

Programs with Respect to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees: Permanent
Resettlement

Mexico



CONTROL COPY

War Refugee Bd
(Press)

Mexico, D. F., August 24, 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FIRST PRIORITY
No. 19,677

Subject: With Further Reference to the Proposed Establishment by Mexico of a Port of Refuge for Refugees from Europe for the Duration of the War.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatches No. 19,191 of August 3, No. 19,249 of August 5, and No. 19,376 of August 9, in which I reported upon the proposed establishment by Mexico of a port of refuge for refugees from enemy-occupied countries in Europe for the duration of the war. I now have to supplement the information already transmitted by the following:

In order to determine the progress of the conversations which Messrs. Waldman and Landau were having with the Ministry of Gobernación, I requested them to call on me on Sunday, August 20. They informed me that things were apparently going well, but slowly, and that certain details which it seemed desirable to have fully clear before they left Mexico City for the south were not yet ironed out. They said that they had not yet seen the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán, but that they had seen the Official Mayor, in that Ministry, Mr. Casas Alemán, and were to see him again early this week. Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau stated that they were naturally very anxious to proceed on their visit to other countries of South America. I told them that I thoroughly appreciated this but that things generally moved slowly in Mexico and they indicated their appreciation of this. I asked them to keep me informed if things did not go adequately well this week, and I would take up the matter with the Minister of Foreign Relations.

During a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Relations on August 22, I called attention to the visit of Messrs. Waldman and Landau here and said that there were some details still to be worked out with the Ministry of Gobernación and that in view of the fine gesture of the Mexican Government through its announced

intention/

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
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intention of establishing a port of refuge, I advised that the remaining details would soon be worked out. The Minister, Dr. Padilla, who has taken a very understanding interest in this matter, immediately got in touch by telephone with the Minister of Gobernación Mr. Alemán, and expressed the hope that whatever details remained to be worked out could be completed rapidly. The Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán, replied that all the details had been approved and that Messrs. Waldman and Landau could proceed with the assurance that "all was settled".

I saw Messrs. Waldman and Landau again on August 23, and informed them of the foregoing. They said that they had word late in the afternoon preceding that the Ministry of Gobernación had sent a note to the Ministry for Foreign Relations to the effect that the Ministry would appreciate the Ministry of Foreign Relations instructing the Mexican Consul in Bern, Switzerland, to accept from Mr. Poly Mayer at St. Gallen in Switzerland, a list of the names to whom Mexican certificates were to be issued, and that the number of such certificates which the Mexican Consul was authorized to issue would be four hundred.

Last evening I communicated with the Under Secretary of Foreign Relations, Dr. Tello, who informed me that in fact the Ministry had received such a request from the Ministry of Gobernación and had sent a telegram that afternoon to the Mexican Consul in Bern in the above sense. I expressed to the Under Secretary appreciation for the action of the Ministry.

I brought the foregoing to the attention of Messrs. Waldman and Landau, who are very much pleased, and who feel now that their visit to Mexico in this connection on behalf of the War Refugee Board has been a complete success. This was the final detail in connection with the port of refuge which it was necessary to have verified by the Mexican Government. Now that this step has been taken, it would appear that every appropriate step towards the establishment of a port of refuge has been taken by the Mexican Government.

I may say in this connection that Messrs. Waldman and Landau carried through their mission here with discretion and understanding. I have been of all possible help to them in connection with this matter, and they have shown understanding appreciation of the efforts which the Embassy has made.

Respectfully yours,

GSM/ser
848

George B. Messersmith

(To the Department in duplicate)

Times Herald

AUG 23 1944

Mexico to Permit War Exiles to Stay

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 (N. Y. News).—Miguel Aleman, Mexico's minister of the interior, has given assurance that refugees coming to Mexico on visas for the duration of the war will be permitted to remain as permanent residents if they desire, it was disclosed here today.

1045

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

August 9, 1944

On August 8 Mr. Leavitt called me from Mexico City concerning the reported Mexican proposal to admit Jewish refugees. Leavitt stated that he had discussed the matter with Landau and Waldman and also with Ambassador Messersmith. Leavitt also stated that he hoped to be able to see the Minister of Interior very shortly to discuss the matter with him.

Leavitt said that he thought it would be most helpful at this time if the War Refugee Board would send some message of congratulations to the Mexican government and if we would include some general guarantee of financial assistance for such refugees as might come to Mexico under the plan.

I asked Leavitt why he felt it was essential to make such a guarantee at this time. As I understood it, the argument he advanced was that it would greatly facilitate further discussions on the matter with the Mexican government. I asked him whether Messersmith had cabled us concerning the matter and Leavitt said that he thought so although he was not sure.

I discussed the matter with Pehle, who agreed that we might send some sort of congratulatory message and also couple with it a general financial guarantee as to any refugees who might be admitted to Mexico at the request of the War Refugee Board. Accordingly, I prepared a cable along these lines. I spoke to George Warren about it on August 9. He told me that a message had been received from Messersmith which indicated the following:

- (a) Landau and Waldman had held themselves out to the Embassy as representatives of the War Refugee Board and Messersmith had accepted them as such in view of instructions given him by the State Department to assist them in getting transportation and in view of a meeting they had with Secretary Hull.
- (b) Landau and Waldman had gone to the Mexican officials before consulting Messersmith and Messersmith felt somewhat embarrassed at the position in which he was put.
- (c) No proclamation had been issued by the Mexican government but the announcement which Landau cabled to us had been given out by the Minister of Interior.
- (d) The foreign office knew nothing about the action in question.

Warren stated that the general tone of Messersmith's report suggested the desirability of our proceeding slowly. I asked Warren whether it would still not be in order to send the message in question. Warren agreed that it could be done if we leave the delivery of the message to Messersmith's discretion.

J. B. Friedman

J. B. Friedman

dg

COPY

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR MESSERSMITH, MEXICO CITY, FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

If you deem it appropriate, please convey to the Mexican authorities the following message from the War Refugee Board.

"The War Refugee Board has been informed of the recent generous offer by the Mexican Government to permit the establishment in Mexico for the duration of the war of a colony of European Jewish refugees. The Board deeply appreciates this humanitarian action by the Mexican Government and believes that it will constitute a measurable contribution to the efforts of the United Nations to rescue Jews and other similar groups now in imminent danger of death in enemy territory. The Board wishes to assure the Mexican Government that should refugees be admitted to Mexico in accordance with the Mexican Government's pronouncement and at the request of the War Refugee Board, the Board will make necessary financial arrangements for the maintenance and care of such refugees in Mexico."

12:10 p.m.
August 9, 1944

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RESTRICTED: FIRST PRIORITY

War Refugee Bd
(Linas)

CONTROL COPY

México, D.F., August 9, 1944.

Air Mail
No. 19,376

Subject: With further reference to the proposed establishment by Mexico of a port of refuge for refugees from enemy-occupied Europe for the duration of the War.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my despatches No. 19,191 of August 3 and 19,249 of August 5, in which I reported upon the proposed establishment by Mexico of a port of refuge for refugees from enemy-occupied countries in Europe for the duration of the war.

I now have to supplement the information in these two despatches to state that I accompanied Messrs. Waldman and Landau, who are here on behalf of the War Refugee Board, on a visit to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at noon on August 7. The Minister expressed to Messrs. Waldman and Landau the interest of the Mexican Government in the work of the War Refugee Board and in the refugee problem. He said that he had knowledge of the arrangements which the Ministry of Gobernación was making in the sense of establishing a port of refuge for the duration of the war. As Messrs. Waldman and Landau had been in touch with the Ministry of Gobernación, he suggested that they continue this method of handling the matter, but stated that if they experienced any difficulties whatever they were to get in touch with him through me. The visit was purely a courtesy visit and during the course of it Dr. Padilla expressed his interest in the refugee problem.

Mr. Mac Levitt, of the Joint Distribution Committee, has arrived in Mexico City and I saw him together with Messrs. Waldman and Landau yesterday morning. I informed them that as their conversations heretofore had been with the Ministry of Gobernación, they should continue their more concrete arrangements with that Ministry and that if they experienced any difficulties they should get in touch with me.

Mr. Levitt

Emp. No. 1
VIZ
COMING

Mr. Levitt stated that it was probable that no refugees would arrive in Mexico and for that reason definite concrete arrangements with the Mexican Government with regard to specific details did not seem so important at this time. I said that while the action of the Mexican Government so far was valuable as a moral gesture and for its general helpfulness, I felt, nevertheless, that as there was always a possibility of refugees arriving at such a port of refuge in Mexico, definite arrangements should be made with the Mexican Government so that there would be no misunderstanding or difficulties as to procedure. In this connection I referred to the Department's telegram No. 1461 of August 3, from which it appeared that the establishment of the port of refuge in Mexico was to be used in connection with getting refugees out of Hungary. I said that this might involve the granting of token visas, or visas which actually permitted temporary entry into Mexico by the Mexican Government. For this reason I suggested to Messrs. Levitt, Waldman and Landau that they discuss with the Ministry of Gobernación the number of refugees which the Mexican Government would be prepared to admit for the duration of the war at such a port of refuge, the terms under which they would stay here, the organization which would be responsible for their maintenance, and other pertinent details which would have to be settled in order to have a smooth working out of the arrangement. They said that they understood the importance of this and that they would discuss these matters with the Minister of Gobernación.

