

R8

Projects and Documents
File

Administrative Matters: Personnel

Akzin, Benjamin (Dr)

K18

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 10, 1945

Dear Mr. Akzin:

I have received your letter of March 8 submitting your resignation as a member of the War Refugee Board to become effective March 15, 1945.

It is with reluctance and regret that I accept your resignation. In view of the marked decline in the volume of War Refugee Board operations, I can understand your desire to leave the Board at this time.

Sincerely yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Benjamin Akzin
Assistant to the Assistant
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

405
DWHITE: rpj: 3/10/45

*Submitted copy not
recovered in files*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 8th, 1945.

Mr. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I herewith beg to submit my resignation
from the War Refugee Board, effective as of close of business
on March 15th, 1945.

I should like to take this opportunity to
express to you my appreciation for having been allowed to
be associated with the life-saving work of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Bakzin
Benjamin Akzin

*3/7/45
processed with Gen. O'Dwyer
who decided to accept the
resignation. H -*

Curriculum Vitae

Benjamin Akzin, born 1904 in Riga (Latvia).
Attended Russian and German schools in Riga and Saratov
(Russia). Studied law and political science at Universities
of Vienna, Paris, Liverpool, London, Harvard. Visited for
brief periods of study and research universities of Chicago,
Michigan, Wisconsin, California, and the Library of the
League of Nations in Geneva.

Academic degrees: Doctor of political science,
Vienna, 1926. Doctor of law, Paris, 1929. Doctor of
jurisprudence, Harvard, 1933.

Positions:

Assistant to Professor La Pradelle (International Law)
Paris, 1928-1929.
Assistant, Institute of Comparative Law, University of
Paris, 1930-1932.
Lecturer, Franco-Russian Institute, University of Paris,
1930-1932.
Lecturer, Collège Libre des Sciences Sociales, Paris, 1931-1932.
Associate Editor, Annuaire Interparlementaire, Paris, 1930-1939.
Rockefeller fellow, 1932-1934.
Research assistant, Harvard Bureau of International Research,
1934-1936.
Professor of law and government, Portia College and Law School,
1936-1941.
Lecturer, College of the City of New York, 1940-1941.
Foreign affairs specialist, Library of Congress, 1941-1944.
Foreign affairs specialist, War Refugee Board, 1944-

Publications:

L'Ecole autrichienne et le fondement du droit des gens (Revue de
droit international, 1927)
Le Traité de Moscou (Revue de droit international, 1927)
La Désuétude en droit constitutionnel (Revue de droit public, 1928)
Der Rechtsbegriff der Minderheit (Zeitschrift fuer offentliges Recht,
1928)
Les Problèmes Fondamentaux du droit international public. Paris.
Editions Internationales, 1929.
Les Sujets du droit des gens (Revue de droit international, 1929)
La Sociologie de la nationalité. In: La Nationalité. Paris. Sirey, 1933.
Le droit des minorités. In: La Nationalité. Paris. Sirey, 1933.
Membership in the Universal Postal Union (American Journal of
International Law, 1933)
La Pologne à la croisée des chemins (L'Esprit International, 1935).
On the Teaching of International Law (Iowa Law Review, 1935)

The Jews among the nations (American University, Digest of International Law and Relations, 1935)
 Propaganda by diplomats (American University, Digest of International Law and Relations, 1935)
 The concept of legislation (Iowa Law Review, 1936)
 Choices before Baltic States (Foreign Affairs, 1937)
 Reflexions sur la science et l'education politiques aux Etats-Unis. Paris. Sirey. 1938.
 The Palestine Mandate in practice (Iowa Law Review, 1939)
 Pan-Arab nationalism (Asia, 1939)
 The Jewish question after the war (Harper's Magazine, 1941)
 Neutral convoys in law and practice (Michigan Law Review, 1941)
 Data on military government in occupied areas (Library of Congress, Public Affairs Bulletin 16, 1942)
 When our troops occupy (Harper's Magazine, 1943)
 Introduction to the study of military occupation (International Conciliation, 1943)
 Procedures of Peace-Making (Library of Congress, Public Affairs Bulletin 23, 1943)
 Nationalism today and afterwards (Tomorrow, October 1944).

Languages

In addition to English, I read, write and speak with perfect fluency the following languages: French, German, Hebrew, Russian, Yiddish.

Special qualifications.

Between 1922 and 1932 and between 1936 and 1938, I travelled extensively all over Europe, living for years in Austria, France and England, and often visiting Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, the Baltic countries, Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. In addition to this, I have a thorough and intimate knowledge of Russia. From my sojourn in these countries and from my studies of many years in the fields of comparative government and politics, I have acquired an intimate knowledge of the countries, peoples, and problems of that area.

