGHTS PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHICH GERMANS EXPECT FOR THEIR NATIONALS. PARAGUAY SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO GERMANY THAT SHOULD ANY HARM BEFALL THESE PERSONS GERMANY WOULD BE HELD STRICTLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR EVERY LIFE. THE PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR AT MADRID SHOULD DILIGENTLY AND CONSTANTLY FOLLOW UP THIS MATTER UNTIL HE WILL OBTAIN POSITIVE RESULTS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION STATE DEPARTMENT AND WAR REFUGEE BOARD HAVE DONE UTMOST TO SAVE THESE PEOPLE AND ARE ALSO NEGOTIATING EXCHANGE ON BEHALF OF PARAGUAY BUT PARAGUAY'S DIRECT ACTION IS VITAL

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

00124

ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA
(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)
132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

September 22, 1944.

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

Honorable Sir:

I refer to our conference of Thursday September 14th, at which we discussed a message to go to Rabbi Milefsky in Uruguay in the matter of the group formerly held in Vittel. I enclose copy of the message, and would respectfully request that this message be transmitted with the greatest dispatch.

May I also ask you to please advise me whether you have any information for us as to the several matters we discussed in our conference on Thursday. We are sure you appreciate our anxiety in those matters.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000125

Vittex X

PLAIN

June 17, 1944

DR. ALBERTO GUANI, PRESIDENT,

EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR

POLITICAL DEFENSE,

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY.

I have the honor to acknowledge Your Excellency's communication of May 31, transmitting to me a copy of the resolution adopted by the Committee on that date.

I note that this resolution proposes that the American Republics concert and intensify their efforts to rescue from German hands some thousands of oppressed minorities holding non-European documentation; that this be done by joint proposals to exchange German nationals from the American Republics for these persecuted groups; and that such exchanges can be achieved consistently with security considerations surrounding exchanges previously formulated by your Committee in the interests of hemispheric defense.

My Government will be most happy to participate actively in such an inter-American program. In company with some of its sister republics and other governments it has been giving intensive consideration to this problem. The direction and stimulus the Committee's resolution provides for the development of a joint program of larger proportions is most welcome, and is in line with those great humanitarian concepts for which the American Republics stand.

I extend to you and your distinguished colleagues the assurances of my highest consideration.

CORDELL HULL
Secretary of State of the United States of America
(AAB)

ARA:LAK:LMS SWP WRG
6-17-44

cc: Abramson, Axtin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Mac'y, Loughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Manson, Marks, McCormack, Sargent, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, R. D. White, Zabin, Vilas

000120

War Refugee Bd
Mr Pehle

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Montevideo

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATED: June 16, 1944

NUMBER: 570

CONTROL COPY

1. Instructions substantially as suggested in circular airgram of May 11 were cabled to the Uruguayan Minister in Bern yesterday by the Foreign Office.

2. Sparks was orally informed by the undersecretary that the Department's approaching the German Government to initiate negotiations for exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible is approved by Uruguay.

3. There has not been received from Spain any inquiries regarding validity of documents. No information has been received by Foreign Office of any inquiries made by the Vatican. Should such inquiries be made, persons holding such documents will be presumed to be citizens of Uruguay, their status to be determined at a later date.

4. There have been received from International Red Cross inquiries regarding seven persons at Compiegne and fifteen at Vittel. When made, the reply will indicate that they are presumed to be citizens of Uruguay.

There was a delay in answering the Department's telegram of June 10, 1944 No. 335 because the Foreign Office official handling the matter was ill.

DAWSON

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

000127

TOP SECRET RECEIVED

American Embassy, Montevideo

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: May 17, 1944

NUMBER: 457

X [redacted]

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

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

DAWSON

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

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

000128

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Refugee Bd (Mr. Pehle)

[redacted] BY COURIER

A-194

3:55 p.m. SENT BY [redacted] AIRGRAM May 1, 1944

AMEMBASSY

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [redacted] AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 3 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

With reference to the Department's circular airgrams of March 31, April 11 and April 22 the Department and War Refugee Board are informed that a certain number of Jews, mostly of Polish origin, now in German-controlled territory, hold passports and consular documents issued in the name of Uruguay. It is requested therefore that you attempt to obtain cooperation of Uruguayan authorities in American efforts to save these people in the same manner in which the cooperation of other Latin American countries has been requested, whose documents are found to have been issued to Jews in German-held territory.