Mr. Levitt expressed a desire to talk with Mr. Friedman of the War Refugee Board in Washington, and in view of the difficulties of telephone communication the Embassy put through a call for Mr. Levitt to Mr. Friedman, and there is appended to this despatch a memorandum of the conversation which Mr. Levitt had with Mr. Friedman and which is self-explanatory.

It will be seen from the two despatches mentioned at the outset of this despatch, and from this despatch, that sufficiently concrete arrangements have not yet been made with the Mexican Government which would serve as a basis for conversations with Hungarian or other authorities respecting the admission of refugees into a port of refuge in Mexico. I feel confident, however, that these details can be worked out.

I shall keep the Department informed of any developments and I have informed Messrs. Levitt, Waldman and Landau that I shall be glad to be as helpful to them in this matter as I can.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith.

Enclosure:

Copy of Memorandum
dated August 8, 1944.
War Refugee Board
(In quintuplicate to the Department)
GSM:fa

Enclosure to despatch No. 19,376
of August 9, 1944, from the Embassy
at Mexico City.

COPY

MEMORANDUM

August 8, 1944.

Acting on instructions of the Ambassador, I placed a telephone call to Mr. Friedman of the War Refugee Board for Mr. Moe Levitt of the Joint Distribution Committee, who has come to Mexico in connection with the permission allegedly given by the Mexican authorities for the establishment here of a safety port for Jewish refugees.

Mr. Levitt told Mr. Friedman that he had just had a conversation with the Ambassador, and also had discussed the entire proposition with Messrs. Waldman and Landau; that he felt it absolutely necessary that before any further action can be taken, either the War Refugee Board or the Joint Distribution Committee should give some sort of guarantee to the Mexican Government; that of course the possibility of any Jews being brought to Mexico was very remote, but even despite this, it would be necessary to provide for such a contingency; he felt that the War Refugee Board should be able to give to Mexico the same sort of guarantee or statement as had been given to other neutral governments cooperating in the project. Mr. Levitt also suggested to Mr. Friedman that the War Refugee Board should give consideration to addressing some form of a note of appreciation through regular channels to the Mexican Government for its cooperation in regard to setting up a safety port.

Mr. Levitt said that he hoped to see the Minister of Gobernación before next Monday, by which time he wanted to return to Washington. He asked Mr. Friedman to keep in touch with him at the Hotel Reforma.

Sidney E. O'Donoghue

Copy in.

War Refugee Bd
(Jews)

Mexico, D.F., August 5, 1944.

No. 19,249

SUBJECT: With Reference to Proposed Establishment by Mexico of a "Port of Refuge" for Refugees from Enemy Occupied Europe for the Duration of the War.

CONTROL COPY

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram of August 3, No. 1461, stating that the War Refugee Board has been informed by the Joint Distribution Committee that the President of Mexico has recently issued a proclamation stating that Mexico will furnish facilities for the admission of refugees of enemy occupied Europe for the duration of the war. I am instructed to secure and cable, if possible, the text of such proclamation for use by the War Refugee Board in dealing with an offer by the Hungarian Government to permit emigration of refugees from Hungary.

On the receipt of this telegram I informed Mr. McGurk in the Mexican Division of the Department by telephone, during a conversation covering other matters, that I had just received this telegram and that I was not making a reply by cable as no such proclamation had as yet been issued by the President and that the status of the matter here is certainly not such, so far as I am informed, that the establishment of a port of refuge here could be used as a basis for negotiations with the Hungarian Government for the emigration of refugees from Hungary. I asked Mr. McGurk to be good enough to inform the War Refugee Board that I was sending full information to the Department so far as the arrangements here are concerned and so far as they have been made.

By this time the Department has received my despatch No. 19,191 of August 3, with its enclosures, in which I cover this matter. It will be noted that Messrs. Waldman and Landau took up this matter with the Mexican Government on the basis that very probably no refugees would arrive at the proposed port of refuge and that the action of the Mexican Government was to be largely symbolical and helpful as a moral gesture. I, however, pointed out in my conversations with Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau the necessity of making as concrete arrangements as possible with the Mexican Government so that if refugees do arrive no misunderstandings of any kind can arise with respect to maintenance, the conditions of stay and the length of stay in Mexico. They are fully understanding of this and I understand that a representative of the Joint Distribution Committee will arrive in Mexico on Monday, August 7, to

discuss

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SECRETARY OF STATE
discuss this matter, of guarantees, etc., with the Ministry
of Gobernacion in Mexico City.

It is only after such formal arrangements have been
completed with the Mexican Government through the Ministry
of Gobernacion that the establishment of a "port of refuge"
in Mexico could be used as the basis of any negotiations with
the Hungarian or any other Government.

As I informed the Department in my despatch No. 19,191
these conversations have taken place directly between Messrs.
Waldman and Landau and the Ministry of Gobernacion and this
Embassy has not directly participated therein as the conversa-
tions were initiated by Messrs. Waldman and Landau with the
Ministry of Gobernacion without my direct intervention and
on their own initiative. I have, therefore, as yet no
official information from the Mexican Government that the
establishment of the port of refuge is purely symbolical
and a gesture or whether it will be prepared to receive
during the period of the war at such port of refuge a certain
number of emigrants.

I am taking Messrs. Waldman and Landau to call on the
Minister of Foreign Relations on Monday, August 7.

I am under the impression that the Joint Distribution
Committee may be under the impression that more definite
arrangements have been made here than I am officially aware
of at this time and as obviously the establishment of a
port of refuge for symbolic purposes and the actual reception
of emigrants and granting of visas by the Mexican Government
are separate matters, I would suggest that no action be
taken by the War Refugee Board on the basis of this Mexican
action until I am able to give more concrete information
which I can obtain officially from the Mexican Government
as to its attitude on this matter. This situation I believe
can be clarified during the next week.

Respectfully yours,

To Department in quintuplicate
GEM:NA

RESTRICTED

Mexico, D.F., August 3, 1944.

No. 19191

Subject: Statements in the press to the effect that the Mexican Government has indicated its willingness to establish "a port of refuge" for the period of the War for refugees from Europe.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to instructions of the Department with respect to the establishment of the War Refugee Board and to the effect that this Embassy is to bring to the attention of the Mexican Government full information with regard to the establishment of the Board and its activities. In this connection I would like to refer to previous despatches of this Embassy, and more particularly to my despatch no. 17235 of April 27, 1944, in which I gave some background information on the possibility of collaboration by the Mexican Government with the War Refugee Board.

Several weeks ago Mr. Jacob Landau of New York, whom I have known for many years in Europe and in the United States called at the Embassy to state that he was in Mexico City on a mission for the War Refugee Board and that he was awaiting the arrival of Mr. Morris Waldman of the American Jewish Committee, who was to accompany him on this mission here and on a similar mission to others of the American Republics. I told Mr. Landau that while I had no specific instructions with regard to the mission on which he and Mr. Waldman were engaged, I would be very happy to see them both on the arrival of Mr. Waldman.

In the meantime I received a telegram from the Department stating that Mr. Landau and Mr. Waldman were traveling to Mexico and to other countries of the Americas on a mission for the War Refugee Board and that I was to accord them appropriate air priorities to facilitate their travel. I have no direct information from the Department other than this, that Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau are on a mission for the War Refugee Board, but in view of my long personal acquaintance with them and in view of my knowledge of their

full dependability. I have been proceeding on the basis of the information which they have given me with respect to their mission.

When Mr. Waldman arrived in Mexico City, he and Mr. Landau came to see me, and they informed me that the purpose of their trip was to endeavor to persuade the appropriate Mexican authorities, and those of other American countries to the south, to establish "ports of refuge" for refugees from Europe, these ports of refuge to be used during the period of the War for the shelter of such refugees and at the end of which period, they would return to their country of origin, or at least leave the port of refuge.

They stated that they were undertaking this mission at the request of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau informed me that they had already been in touch with the Minister of Gobernacion, Mr. Aleman, to whom they had been introduced by Mr. Lombardo Tolodano, to which Minister they had set forth their desires and plans. Mr. Landau explained that they had made the approach to the Mexican Government in this manner in view of the fact that he had met Mr. Lombardo Tolodano in the United States and on his arrival here, he had called on him and Mr. Lombardo Tolodano had offered to assist them in this matter and to arrange for an interview with the Minister of Gobernacion, Mr. Aleman. Mr. Landau stated that when Mr. Lombardo Tolodano presented them to the Minister of Gobernacion, he made a very strong plea for the establishment by the Mexican Government of such a port of refuge. Mr. Landau stated that the Minister had expressed his interest and his willingness to discuss the matter with the President of Mexico.

I informed Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that while I had no instructions from my Government with specific reference to their mission, I considered that the telegram which I had authorizing me to have an air priority for travel to the south and the previous instructions which I had with regard to the War Refugee Board were sufficient basis for me to facilitate their mission in the measure possible. I frankly told them that although I had been much interested in this refugee problem and still was, and had naturally given it a great deal of attention since I have been in Mexico, that I did not find the attitude in either official circles or among the Mexican people particularly receptive to receiving refugees except of a certain type from Europe. In this particular respect I would again refer to my despatch no. 17235 of April 27, 1944, in which I gave background information on this situation in Mexico. I told them, however, that in view of the well known humanitarian attitude of the President of Mexico and of the Mexican Government in general, and as their project did not involve the refugees remaining indefinitely in Mexico, I considered it probable that a receptive attitude might be found.

I told Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that as they had taken up the matter with the Minister of Gobernacion on their own initiative and without any intervention of this Embassy, or previous consultation with us, and as the Minister of Gobernacion was one of the responsible Ministers primarily charged with matters of this kind, I thought it best to continue the channel they had been using. I said that the Ministry of Gobernacion was the Ministry primarily responsible in reaching a decision of this kind but that it would ordinarily be made in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

When I found that no approach had been made to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, I suggested to Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that they give me a memorandum covering exactly what they wished to do and specifically what they had said about their plan to the Minister of Gobernacion, in order that I might leave this with the Minister for Foreign Relations for his information. I said that it was in any event probable that the President would consult the Minister for Foreign Relations before reaching a decision and that I would like at least to give to the Minister for Foreign Relations a definite statement of what was involved in the "port of refuge".

Messrs. Waldman and Landau prepared a memorandum, of which I transmit a copy herewith, and which is self-explanatory.

At the first opportunity that I had after the conversation with Messrs. Waldman and Landau, I informed the Foreign Minister of the presence of Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau in Mexico City on this mission for the War Refugee Board and stated that they were already in touch, through arrangements that they had made on their own initiative, with the Minister of Gobernacion. The Minister, Dr. Padilla, indicated that he had not yet received any other information on this matter and had not yet been consulted by the Minister of Gobernacion. I, therefore sent him after this conversation a copy of the memorandum prepared by Messrs. Waldman and Landau.

In the Mexico City newspapers of August 2, there appeared a statement to the effect that the Mexican Government had announced that it was prepared to establish a port of refuge. Although the announcements in the newspapers were to the effect that the information came from official sources, I thought it was well to determine whether there had been action officially by the Mexican Government, and I got in touch with Messrs. Waldman and Landau, who informed me that this notice in the newspapers under reference was the first indication they had of favorable action, but that they would confirm it. They later informed me that they had assured themselves that the Ministry of Gobernacion had issued this statement, which had appeared in the press.

Messrs. Waldman and Landau indicated that they would like immediately to telephone to Mr. Friedman of the War Refugee Board in Washington, who is acting for Mr. Pehle, the Executive Secretary of the Board. In view of the fact that telephone communication is much delayed and in view of the official character of the War Refugee Board, I arranged for a telephone call by the Embassy to Mr. Friedman and during the telephone conversation with Mr. Friedman in Washington on August 2, Mr. Landau informed him that the Mexican Government had issued a statement to the press that day that it is prepared to set up a safety port for Jewish refugees from Europe, particularly women and children; that the Mexican Government is not prepared to accept any financial responsibility for the transportation and maintenance of these refugees; that it stipulates that they will not engage in any occupation or business while in Mexico and that they will be repatriated upon the termination of the War. Mr. Landau informed Mr. Friedman that the Mexican Government wished guarantees to this effect and he suggested that Mr. Friedman get in touch with Mr. Hyman or Mr. Levy of the Joint Distribution Committee and urge that one of them come to Mexico within the next day or two in order to furnish written guarantees in the manner desired by the Mexican Government. Mr. Friedman informed Mr. Landau over the telephone that he would be able to do this.

While I have no official confirmation from the Mexican Government, either from the Ministry of Foreign Relations or the Ministry of Gobernacion, to the effect that the Mexican Government has taken this action, there are further statements in the press this morning which indicate that action in the foregoing sense has been taken by the Mexican Government. In view of the fact that the contact in this matter has been entirely between Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau and the Ministry of Gobernacion, I shall necessarily let the matter remain in that channel.

I have told Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that in any way that I can properly assist them in this matter, I shall be very glad to continue to do so. I have made it clear to them, however, that if any refugees are to be brought here to such a port of refuge, the Mexican Government will insist upon very definite guarantees: (1) that it will not accept any financial responsibility for transportation or maintenance; (2) that the refugees will not engage in any gainful occupation or business while at the port of refuge; and (3) that they will be repatriated at the end of the War. Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau informed me that the appropriate guarantees for maintenance, etc., will be given by Jewish organizations of a private character in the United States, such as the Joint Distribution Committee.

In this connection I may say that in a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Relations, I informed him that I had had close contact with the work of the Joint Distribution Committee over a period of many years and that I could inform him informally that any guarantees given by the Committee would be met meticulously.

While I am very happy that this action is being taken by the Mexican Government, I think it is in no way indicative that Mexico is prepared to receive any number of Jewish refugees and, in fact, certain other refugees from Europe for permanent residence and integration in her economic life. The preliminary announcement in the press of the proposed action of the Mexican Government in establishing a port of refuge for the duration of the war has not been received without criticism from sections of the Mexican press. I have taken the opportunity of my long friendship with Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau, and my full appreciation of the humanitarian work in which they are engaged, to give them for their confidential background the best information in my power with regard to the real situation here and with regard to the possibilities of settling Jewish refugees, and certain other refugees, in this country.

If any further information develops in this matter which will be of interest to the Department, I shall not fail to keep it informed.

After completing this despatch to this point, Mr. Landau called me on the telephone to say that Mr. Waldman and he had just been received by the Minister of Gobernacion, Mr. Aleman, who had informed them that a port of refuge was agreed upon by the Mexican Government under certain conditions which I understand are those already set forth in this despatch. Mr. Landau said that Mr. Waldman and he had called upon the Minister of Gobernacion, Mr. Aleman, to express their thanks and that of the War Refugee Board for the action which they understood from the press the Mexican Government was taking in this matter. It was then that Mr. Aleman confirmed to them that the Mexican Government would take this action.

Mr. Landau further said that arrangements had been made for him and Mr. Waldman to call upon the President of Mexico in order that they might have an opportunity to express personally and directly to the President their appreciation of the action to be taken by the Mexican Government.

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There has been, so far, no official statement of the Mexican Government with regard to this action other than brief articles in the press, obviously coming from the Ministry of Gobernacion. There has been no proclamation by the President of no decree as yet issued, or at least published, and up to this writing, the Ministry of Foreign Relations has apparently not been consulted in the matter by the Ministry of Gobernacion.

I am,

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosure:
Memorandum.

848-War Refugee Board

(Original and 4 copies to the Department)
G
GSM/ess

American Embassy, Mexico, D. F.
Enclosure to Despatch No. 19191, August 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Morris D. Waldman, Vice-Chairman of the Central Jewish Committee and Mr. Jacob Landau, member of the Executive Committee of the Central Jewish Committee arrived in this country a few days ago. The American Jewish Committee is an outstanding Jewish organization to which the most prominent Jews in America belong.

The trip of these two gentlemen is sponsored by the War Refugee Board, which was recently established by President Roosevelt for the rescue of Jewish and Christian victims of Nazi tyranny. It is composed of Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Stimson, Secretary of War, and Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of Treasury.

The purpose of this trip is to ascertain whether President Manuel Avila Camacho would be prepared to establish a safety port, like the one very recently established in the United States by President Roosevelt.

It is not anticipated that any refugees would actually reach the safety port. The safety port would be, in the main a moral gesture indicating the interest Mexico is taking on humanitarian grounds in the lot of innocent persons who are being ruthlessly exterminated by our common enemy.

The safety port would merely provide, as the name indicates, a temporary asylum for the duration of the war. It is not suggested that they would be allowed to work, or to freely move around the country.

Should any refugees arrive in this country, Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau are prepared to guarantee on behalf of the philanthropic Jewish organizations in the United States, that all expenditures involved would be borne by them and that these refugees will not become a burden to Mexico.

It is further suggested by Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that a presidential pronouncement, establishing a safety port could limit the number of Jews to be admitted to five or six hundred, or whatever the Government may deem advisable. They are both hopeful that Mexico will be the first Latin American country to indicate this humanitarian interest in the mission which brought them here.

Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau, before leaving the United States, I am informed by them, were received by Mr. Cordell Hull, who expressed his deep interest in their mission and emphatically expressed the hope that they would succeed.

Mexico, D.F., July 25th, 1944.

NOTE: This memorandum was prepared by Messrs. Waldman and Landau at my request and for my information. I gave a copy informally to the Minister for Foreign Relations for his information. Messrs. Landau & Waldman inform me that they gave a copy of the memorandum in Spanish to the Minister of Gobernacion, Mr. Aleman.

G. E. M.

Miss Chauncey (For the Soc'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Borenstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, G. ston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Files

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War Refugee Board (Mexico)

México, D.F., August 3, 1944.

No. 19191

Subject: Statements in the press to the effect that the Mexican Government has indicated its willingness to establish "a port of refuge" for the period of the war for refugees from Europe.