Department understands that Vatican had also attempted to work out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory holding Uruguayan documents. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Uruguay is reported to have replied that each case would be considered individually.

Please verify above information and emphasize that Department's request does not (repeat not) involve immigration but on the contrary, contains

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

00129

A-194

3:55 p.m.

May 1, 1944

Montevideo

~~contrary~~, contains assurances that Uruguay will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. Accordingly, we hope that Uruguay, in the interests of humanity, will postpone any questioning of said documents, meanwhile requesting Germans to accord holders treatment to which Uruguayans are entitled, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material for German nationals held in this hemisphere provided such holders of Uruguayan passports are sent to havens elsewhere than in Uruguay.

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

Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

WRB:CLW:CMH ARA RPA HULL

5/2/44

000130

AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY AT MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Department and War Refugee Board are informed that a certain number of Jews, mostly of Polish origin, now in German-controlled territory, hold passports and consular documents issued in the name of Uruguay. It is requested therefore that you attempt to obtain cooperation of Uruguayan authorities in American efforts to save these people in the same manner in which the cooperation of other Latin American countries has been requested, whose documents are found to have been issued to Jews in German-held territory.

To this end, circular airgrams of March 31, 1:05 p.m., of April 10, 11:00 a.m., and of _____ are being repeated to you, and you are requested to take action in accordance therewith.

Department understands that Vatican had also attempted to work out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory holding Uruguayan documents. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Uruguay is reported to have replied that each case would be considered individually.

Please verify above information and emphasize that Department's request does not (repeat not) involve immigration but, on the contrary, contains assurances that Uruguay will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. Accordingly, we hope that Uruguay, in the interests of humanity, will postpone any questioning of said documents, meanwhile requesting Germans to accord holders treatment to which Uruguayans are entitled, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material.

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

Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

****
April 25, 1944
4:15 p.m.

BAksin:jp 4/25/44

00013

Z

3 War Refugees
B & Gen

[redacted]

[redacted]

Caracas, October 13, 1944

No. 6583

Subject: Protection of Bearers of Venezuelan Documents in Territory Occupied by Germany.

3 WRB
3 War Refugee Board (Gen)
1 War (Gen Bundy)

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's secret circular airgram of September 18, 8:15 a.m., entitled "Safeguarding of Lives of American Republics Document Holders", I have the honor to furnish the following information which has been supplied in strict confidence by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in response to representations made by this Embassy as instructed in the airgram above-cited:

1. The Ministry stated that it had notified the Swiss Government through the Venezuelan Chargé d'Affaires at Bern by cable that the Venezuelan Government ratifies the lists described in the memorandum of this Embassy of September 23, 1944, in so far as concerns persons named in Venezuelan documents.

2. The Foreign Office expressed the appreciation of the Venezuelan Government of the offer of the State Department with regard to protecting the said persons and is in agreement that the lists mentioned be delivered to the Swiss authorities for the consequent purposes.

Respectfully yours,

Frank P. Corrigan

Frank P. Corrigan

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Strictly Confidential Memorandum No. 1872, September 23, 1944, left at Foreign Office.
2. Copy of Strictly Confidential Memorandum from Foreign Office (No. 2796 of October 13, 1944).

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

CONTROL COPY

548

JF:ces

000133

AIR MAIL

Enclosure No. 1, Despatch No. 6583, October 13, 1944, from the American Embassy, Caracas.

[redacted]

No. 1572

MEMORANDUM

The Embassy of the United States of America has the honor to refer to the Ministry's esteemed Memorandum No. 2161 (Confidential) of August 3, 1944 and to furnish below certain additional information which has been received from the Department of State with regard to values of documents of nationality of the American Republics in German controlled territory:

The United States Government, at the suggestion of the Swiss Government, is endeavoring to compile lists of such values for transmission to the German Government. In this connection the State Department mentioned that disturbed war communications have interfered with communications between the Governments of the American Republics and their European Missions, resulting in incomplete records which make the compilation of such lists difficult. However, to assist the Swiss in this matter, the Department of State suggested to the United States Legation at Bern that it endeavor to obtain, with the aid of local representatives of organizations that have records on the subject, lists that are as complete as possible with the view to transmitting them to the Swiss authorities.