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

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to instructions of the Department with respect to the establishment of the War Refugee Board and to the effect that this Embassy is to bring to the attention of the Mexican Government full information with regard to the establishment of the Board and its activities. In this connection I would like to refer to previous despatches of this Embassy, and more particularly to my despatch no. 17235 of April 27, 1944, in which I gave some background information on the possibility of collaboration by the Mexican Government with the War Refugee Board.

Several weeks ago Mr. Jacob Landau of New York, whom I have known for many years in Europe and in the United States called at the Embassy to state that he was in Mexico City on a mission for the War Refugee Board and that he was awaiting the arrival of Mr. Morris Waldman of the American Jewish Committee, who was to accompany him on this mission here and on a similar mission to others of the American Republics. I told Mr. Landau that while I had no specific instructions with regard to the mission on which he and Mr. Waldman were engaged, I would be very happy to see them both on the arrival of Mr. Waldman.

In the meantime I received a telegram from the Department stating that Mr. Landau and Mr. Waldman were traveling to Mexico and to other countries of the Americas on a mission for the War Refugee Board and that I was to accord them appropriate air priorities to facilitate their travel. I have no direct information from the Department other than this, that Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau are on a mission for the War Refugee Board, but in view of my long personal acquaintance with them and in view of my knowledge of their full dependability, I have been proceeding on the basis of the information which they have given me with respect to their mission.

When Mr. Waldman arrived in Mexico City, he and Mr. Landau came to see me, and they informed me that the

purpose

purpose of their trip was to endeavor to persuade the appropriate Mexican authorities, and those of other American countries to the south, to establish "ports of refuge" for refugees from Europe, these ports of refuge to be used during the period of the war for the shelter of such refugees and at the end of which period, they would return to their country of origin, or at least leave the port of refuge.

They stated that they were undertaking this mission at the request of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau informed me that they had already been in touch with the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán, to whom they had been introduced by Mr. Lombardo Toledano, to which Minister they had set forth their desires and plans. Mr. Landau explained that they had made the approach to the Mexican Government in this manner in view of the fact that he had met Mr. Lombardo Toledano in the United States and on his arrival here, he had called on him and Mr. Lombardo Toledano had offered to assist them in this matter and to arrange for an interview with the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán. Mr. Landau stated that when Mr. Lombardo Toledano presented them to the Minister of Gobernación, he made a very strong plea for the establishment by the Mexican Government of such a port of refuge. Mr. Landau stated that the Minister had expressed his interest and his willingness to discuss the matter with the President of Mexico.

I informed Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that while I had no instructions from my Government with specific reference to their mission, I considered that the telegram which I had authorizing me to have an air priority for travel to the south and the previous instructions which I had with regard to the War Refugee Board were sufficient basis for me to facilitate their mission in the measure possible. I frankly told them that although I had been much interested in this refugee problem and still was, and had naturally given it a great deal of attention since I have been in Mexico, that I did not find the attitude in either official circles or among the Mexican people particularly receptive to receiving refugees except of a certain type from Europe. In this particular respect I would again refer to my despatch no. 17235 of April 27, 1944, in which I gave background information on this situation in Mexico. I told them, however, that in view of the well known humanitarian attitude of the President of Mexico and of the Mexican Government in general, and as their project did not involve the refugees remaining indefinitely in Mexico, I considered it probable that a receptive attitude might be found.

I told Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that as they had taken up the matter with the Minister of Gobernación on their own initiative and without any intervention of this Embassy, or previous consultation with us, and as the Minister of Gobernación was one of the responsible Ministers primarily charged with matters of this kind, I thought it best to continue the channel they had been using. I said that the Ministry of Gobernación was the Ministry primarily responsible in reaching a decision of this kind but that it would ordinarily be made in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

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When I found that no approach had been made to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, I suggested to Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that they give me a memorandum covering exactly what they wished to do and specifically what they had said about their plan to the Minister of Gobernación, in order that I might leave this with the Minister for Foreign Relations for his information. I said that it was in any event probable that the President would consult the Minister for Foreign Relations before reaching a decision and that I would like at least to give to the Minister for Foreign Relations a definite statement of what was involved in the "port of refuge".

Messrs. Waldman and Landau prepared a memorandum, of which I transmit a copy herewith, and which is self-explanatory.

At the first opportunity that I had after the conversation with Messrs. Waldman and Landau, I informed the Foreign Minister of the presence of Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau in Mexico City on this mission for the War Refugee Board and stated that they were already in touch, through arrangements that they had made on their own initiative, with the Minister of Gobernación. The Minister, Dr. Padilla, indicated that he had not yet received any other information on this matter and had not yet been consulted by the Minister of Gobernación. I, therefore sent him after this conversation a copy of the memorandum prepared by Messrs. Waldman and Landau.

In the Mexico City newspapers of August 2, there appeared a statement to the effect that the Mexican Government had announced that it was prepared to establish a port of refuge. Although the announcements in the newspapers were to the effect that the information came from official sources, I thought it was well to determine whether there had been action officially by the Mexican Government, and I got in touch with Messrs. Waldman and Landau, who informed me that this notice in the newspapers under reference was the first indication they had of favorable action, but that they would confirm it. They later informed me that they had assured themselves that the Ministry of Gobernación had issued this statement, which had appeared in the press.

Messrs. Waldman and Landau indicated that they would like immediately to telephone to Mr. Friedman of the War Refugee Board in Washington, who is acting for Mr. Pehle, the Executive Secretary of the Board. In view of the fact that telephone communication is much delayed and in view of the official character of the War Refugee Board, I arranged for a telephone call by the Embassy to Mr. Friedman and during the telephone conversation with Mr. Friedman in Washington on August 2, Mr. Landau informed him that the Mexican Government had issued a statement to the press that day that it is prepared to set up a safety port for Jewish refugees from Europe, particularly women and children; that the Mexican Government is not prepared to accept any financial responsibility for the transportation and maintenance of these refugees; that it stipulates that they will not engage in any occupation or business while in Mexico and that they will be repatriated upon the termination of the War. Mr. Landau informed Mr. Friedman that the Mexican Government wished guarantees to this

effect

effect and he suggested that Mr. Friedman get in touch with Mr. Hyman or Mr. Levy of the Joint Distribution Committee and urge that one of them come to Mexico within the next day or two in order to furnish written guarantees in the manner desired by the Mexican Government. Mr. Friedman informed Mr. Landau over the telephone that he would be able to do this.

While I have no official confirmation from the Mexican Government, either from the Ministry of Foreign Relations or the Ministry of Gobernación, to the effect that the Mexican Government has taken this action, there are further statements in the press this morning which indicate that action in the foregoing sense has been taken by the Mexican Government. In view of the fact that the contact in this matter has been entirely between Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau and the Ministry of Gobernación, I shall necessarily let the matter remain in that channel.

I have told Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that in any way that I can properly assist them in this matter, I shall be very glad to continue to do so. I have made it clear to them, however, that if any refugees are to be brought here to such a port of refuge, the Mexican Government will insist upon very definite guarantees: (1) that it will not accept any financial responsibility for transportation or maintenance; (2) that the refugees will not engage in any gainful occupation or business while at the port of refuge; and (3) that they will be repatriated at the end of the war. Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau informed me that the appropriate guarantees for maintenance, etc., will be given by Jewish organizations of a private character in the United States, such as the Joint Distribution Committee.

In this connection I may say that in a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Relations, I informed him that I had had close contact with the work of the Joint Distribution Committee over a period of many years and that I could inform him informally that any guarantees given by the Committee would be met meticulously.

While I am very happy that this action is being taken by the Mexican Government, I think it is in no way indicative that Mexico is prepared to receive any number of Jewish refugees and, in fact, certain other refugees from Europe for permanent residence and integration in her economic life. The preliminary announcement in the press of the proposed action of the Mexican Government in establishing a port of refuge for the duration of the war has not been received without criticism from sections of the Mexican press. I have taken the opportunity of my long friendship with Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau, and my full appreciation of the humanitarian work in which they are engaged, to give them for their confidential background the best information in my power with regard to the real situation here and with regard to the possibilities of settling Jewish refugees, and certain other refugees, in this country.

If

If any further information develops in this matter which will be of interest to the department, I shall not fail to keep it informed.

After completing this despatch to this point, Mr. Landau called me on the telephone to say that Mr. Waldman and he had just been received by the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán, who had informed them that a port of refuge was agreed upon by the Mexican Government under certain conditions which I understand are those already set forth in this despatch. Mr. Landau said that Mr. Waldman and he had called upon the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán, to express their thanks and that of the War Refugee Board for the action which they understood from the press the Mexican Government was taking in this matter. It was then that Mr. Alemán confirmed to them that the Mexican Government would take this action.

Mr. Landau further said that arrangements had been made for him and Mr. Waldman to call upon the President of Mexico in order that they might have an opportunity to express personally and directly to the President their appreciation of the action to be taken by the Mexican Government.

There has been, so far, no official statement of the Mexican Government with regard to this action other than brief articles in the press, obviously coming from the Ministry of Gobernación. There has been no proclamation by the President or no decree as yet issued, or at least published, and up to this writing, the Ministry of Foreign Relations has apparently not been consulted in the matter by the Ministry of Gobernación.

I am,

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith

Enclosure:
Memorandum.

848-War Refugee Board

(Original and 4 copies to the Department)

GSM/ens

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
American Embassy, Mexico, D.F.
Enclosure to Despatch No. 19191, August 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Morris D. Waldman, Vice-Chairman of the Central Jewish Committee and Mr. Jacob Landau, member of the Executive Committee of the Central Jewish Committee arrived in this country a few days ago. The American Jewish Committee is an outstanding Jewish organization to which the most prominent Jews in America belong.

The trip of these two gentlemen is sponsored by the War Refugee Board, which was recently established by President Roosevelt for the rescue of Jewish and Christian victims of Nazi tyranny. It is composed of Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Stimson, Secretary of War, and Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of Treasury.

The purpose of this trip is to ascertain whether President Manuel Avila Camacho would be prepared to establish a safety port, like the one very recently established in the United States by President Roosevelt.

It is not anticipated that any refugees would actually reach the safety port. The safety port would be, in the main a moral gesture indicating the interest Mexico is taking on humanitarian grounds in the lot of innocent persons who are being ruthlessly exterminated by our common enemy.

The safety port would merely provide, as the name indicates, a temporary asylum for the duration of the war. It is not suggested that they would be allowed to work, or to freely move around the country.

Should any refugees arrive in this country, Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau are prepared to guarantee on behalf of the philanthropic Jewish organizations in the United States, that all expenditures involved would be borne by them and that those refugees will not become a burden to Mexico.

It is further suggested by Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau that a presidential pronouncement, establishing a safety port could limit the number of Jews to be admitted to five or six hundred, or whatever the Government may deem advisable. They are both hopeful that Mexico will be the first Latin American country to indicate this humanitarian interest in the mission which brought them here.

Mr. Waldman and Mr. Landau, before leaving the United States, I am informed by them, were received by Mr. Cordell Hull, who expressed his deep interest in their mission and emphatically expressed the hope that they would succeed.

Mexico, D.F., July 25th, 1944.

NOTE: This memorandum was prepared by Messrs. Waldman and Landau at my request and for my information. I gave a copy informally to the Minister for Foreign Relations for his information. Messrs. Landau & Waldman inform me that they gave a copy of the memorandum in Spanish to the Minister of Gobernación, Mr. Alemán.

G.S.N.

DEPARTMENT
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OUTGOING
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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

War Refugee Board

1944 AUG 5 AM 10 19

PLAIN
August 3, 1944

AMEMBASSY,

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COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

War Refugee Board has been informed by Joint Distribution Committee that President of Mexico has recently issued a proclamation stating that Mexico will furnish facilities for admission of refugees from enemy occupied Europe for the duration of the war. Kindly secure and cable if possible text of proclamation for use by Board in dealing with offer by Hungarian Government to permit emigration of refugees from Hungary.

STETTINIUS
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WRB:GLW:OMH S/OR MA
8/3/44

August 2, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

On August 2, Leavitt received a call from Hyman in New York about the following matter. It appeared that Hyman had just received a call from Jacob Landau in Mexico City. Landau, as you will recall, is the editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and is currently in Mexico with Mr. Waldman. Mr. Landau advised Hyman that the President of Mexico City has issued a public proclamation stating that Mexico is prepared to furnish havens of the "free port" variety to as many Jewish refugees, particularly women and children, as are able to enter the country. According to Landau, under the proclamation these people will remain in "free ports" to be returned to their homes after the war. In general, the offer follows our own emergency refugee shelter program but it is not limited as to number. According to Landau the President requested the Minister of Interior to work out the details of this matter. In a conference with Landau the Minister of Interior stated that Mexico would not be in a position to finance the care of the refugees and wanted to know who would give the necessary financial guarantee in this regard. Landau insisted that it was extremely important for JDC to send either Leavitt or Hyman to Mexico City at once, and to discuss it with the War Refugee Board. Upon being advised of the foregoing by Leavitt I attempted to verify that the action in question has been taken by the Mexican Government through the press, but apparently none of the American news agencies yet have the story. In the afternoon I received a long distance telephone call to Pehle from Landau in Mexico City. Landau repeated to me the story he had given to Hyman. He was particularly insistent that Leavitt come to Mexico at once. It was plain that he had some good reason for insisting on Leavitt's visit and it was also clear that he was not interested in any representative of the War Refugee Board making the trip. I asked him to send us at once a copy of the proclamation of the Mexican Government which he agreed to do by wire. Landau asked if Leavitt were in the office and I put Leavitt on the phone. Landau indicated to Leavitt that he was urging Leavitt to come for very good reasons. Landau, during his conversation with me and with Leavitt, repeated the statement that he did not expect that any refugees would actually arrive in Mexico.

Following this telephone conversation I discussed the matter with Abrahamson and Leavitt and George Warren. I came to the following conclusion:

1. That it is extremely important from the point of view of the Hungarian question to follow up the apparent willingness of the Mexican Government to receive refugees and to make a formal offer to do so.
2. In view of Landau's insistence and in view of my strong opinion that we can not ascertain the true situation by communicating through Messersmith, I felt Leavitt should go to Mexico City at once in order to be able to report the exact situation. Both Leavitt and Warren agreed with this conclusion and Warren is proceeding to make necessary travel and passport arrangements.
3. If the Mexican Government requires some sort of guarantee I think that the War Refugee Board should make some such guarantee as we have offered to make to the neutrals; i.e., that the Board will make necessary arrangements to finance the maintenance and support of the refugees.

Following our conversation Leavitt called Hyman to discuss the matter of his trip. Unfortunately, Baerwald was not in the office and it was considered necessary to take the matter up with him. I spoke briefly to Hyman indicating my reasons for thinking it important that either he or Leavitt go to Mexico at once. Leavitt is returning to New York today and a decision will be reached tomorrow morning. In the meantime, Warren is making the necessary arrangements.

On Thursday Mr. Leavitt called and said that he had received a cable from Landau in Mexico City which gave the text of the Mexican Proclamation as follows:

"The hospitality of our country toward persons of other nationalities who, suffering from political persecution in their homeland, take refuge among us, is traditional. Therefore, following this tradition, the Mexican government will provide facilities for the establishment of a colony of political refugees of Israelite origin. The colony will be established in a zone to be determined, and will last only while a state of war continues which prevents the refugees from living in their place of residence, to which they will have to return once the war circumstances or persecution by totalitarian regimes has ceased.

"It is understood that the group to be formed will be made up in a large part by persecuted women and children. They themselves, or relief organizations, will provide their maintenance, not the government of Mexico, which will only grant them for a certain period the possibility of living under protection guaranteed by our laws."

Leavitt stated that Landau had also urged that the War Refugee Board or some official of this government send a congratulatory message to the Mexican government at once. I told Leavitt that we could not do so until we had received the official text from Mexico and Leavitt agreed. I then asked Warren to send a cable to Messerschmidt asking him to cable us the proclamation. On Thursday and Friday I received several calls from Muriel Levin of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asking us to send a message of congratulations to the Mexican government. I explained to her that we were awaiting a copy of the proclamation from our Embassy in Mexico City.

On ~~Wednesday~~ ^{Saturday} Leavitt called to state that he was leaving for Mexico City that night. He wanted to know what further thoughts I had about the matter and whether the War Refugee Board would give a financial guarantee. I repeated to him that in my judgment we should first find out what all this involved. I indicated that, after reading the proclamation, the possibility occurred to me that perhaps it would not be necessary to give any financial guarantee at this time, and that the only time the question might arise would be when refugees were ready to go to Mexico. I stated, however, that in his judgment after surveying the situation he felt that some guarantee is necessary the Board would give consideration to making some such general guarantee as we have given to the neutrals. I indicated to Leavitt that we would want to study the situation carefully since a guarantee in this case might involve a bad precedent. Leavitt seemed to agree with my views.

Overseas News Agency, Inc.

101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MURRAY HILL 3-2997

June 22, 1944

Mr. Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Following is the text of the telegram which I
read to you over the telephone.

"Aleman (Mexican Minister of Interior) collabora-
ting for free ports following Presidential approval
and working out concrete scheme for end of this week."

Sincerely yours,


JACOB LANDAU
Managing Director

JL:F

Mexico, D. F., April 27, 1944

No. 17,235

Subject: Annulment of the War Refugee Board and the Penal
Liabilities of Collaboration with it by the Mexican
Government

Mr. Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the Department's circular
dated January 26, 7 p.m., informing this Embassy that the
President had instructed the Secretary of State to
take action for the immediate
of Europe and her vict'
has taken careful note of
have to refer to this Embassy's
8, 1944, in which records a
Department's instruction,
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This Embassy received in due course the Department's circular airgram of February 29, 7:30 p.m., instructing me to explore with the appropriate officials of the Foreign Office the possibility of Mexico's collaborating with the War Refugee Board through the issuance by the Mexican Government of a declaration of policy similar to that made by the President of the United States and by the issuance by the Foreign Office of instructions to its representatives in other countries comparable to the instructions contained in the Department's telegram of January 25.