In the

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

00134

AIR MAIL

In the foregoing connection, the Department of State suggests that the Governments of the other American Republics be informed of the urgent desirability of confirming to the Swiss authorities the authenticity of such lists and the State Department has expressed the hope that, in view of the humanitarian consideration involved, the Venezuelan Government, for its part, may be willing to confirm the authenticity of the list submitted by the United States Legation at Bern in so far as bearers of Venezuelan documents may be concerned. The State Department reiterated that the assurances previously given on behalf of the United States Government that the Venezuelan Government will not be expected to grant physical admission to the persons involved and that no objection will be raised to an examination by the Venezuelan Government of the status of such persons once they are safe from enemy persecution fully apply to the persons whose names will be included in the lists envisaged.

The State Department has also stated that, in the event of the completion of the list of holders of documents issued in the name of the Venezuelan Government or of other persons under enemy control to whom it desires to give protection, the United States Government will be glad to extend to such persons the benefit of its activities intended to safeguard their lives and will, if desired by the Venezuelan Government, gladly transmit any such list to the Swiss Government.

Caracas, September 23, 1944.

JF:ces

00 13

AIR MAIL

Enclosure No. 2, Despatch No. 6583, October 13, 1944,
from the American Embassy, Caracas.

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Dirección de Política Internacional
Sección de Relaciones Internacionales
No. 2796

~~Memorandum especial postal~~

MEMORANDUM

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores tiene a bien referirse al atento memorándum de la Honorable Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América, identificado con el número 1572, de fecha 22 del mes de septiembre último, relativo a ciertos informes adicionales sobre personas previstas de documentos de nacionalidad de las República enemigas, residentes en territorios ocupados por Alemania.

En relación con ese asunto, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores ha notificado al Gobierno de Suiza, por conducto del Encargado de Negocios de Venezuela en Berna y por vía telegráfica, que el Gobierno Nacional publica las listas a que se refiere el citado memorándum, en los referentes a ciudadanos de documentos venezolanos.

Al propio tiempo, el Gobierno de Venezuela estima el ofrecimiento del Departamento de Estado sobre protección de las mencionadas personas, y está de acuerdo en que las mencionadas listas sean entregadas a las autoridades suizas, para los fines consiguientes.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores aprovecha la información que tuvo a bien comunicarle la Honorable Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América.

Caracas: 13 de octubre de 1944.

LEI/enp

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

00130

CONTROL COPY 2

AIRGRAM

[redacted] - by Courier

FROM

Caracas

Dated August 22, 1944

Rec'd August 25, 5 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1944

A-708, August 22, 9:15 a.m.

Department's circular airgram (secret) August 3, 11 a.m. concerning safeguarding lives of American Republics document holders and representation of interests in Hungary.

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.

At the same time the Foreign Office confirmed the information furnished in despatch No. 6374 of August 18 (then supplied by Mr. Foinquinos) to the effect that the Venezuelan

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

000137

Venezuelan Government has authorized its Legation at 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.

The Foreign Office expects to know within a short time the result of the request made to the Swiss Federal Political Department and has stated that it will keep me informed of the developments of the negotiations in this regard.

FLACK

JF:er

000138

AIRGRAM

[redacted]

by Courier

FROM

Caracas

Dated August 19, 1944

Rec'd August 25, 20 am

CONTROL COPY
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-701, August 19, 12:30 p.m.

Referring to secret despatch No. 5861 of May 9, 1944 concerning protection for the bearers of Venezuelan passports, Foreign Office has informed me under date of August 17, 1944 that the Swiss Legation in Caracas has just informed the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the Federal Political Department at Bern has informed the German Government of the emphatic statement of the Venezuelan Government that passports issued by its officials to persons resident in Germany and German-occupied territories should be respected, whatever their religious beliefs may be.