In accord with this instruction, there was a meeting in the Mexican Office on January 27, 1944, at which a copy of the instructions was read hereunder, on March 22, 1944, and the full purpose of the War Refugee Board and the policy of our government as expressed by President Roosevelt again set forth to the Foreign Office. We have had no further reaction of an official character from the Mexican Government beyond that already set forth in my despatch No. 16,011, of February 18, 1944.

In the meantime, this Embassy has received the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15, 7 p.m., referring further to its circular airgram of January 26, 7 p.m., and to subsequent communications, and informing this Embassy that the Department has now authorized the consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to 4000 quota immigration visas to refugee children up to 16 years of age without regard to religion, nationality or stateless status. The Department states that the purpose of this authorization is to facilitate the escape to Switzerland of orphaned or abandoned children by giving assurances to the Swiss Government that these children will not remain in Switzerland after the termination of hostilities in Europe. The Department instructs us to approach the appropriate officials of the Mexican Government in order to inform that government of our action as set forth in our airgram under reference, and to request the Mexican Government to give assurance to the Swiss Government of its acceptance up to a fixed number of refugee children in a manner similar to that of our own government.

In this Embassy's airgram No. A-1348, of April 26, 11 a.m., I informed the Department that, although the attitude of the Mexican Government with respect to the reception of refugees has been fairly liberal, it is my opinion that the Mexican Government is not particularly interested in receiving any considerable number of refugees from Europe either during or after the war. I stated that I had gathered the impression through confidential conversations from time to time with high officials of the Mexican Government when I have discreetly explored this situation,

that this is the attitude of the Mexican Government. I therefore stated in my telegram that the probabilities were that the Mexican Government would not be willing to commit itself. I also stated that in order to secure anything like a favorable reception, it would be necessary to prepare the ground carefully in the Mexican Government and among the highest officials, and that I was taking the appropriate steps to this end.

I am sure it is not necessary for me to inform the Department of my deep interest in this refugee problem. The Department is aware that the circumstances of my service, both in the field and in the Department of State, have brought me in close contact with this problem. The Department is aware that from the very beginning of the Nazi regime when the persecution of Jews and others began on such a vast scale, I took a very determined stand with regard to such discriminations and persecutions and have consistently in my official capacity, done everything I could to further the steps taken by our government and other governments to alleviate the situation in which so many unfortunates found themselves. The Department will appreciate therefore that I view the initiative of the President as expressed in his executive order setting up the War Refugee Board with complete understanding and sympathy, and that I wish in my official and personal capacity to be as helpful in carrying through the objectives of the Board and of our government as may be possible.

As will have been apparent to the Department, however, from my dispatches No. 15,701, of February 8; and 16,611, of February 18, only very limited collaboration can be expected from the Mexican Government in the refugee problem. Because of my deep interest in the refugee problem in general, I have not failed, during the more than two years that I have been in Mexico, to study the possibilities of Mexico's receiving refugees from Europe during and after the war. I have been in close touch not only with our official, but with our private organizations in the United States which are endeavoring to aid refugees. I have been in close touch with the problem of endeavoring to find places where such refugees may go and to this end I have not failed during the past two years to explore this situation in Mexico and I have regretfully had to come to the conclusion that Mexico is not likely to offer facilities of refuge for any considerable number of refugees during or after the war.

Mexico has a fairly homogeneous population and up to the present time there has been no evidence of racial discrimination. The Mexican Government has indicated consistently that it desires

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this situation to continue. Although it has maintained a rather liberal attitude with respect to certain types of refugees, it has been receptive more particularly to refugees of Spanish origin. The Department is aware that from the beginnings of the Spanish Civil War, Mexico opened her doors very freely to refugees from Spain of all types of political opinion. She received refugees of the extreme Right and of the extreme Left. She received these refugees in very considerable number and placed practically no limitation upon those endeavoring to enter Mexico. She received practically all who desired to enter Mexico and who could find facilities for leaving Spain or who could secure shipping accommodations.

Mexico also received a certain number of refugees from other countries of Europe, including many Jews, and she made no discrimination with respect to race or religion among the refugees she received from other countries. Mexico, however, did exercise the same measure of prudence exercised by us in the issuance of visas to refugees and admitted only those physically fit and who had no criminal or other unfavorable record. The number of refugees from countries other than Spain, however, was kept within the very definite limits that they set by the issuance of visas of Mexican consular and diplomatic officials.

The whole record in recent years has shown that Mexico was more particularly interested in receiving refugees from Spain than from other countries of Europe.

More recently, the restrictions on Mexican diplomatic and consular officers have been so strict with respect to the issuance of visas that she has been receiving practically no refugees from any other country of Europe. The reason for this change of policy, even with respect to Spain, has been that the experience of the Mexican Government with a not inconsiderable part of these refugees has not been too satisfactory. So far as the Spanish refugees are concerned, they have in many respects shown themselves more adaptable to conditions in this country and have in many ways been able to incorporate themselves into the life of the country. Many of these refugees have been able to incorporate themselves into the business, professional, and working class of the country. Others, however, have made very little effort to incorporate themselves into the life of the country and have carried on political discussion and polemic within the country which from time to time has become a source of embarrassment and even concern to the Mexican Government. In a number of

cases various groups of Spanish refugees have brought a good deal of pressure on the Mexican Government, to the point of embarrassment.

Unfortunately, some of the refugees from other countries of Europe than Spain have not, through their conduct, favorably influenced the attitude of the Mexican public and the Mexican Government towards refugees in general. A good many of the refugees from countries other than Spain came with fair amounts of money and they have, in a measure, instead of starting new industries or new businesses, acquired an interest in or control of businesses already established in Mexico and in Mexican industry. I will revert to this a little later, but there is no doubt that the attitude of some of the refugees in Mexico has unfavorably influenced the Mexican public and this is reflected in the Mexican Government.

The Department is aware that the Mexican Government has been exercising a very strict control in general over the admission of aliens, especially if they come to work. The Department is aware that American citizens entering Mexico for the purpose of engaging in any gainful occupation, whether it be professional, business, or otherwise, must secure special authorization, and that this is granted with difficulty. In fact, the attitude of the Mexican Government in this respect is far from liberal and this applies to aliens of any nationality and without respect to race, religion, or political opinion.

With specific reference to Jewish immigration, it may be said that there is at present no discrimination against Jews in Mexico, although there is a fair number in the capital and in other industrial centers. The Jews who have come to Mexico in the last 20 years have engaged almost entirely in business and have remained in the urban centers. Some of them have become very wealthy and a few of them very powerful. Some of these have not used either their wealth or their power with complete understanding. It may be said, however, that up to this time there is no discrimination against Jews and it has been my observation that the Mexican Government does everything in its power to avoid any such problem arising. My own observation would lead me to the opinion that the Jews in Mexico, who are for the most part in comfortable circumstances, are not particularly anxious that there should be any considerable Jewish immigration accepted by the Mexican Government, for they fear that it would lead to an unfavorable attitude towards Jews in general already in the country.

I have given the Department this background as it is necessary I believe to an understanding of the attitude of the Mexican Government. In addition to this, the Mexican Government does not believe that it is in need of any considerable immigration. The country has a population of 20,000,000, of which the overwhelming number live on a very low standard. The primary purpose of the Mexican Government is to improve and develop industry and to increase agricultural production. It believes that to do this it has adequate population and that its first obligation is to endeavor to provide a higher standard of living and more adequate employment for its present indigenous population. The attitude towards the reception of persons especially qualified for technical operation is likely to be liberalized, for such persons will be needed in the industrial and agricultural development of the country.

I have hesitated to take up with the Mexican Government directly, myself, the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15 with regard to the granting of visas by Mexican diplomatic and consular officers in Switzerland to refugee children because I fear that the answer will be negative if the approach is made in this way at this time. I think there is a possibility that so far as refugee children are concerned under 16 years of age, it may be possible to get some degree of receptivity by the Mexican Government, although there are no organizations of any kind in Mexico which would be prepared to undertake the distribution and the care of these children within the country. Organizations such as we have in the United States and in some other countries which can handle a problem of this kind do not exist here. The fiscal problems which the Mexican Government already has to face and which it will increasingly have to face through the decrease in revenue which is certain to come with the end of the war will make it reluctant to accept any refugees.

Nevertheless, in order to explore this matter before making any informal approach, I had an informal and confidential and off-the-record conversation with the Minister of Foreign Relations, Dr. Padilla a few days ago. In this conversation I raised the question of the President's executive order and the formation of the War Refugee Board, and the hope of our government for the collaboration of other governments in this important humanitarian work. The Minister immediately referred to my memorandum No. 2461, of March 24 (copy enclosed) which he said he had given careful consideration and had discussed with the President. The Minister said that I was aware of the high humanitarian motives and situation of the President of Mexico. The President and the Government of Mexico and he were aware of the

high humanitarian motives and actuation of President Roosevelt and of our government. He was sure that from the many conversations which I had had with him on similar matters, I had no doubt concerning his own understanding of these refugee problems and of his own desire to help as far as possible. He said that our memorandum, however, had raised a very real problem for the Mexican Government and he had not failed to discuss the matter fully with the President. He said that the Mexican Government, while it hoped to maintain its traditional policy of receptivity to immigrants and to those subject to political preoccupation and to refugees in general, was not in a position for the present to receive any further refugees. He called attention to the large number of Spanish refugees they had received during the Spanish Civil War and the problems which had been raised through the presence of some of these refugees in Mexico who, because of their racial affinity, should be easily assimilated. He called attention to the considerable number of refugees from other countries of Europe who had entered Mexico and he said that for the present the Mexican Government would not be in a position to make such a declaration as it had been invited to make, nor could it give any assurances that it was a position to receive any immigrants for the present or for the immediately foreseeable future. He indicated that any request for admission by any specific group of refugees from any country would have to be refused as the Mexican Government was not in a position, for reasons which my presence in the country must have made clear to me, to receive any for the present. The Minister said that he wished to make it clear that they were not closing their doors, but that the Mexican Government must adhere for the present to its policy of receiving only a very limited number of people and those always on the basis of specific instructions issued to their diplomatic and consular officers stationed abroad.

I could see that the Minister was very anxious to collaborate with us but that he was unable to say that his government could for the present do so. I could see that he was regretful because in every matter on which we have approached him for collaboration in the inter-American and in the wider world picture, the Government of Mexico has been collaborative to an unusual degree. It was quite clear, however, that so far as refugees are concerned, the Mexican Government is not in a position to collaborate for the present and for this reason I do not believe that it would be advisable for the War Refugee Board or for us in any way to urge any measures on the Mexican Government. I do not believe that any such efforts on our part or of the War Refugee Board would have any usefulness and I fear that they might have an unfavorable effect.

So far as the question raised in the Department's confidential circular airgram of April 15 is concerned, affecting children under 16 years of age, I have made no formal approach to the Mexican Government on this matter as I am confident from my knowledge of the situation here and from the remarks of the Minister of Foreign Relations and from the observations of the other officers of the Ministry, that the answer would be negative. I shall, however, endeavor in informal conversations with the Minister, to pursue this question of the objectives of the Refugee Board further and at my first opportunity I shall raise this question of refugee children.

I have written this long report on this matter to the Department as I believe the matter is of sufficient importance to warrant this full background and I have wanted it to be clear that if there is no response so far as Mexico is concerned, to the activities of the War Refugee Board, it is not because this Embassy has not foreseen the problem which has arisen and with which the Board wishes to deal, for during the past few years, I have endeavored in such ways as I properly and discreetly could, to develop a favorable attitude toward the reception of refugees.

Respectfully yours,

G. S. Messersmith

File 848-War Refugee Board
GSM/aw

To the Department in Original and 4 copies.

Enclosure:
Copy of Memorandum No. 2461 of March
24, 1944.

C O P Y

No. 2461

MEMORANDUM

It will be recalled that on February 11, there was left with the Official Mayor of the Ministry a personal memorandum respecting the establishment, on January 22, 1944, by an executive order of the President of the United States, of a so-called War Refugee Board to take immediate action for the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

The establishment of this board represents the determination of the Government of the United States effectively to carry out without delay the policy to take all possible measures for the speedy rescue and relief of the refugees in Europe. It is felt certain that this effort will not be unilateral, and it is desired to make clear that it continues to be the policy of the Government of the United States to encourage and participate in effective cooperative efforts with other governments. The board, of course, will cooperate with all interested international organizations.

While clarifying the position of the Government of the United States with respect to this entire problem, it is desired at the same time to express the hope for cooperative action upon the part of the Government of Mexico. It is thought that the action taken by the Government of the United States could be helpfully implemented through the issuance by the Government of Mexico of a declaration of policy similar to that made by the President of the United States.

Mexico, D.F., March 24, 1944.

February 16, 1944

MEMORANDUM

Polish Refugees in Mexico—
Santa Rosa Colony at Leon,
Guanajuato. (Status of
project as disclosed by files
of Visa Division, State
Department.)

1. The earliest document in this file is a telegram dated March 24, 1943 from Messersmith in Mexico City to Lehman which stated that at Messersmith's suggestion the British and Polish Ministers met with the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs on March 23. The telegram refers to a previous letter from Lehman. It is stated that no refugees will arrive in Mexico before the middle of June. All agreed that if the camp could start with 500 it would be helpful.

2. On April 7, Hull telegraphed the American Consul, Bombay (paraphrase of telegram 150, April 7, attached hereto), referring to an agreement between the Mexican and Polish Governments, concluded in 1942, by which the Mexican Government agrees to permit the entry of a large number of Polish refugees from the Middle East and India. The British Government initiated the project and the United States has agreed to provide funds for the transportation and maintenance of refugees after their arrival in Mexico. A committee in Mexico is endeavoring to arrange for the reception and housing of approximately 5,000. The first group probably will come from Bombay by Naval transport. Hull requested the American Consul to indicate whether certain medical requirements could be completed in India before the refugees sail, and the Consul was asked to report personal data concerning each refugee.

3. On September 28, Travers wrote a letter to Joseph Maciejewski (copy of letter is attached hereto). Apparently Maciejewski had suggested bringing some of the refugees from Mexico to the United States. The Department felt that this would be unwise.

4. On November 5, O'Donoghue, Second Secretary of the Embassy, Mexico City, transmitted to the Department a copy of a note, dated November 3, from Dr. Wladislaw Neumann, Polish Minister to Mexico, setting forth his views concerning the refugees at Leon. Dr. Neumann proposed that higher wages be paid to the refugees. (Copies of this correspondence are attached hereto.)

5. On November 9, O'Donoghue transmitted to the Department a copy of an article from "El Popular" dated November 6 which reported that the refugees in the Leon camp have subjected the Polish Jews in the camp (about 30 in all) to insults, assaults, etc., and that the Polish Minister has done nothing about it. O'Donoghue stated that, in his opinion, the anti-Semitic feeling may have been aroused because the first group of refugees included 12 Jews who joined the group solely for the purpose of going to Mexico with a view to entering the United States. This group has ample means to support themselves and they have been trying to obtain separate quarters.

6. On November 30, O'Donoghue transmitted to the Department a copy of a letter dated November 30 from Eric P. Kelly, representative in Mexico of the Office of Foreign Relief, to Murray Latimer, the Acting Director. Mr. Kelly suggested that a trained psychologist or psychiatrist visit the camp at various intervals to study the conditions of the refugees. Such a study would be helpful in post-war rehabilitation work. (Copies of correspondence attached hereto.)

7. On December 8, O'Donoghue sent a copy of the School Budget of the Santa Rosa Colony at Leon. This called for an expenditure of 83,500 pesos for the months of November, December, and January. It was noted that the school has 700 to 1,000 children in the primary and grammar schools.

8. The file contains a note that a letter from Herbert H. Lehman to Hull, dated December 28, 1943, concerning the Mexican-Polish agreement for the reception of refugees in Mexico, is on file at UNRRA.

9. On January 12, 1944, Mr. Ribble of the Department conferred with Charles Rozmarek, President of the Polish National Alliance of U. S. of N. A., concerning a proposal to bring 100-150 Polish boys from Mexico for training in the Alliance's trade schools in the United States. Such training would equip the boys for the job of rebuilding Poland after the War. Mr. Rozmarek was to confirm the conversation by letter. The file does not disclose whether such confirmation has been received. (Copy of memorandum of conversation attached hereto.)

K. H. Hartney

Attachments.

ATTACHMENTS FOR MEMORANDUM
of Feb. 16, 1944

"Polish Refugees in Mexico--
Santa Rosa Colony at Leon,
Guanajuato..."

7 11 0 4 9

COPY

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

January 12, 1944

I talked with Mr. Charles Rozmarek, President of Polish National Alliance of U.S. of N.A. with offices at 1514-20 West Division Street, Chicago.

The Polish National Alliance has school facilities in the United States chiefly of a trade school variety, which are not being used by reason of the fact that large numbers of its student body have entered the Armed Forces. The Polish National Alliance is interested in bringing from Mexico 100-150 Polish boys for training with the idea that after this training they may be returned to Poland well-equipped to help in the rebuilding of Poland. Mr. Rozmarek thinks the ages should be 14-16 inclusive. He is anxious to get the reaction of the Department to his plan and he is also anxious to know, if his plan is approved, whether it will be possible to expedite visas or to use a group permit so that the boys may be able to work in the school early in February. I understand that time is not of the essence however.

Mr. Rozmarek impressed me favorably. His organization, he says, is the largest organization of Americans of Polish extraction in the United States and is well and favorably known to the Polish Embassy. He is to confirm the conversation by letter.

VD:RU:FDGRIBBLE:KG

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VD:RU:FDGRIBBLE:KG

(COPY)

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, November 30, 1943

AIR MAIL

No. 14519

SUBJECT: Polish Refugee Colony at Leon, Guanajuato.

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

Sir:

With reference to previous correspondence in connection with the location at Leon, Guanajuato of a Polish refugee colony, I have the honor to transmit herewith the original of a letter dated November 30, 1943 from Mr. Eric P. Kelly, the resident representative of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations, addressed to Mr. Murray Latimer, the Acting Director of that office. It would be appreciated if Mr. Kelly's letter could be forwarded to Mr. Latimer.