FLACK

JF:er

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

000134

AIRGRAM

FROM

Caracas

Dated May 20, 1944

Rec'd May 25 3pm

Secretary of State,

Washington,

A-453, May 20, 1:40 p.m., [redacted] - BY COURIER

Department's secret circular airgram May 11, 7:30 p.m.

In conversation at Foreign Office this morning Acting Foreign Minister reiterated Venezuela's desire to be as helpful as possible in matter of assisting in protection of refugees in territory under German domination and referred to information previously furnished by Foreign Office and communicated to Department in my secret despatch No. 5881 of May 9, 1944. I then informed the Ministry of the urgency of representations in Madrid by his Government supporting representations made by our own Embassy there on the various aspects of the problem as previously explained to the Venezuelan Foreign Office. The acting Foreign Minister expressed his more sympathetic interest and promised to give this matter urgent attention. I shall continue to report developments.

CORRIGAN

FPC:JF:er

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

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

000140

[redacted] - By Courier CONTROL COPY

No. 5881 Caracas, May 9, 1944

Subject: Venezuelan Government requests respect for its passports in Germany or territory occupied by its troops.

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

Sir:

With reference to the Department's secret airgram No. A-245 of May 2, 3:25 p.m., and to my secret airgram No. A-381, May 2, 3:13 p.m., I have the honor to enclose a copy and translation of a strictly confidential memorandum of May 8, 1944, which has just been received from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, confirming the information previously submitted by me regarding the favorable attitude of the Venezuelan Government in protecting the bearers of its passports in certain European areas. The enclosed copy of the memorandum cited reveals that the matter has been taken up through the Swiss Government which has been requested to make a telegraphic reply of the result, and adds certain information given by the Foreign Office to the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees and to the Belgian Legation here. Further developments will be reported promptly to the Department.

Respectfully yours,

Frank P. Corrigan

Enclosures:

1. Copy of strictly confidential memorandum of May 8, 1944, from the Acting Foreign Minister.

2. Translation of enclosure No. 1.

548

JF:er

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

8009/
PS/SD

000141

AIR MAIL

Enclosure 1, Despatch No. 5881, Embassy, Caracas,
May 8, 1944.

COPY

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE VENEZUELA
MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Dirección de Política Internacional
Sección de Relaciones Interamericanas

No. 1293

~~Personal y Confidencial~~

Memorándum

El Encargado del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores tiene a honra referirse a la gestión efectuada verbalmente el 15 de abril último por el Excelentísimo Señor Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América, acerca de los titulares de pasaportes venezolanos residentes en territorio ocupado por el Eje en Europa. También hace referencia al memorándum estrictamente confidencial dirigido posteriormente a la Cancillería.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores ha pedido al Departamento Político Federal en Berna que exprese al Gobierno alemán la firme esperanza de que serán respetados los pasaportes de los ciudadanos venezolanos, y cualesquier otros expedidos por funcionarios del Gobierno de Venezuela, sea cual fuere el credo religioso de aquéllos que los posean, siendo residan en Alemania o en territorios ocupados por sus tropas. Asimismo le participó que atribuye el más alto precio a esa manifestación y que estimaría se le comunicara por vía cablegráfica el resultado de las gestiones.

Recientemente el Comité Intergubernamental de Refugiados presentó al Gobierno de Venezuela una solicitud en favor de polacos y otros europeos expuestos a persecuciones de las autoridades nazis. Respondióse al Comité que las autoridades competentes de Venezuela no dictarían, durante la guerra, medidas destinadas a anular pasaportes venezolanos que excepcionalmente hayan obtenido las personas que están en esas circunstancias.

Seguridades análogas dió la Cancillería a la Legación de Bélgica en Caracas, en contestación a una solicitud sobre protección de ciudadanos belgas que pudieran encontrarse en la misma situación.

Caracas: 8 de mayo de 1944.

MEM/cnp

COPY -er

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

000142

AIR MAIL

Enclosure 2, Despatch No. 5861, Embassy, Caracas,
May 8, 1944.