A copy of the enclosure is attached hereto for the Department's records.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

Sidney E. O'Donoghue
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:
Original and copy of letter as stated.

In Ozalid copy to the Department.

800

SEOD/jkm

via Mr. O'Donoghue 12/1/43

10049

(COPY)

Embassy of the United States
Insurgentes 105
Mexico City, Mexico

Nov. 30, 1943

Mr. Murray Latimer, Acting Director
Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations
Dept. of State, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Latimer:

In connection with an earlier suggestion of mine, and the request of Mr. Bohdan Smejko, Polish Director of Colonia Santa Rosa, that a study be made of the refugee type of mind, and the nervous condition be analyzed to aid in the work of rehabilitation in Europe after the close of the war, I am making the suggestion that a trained psychologist or psychiatrist visit the camp for two weeks or so in order to study the serious condition of people who have been in a war zone for four or more years.

My suggestion for this particular piece of work is Professor Tadeusz Karwowski, who has been chairman of the Department of Psychology at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. and has done some brilliant work in this field, and speaks Polish fluently.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Kelly

In reply refer to
VD

My dear Mr. Maciejewski:

Your letter addressed to Mr. Hugh R. Jackson on August 30 relative to bringing Poles in Mexico to the United States has been referred to me for a reply.

It is understood your inquiry relates to the group of Poles who were recently brought to Mexico under a special arrangement as refugees from the war area. As Mr. Jackson informed you in his letter dated August 26, this group is being well taken care of in Mexico where it is in a safe place of refuge. The group came to Mexico on its own volition and apparently in accordance with its desires, and it includes a great many women and children.

It is believed that to dislocate any portion of any settled group in order to establish it in the United States for the duration of the war would not only be unwise from the standpoint of its best welfare, but would also upset the orderly carrying out of those plans which are being made to care for large groups of refugees still suffering from Axis tyranny.

Since 1938, when the first meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees was called at Evian, France, the Government of the United States has been studying and acting upon various proposals for the alleviation of the suffering of the persecuted peoples in Nazi-controlled countries.

In

Mr. Joseph Maciejewski,
2700 North Seventy-fourth Place,
Elmwood Park, Illinois.

- 2 -

In April 1943, a Conference between representatives of the American and British Governments was held at Bermuda. While it would not be in the interests of the refugees themselves to publish in detail the full program adopted at the Conference, it may be stated that the Conference report provided for the reconstitution of the Intergovernmental Committee with broader jurisdiction and power and with permanent headquarters in London, England. The Committee is an intergovernmental organization acting on behalf of over thirty nations of the world for the purpose of bringing all immediate and practicable relief and rehabilitation to the oppressed people of Europe.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee was held in London on August 4, 1943, and another is scheduled for the near future, for the purpose of considering and acting upon various proposals relating to all the phases of the problem of bringing aid to refugees in Nazi-dominated areas.

Sincerely yours,

H. K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division

VD:MCC:BJD

9/28/43

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mexico, November 5, 1946

AIR MAIL
No. 14010

SUBJECT: Polish Refugee Settlement at
Leon, Guanajuato.

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

Sir:

With reference to previous correspondence in connection with the settlement at Leon, Guanajuato of a group of Polish refugees and the question of the wages and allowances to be paid to these refugees, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy, in translation, of a note dated November 3, which the Embassy has just received from Dr. Wladyslaw Neumann, setting forth his views in regard thereto. It will be noted that the Minister takes the same point of view as Mr. Szacjko, the Polish Resident Administrator of the Santa Rosa project, that the scale of wages and allowances proposed by the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is too low.

Respectfully yours,
For the Ambassador:

[Signature]
Sidney A. Donoghue
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosures:

Note in translation as stated.

Original (for exact reproduction) to the Department
Embassy file 800

SEOD/jkm

Prof. J. J. ... - ...

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten marks]

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[Vertical stamp]

044

POLISH LEGATION

Mexico, D. F.,
November 5, 1943.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to thank Your Excellency for the notes of October 9 and 19, and I apologize for not having replied until today. I was very anxious to see Mr. Nowak, charged with the administration of the Santa Rosa Colony, who having arrived from London is thoroughly acquainted with the ideas of our Minister of Social Assistance and who having lived for three weeks at Santa Rosa and having been in direct and constant contact with our refugees, has been able to form an opinion as to the contentious problem of wages.

During Mr. Nowak's visit in Washington, and during the conversations which he had with the Lehman Committee, it was decided that the Polish-American Council in the United States should take charge of the payment of wages; and, as far as I know, the Council approved.

It would be desirable that the problem of wages should be viewed not only from the economic as from the psychological and social points of view.

The wages proposed by the Lehman Committee are low, since they envisage a month's work for skilled workers and 15 weeks' work for professionalists.

The hypothesis must be considered that, if the refugees refuse to work, we would be obliged to engage outside personnel, which would be much more expensive. If a Polish teacher were to be engaged from the United States, he would have to be paid from 250 to 300 dollars per month at least, or would be the case if teachers were engaged from the United States. The latter would have to be paid from 150 to 200 dollars a month at least.

It need not be feared that the difference in wages would create discontent among the refugees. Certain professionalists have always enjoyed a special respect in Poland. We can understand perfectly that certain types of work may be better paid than others.

From the psychological and social points of view it must be realized that our refugees are war victims. They were deported to Russia against their will; they lived there unhappily and under poor conditions; and at the present moment they think only of one thing -- to return to their country once it is liberated. When they were deported to Russia everything was taken from them and their privations and their observations in Russia created, among other things, a complex -- that for private property. Each of them realizes that his home is destroyed, his land ruined and on returning to his country he will be obliged to start life anew.

It should not be forgotten that these refugees are, for the most part, sick people. That is why certain of

their

their needs should be satisfied.

The allocation of 10 pesos per month for persons unable to work seems sufficient to me. On the other hand, I consider the allowance of 2.50 pesos per child as insufficient. The question of hygiene in the colony is very important and the sum of 2.50 pesos is insufficient to buy soap. The refugees must become accustomed to normal life; mothers should care for their children to the extent of satisfying the latter's greatest needs. That is why it seems to me that the allowance for children should be raised to 10 pesos per month.

When the refugees begin to work normally, they should be induced to take up a normal life again, that is to say, that they should be able to satisfy their needs with money they shall have earned. They are all weary of living under the same roof and of a life in common, and I am convinced that the Lehman Committee would consent to accord its aid in this sense.

I know what an invaluable aid the Lehman Committee is giving our refugees and I need not stress my gratitude to it. Furthermore, I am sure that this sentiment is shared by all my countrymen. But I am convinced that in aiding our refugees, the Lehman Committee does not wish only to be philanthropic but desires to bring them back to normal life; to contribute to their becoming normal people who will work for the reconstruction of their destroyed and ruined country upon their return to Poland.

It is in the above sense that I have ventured to make these recommendations and I would be very grateful to you if you would transmit them to the Lehman Committee.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

WLADEKŁAV NEULANN

Paraphrase of telegram 150, April 7, 1943, from Department to Bombay.

On the initiative of the British Government the Mexican and Polish Governments at the end of last year concluded an agreement by which the Mexican Government agrees to allow the entry into Mexico of a considerable number of Polish refugees who are now in the Middle East and India. The Government of the United States has agreed to assist the British Government in this humanitarian undertaking to the extent of providing funds for transportation and maintenance of the refugees after their arrival in Mexico.

A committee in Mexico is at present endeavoring to arrange for the reception and housing of these refugees up to approximately five thousand. The first groups of refugees will be composed of those now assembled in your district, according to present indications. The Department is attempting, through Navy to arrange for the transportation of the first group on Naval transports coming to the United States. A transport is expected to sail in the near future from Bombay according to the latest information. It is possible that for some time to come this may be the only available transportation.

In order that it may be possible to complete the necessary examinations of a certain number of these refugees so that they may be able to depart on this vessel, please indicate whether the British medical authorities can with possible cooperation from the American Military or Naval medical authorities meet the following requirements which must be completed before any refugee can be embarked:

1. That refugees and their belongings be deloused.
2. That they be given a physical examination and found free of contagious and communicable diseases, including tuberculosis and trachoma.
3. That they be inoculated for typhoid and vaccinated against small pox.
4. They they be physically able to travel with minimum medical attention en route.

Blanket medical certificates should be issued for the group, listing names, covering the requirements in 2, 3 and 4 above.

Kindly

Kindly report the following after consultation with the British:

In your best judgment the number of refugees who can be prepared for acceptance on board Navy vessel expected in Bombay in the near future.

If because of lack of competent medical service, physical requirements, or other controlling conditions in Near East, the sailing of a first group of refugees does not prove practicable late April, in your judgment when and how many would first and later shipments seem possible in the event shipping becomes available later on.

Furthermore, the following information about each person to be embarked should be communicated by airgram:

1. Name
2. Sex
3. Age
4. Marital status
5. Place of previous residence in Poland
6. Pre-war occupation
7. Whether accompanied by family, relatives or traveling alone.

We suggest that above lists be prepared British authorities for transmission by you. Please repeat to Tehran and Karachi for possible comment and for their information.

HULL