Translation

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Direction of International Policy
Section of Inter-American Affairs

No. 1358

~~Strictly Confidential~~

Memorandum

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs has the honor to refer to the oral representation on April 15 last by his Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America, concerning the bearers of Venezuelan passports resident in territory occupied by the Axis in Europe. Reference is also made to the strictly confidential memorandum addressed subsequently to the Chancellery.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has requested the Federal Political Department at Bern to express to the German Government the firm hope that the passports of Venezuelan citizens will be respected, and any others issued by officials of the Venezuelan Government, whatever the religious beliefs of the bearers might be, when they reside in Germany or in territory occupied by its troops. It was likewise communicated to it that the greatest importance is attributed to this statement and that it would be appreciated if the result of the representations would be communicated by cable.

Recently the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees presented to the Government of Venezuela a petition in favor of the Poles and other Europeans exposed to persecution of the Nazi authorities. The Committee was informed in reply that the competent Venezuelan authorities would not issue, during the war, measures designed to annul Venezuelan passports obtained exceptionally by persons in these circumstances.

Analagous assurances were given by the Chancellery to the Belgian Legation in Caracas, in reply to an appeal for protection of Belgian citizens who might find themselves in the same situation.

Caracas, May 8, 1944.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

000143

CONTROL COPY

5 - War Refugee Bd (Mr Pehle)

SECRET

A-245

3:25 pm.

May 3, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 4 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

AMEMBASSY,

CARACAS (VENEZUELA).

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

The results reported in your A-323 of April 15 are very gratifying to the Department and the War Refugee Board. The appreciation of this Government of the attitude of the Venezuelan authorities should be conveyed to them. At the same time kindly find out if an affirmative approach has yet been made through the protecting power. Please urge immediate action if this has not (repeat not) occurred.

Hull

HULL

(glm)

WRB:MAV:KG

ARA

5/1/44

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

000144

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR CORRIGAN AT CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Department and War Refugee Board very gratified results reported in your A-323 of April 15. Please convey Venezuelan authorities this Government's appreciation of their attitude. Simultaneously, please ascertain whether affirmative approach through protecting power has yet been made. If not,(repeat not), please urge immediate action.

****

May 1, 1944

10:50 A.M.

Ba. L.S.L.

BAkzin:jp 4/29/44

0 0 0 1 4 3

CONTROL COPY

KEM

BY [redacted] COURIER

AIRGRAM

Caracas

Dated May 2, 1944

Rec'd 8 a.m., 8th.

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-381, May 2, 3:15 p.m.

Department's secret circular airgram April 22, 7:30 p.m. for the Ambassador concerning internees in German occupied territory holding South American passports.

In supplementation of the action reported in my secret airgram No. A-323, April 15, 3:10 p.m., I have again spoken personally with the Foreign Minister in the sense of the circular airgram of April 22, above cited, who informed me that his Government is taking active measures along the lines indicated and that as soon as he had further details in this connection he would inform me.

He added that the Venezuelan Government had no precise information regarding the number of Venezuelan passports which might have been issued in Europe and reiterated his previous statement that these passports would not be invalidated by the Venezuelan Government.

CORRIGAN

FPC:JF:fkf

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

CONTROL COPY

AIRGRAM

BY [redacted]T COURIER

FROM

Caracas

Dated April 15, 1944

Rec'd Apr 22 4p

[redacted]

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-323, April 15, 3:10 p.m.

Having memorized the contents of Department's airgram of April 11, I took advantage of the first opportunity to discuss these matters orally with the Venezuelan Foreign Minister. I found him to be quite conversant with the situation and in entire sympathy with our aims. Dr. Parra-Perez informed me that he had already been approached on this subject by representatives of the Refugee Committee in London and the Belgium Government. He expressed approval of our desire to initiate negotiations for exchange on the basis indicated and promised full Venezuelan cooperation.

He said that he had received no inquiries through either Spanish or Swiss channels as to the validity of Venezuelan passports held by internees in occupied countries. He assured me that his Government would not "invalidate" any such passports even though under the strict letter of Venezuelan law

governing

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

00014

A-323, April 15, 3:10 p.m. [redacted]

governing issuance of passports their revalidation should become necessary by lapse of time. He also promised me that his government would affirmatively approach the German Government through the protecting power with a demand that the rights of individuals holding Venezuelan passports or claiming citizenship on the basis of consular documents be respected.

CORRIGAN

FPC:gw

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

0 0 0 1 4 8