For many years, the study of nationality conflicts, minority problems, and the re-settlement and transfer of populations has been a special concern of mine, and I am exceedingly well acquainted with various aspects of the refugee problem.

During my years of life abroad and during my period of work in Washington, I have acquired the art of dealing with people in official and official circles of many countries.

I have been living in this country since 1932, and became an American citizen in May 1940.

February 16, 1944

Mr. J. C. [unclear], Mr. [unclear], Mr. [unclear]

and [unclear]

MEMORANDUM

Subject: [unclear] Interview for [unclear]

February 21, 1944.

TO: Mr. Stewart

FROM: Mr. Friedman

Re: Interview with Mr. Aksin

I am inclined to think that Mr. Aksin's experience might be quite valuable to us in connection with the approach which we are going to have to make to various Allied, neutral and enemy governments. He has ideas on the subject. He also seems to know a good deal about the operations of the Intergovernmental Committee, having been at Evian. He also might be helpful in connection with Congress.

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Mr. DuBois, Mr. Friedman

February 16, 1944

Ward Stewart

Subject: Scheduled Interviews for Mr. Benjamin Akzin

At Mr. Pehle's suggestion interviews have been scheduled for Mr. Benjamin Akzin with Mr. Pehle, Mr. DuBois, and Mr. Friedman. These interviews are scheduled for Monday morning, February 21, as follows:

Mr. DuBois 10 A.M.

Mr. Friedman 10:30 A.M.

Mr. Pehle 11 A.M.

Mr. Akzin has been requested to come to my office a few minutes before 10 A.M. to begin the series. Interview reports after these interviews will be very helpful.

(Signed) Ward Stewart

Assistant Executive Director
(Management)

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

WStewart; pdk 2/16/44

AA / JWP:ESL:dg 10/7/44

Telephone: ABBEY 6593-4-6467-8.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

Our Ref.: IC/233/60/2

Your Ref.: FM/DLD.

11b, REGENT STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

26th October, 1944.

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 9 regarding Benjamin Aksin. It is characteristically good of you to have called him to our attention and to have written so discerningly of his abilities. Unfortunately we are unable to offer him a position at the present time.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have just written to him.

Cordially yours,

Pat

Patrick Murphy Malin
Vice-Director

Encl.

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

Projects and Documents
File

Administrative Matters: Personnel

COPY FOR MR. PEHLE.

IC/233/60/2
PMM/DLD.

26th October, 1944.

Dear Dr. Akzin,

Thank you very much for having talked with Miss Biehle on October 3 and for having supplied us, through her, with your curriculum vitae. It has been of great help to me since my return to London in my discussions with Sir Herbert Emerson regarding our personnel needs.

At present we see no possibility of employing your admirable and rare experience within our organisation in the London Office or in the field. Here in London our next step will be to include within the senior officer group perhaps two or three citizens of Continental nations. In Algiers and Paris, where we already have offices, and in Brussels and Berne, where we shall probably be opening offices very soon, the staffs will at the beginning be entirely composed of nationals of those respective countries. In Rome, where we have had an office for the last six months, the workers, in addition to our Resident Representative (British) and his secretary, are supplied entirely by voluntary organisations working under our auspices, and the amplification of the work, which now seems likely to take place there, will be handed by an extension of their delegations, representing perhaps other private organisations as well as those now there. The work which we shall be undertaking in the military zones of occupied Germany lies, of course,

Dr. Benjamin Akzin,
6000 - 13th Street N.W.,
WASHINGTON 11, D.C.

over/

10/10/41
HERRL

10/10/41

Dear Mr. Herrl,

beyond the military horizon and we are debarred, therefore, from making definite staff plans at the present time. As to operations which we may be called upon to undertake in satellite countries, it is impossible at the moment to do more than guess about their nature. I need hardly tell you that I shall keep your impressive qualifications in the foreground of my mind so that if a suitable opportunity occurs, I may acquaint you with it. Meanwhile I hope that you have been able to discover other work which makes good use of your talents in worthy succession to the yeoman service which you have performed for the War Refugee Board.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Murphy Malin
Vice-Director

Mr. Herrl
1111 Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CHIEF OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

OCT 9 1944

Dear Pat:

As the Intergovernmental Committee's responsibilities increase, I assume that it will of necessity expand its organization. In that connection it has been suggested to me that, since the Board's work is apparently approaching its termination, you might wish to consider Dr. Benjamin Akzin, who has been a member of the Board's staff since last March and wishes to remain in the refugee field. A statement of Akzin's educational qualifications and professional experience, which he has supplied, is attached.

Akzin has displayed a high degree of competence and resourcefulness. He is imaginative and persevering, and his background in international law and political science has proven helpful. He is acute to the political and social, as well as the humanitarian aspects of the refugee problem and has demonstrated an understanding of the basic differences in the approaches of various countries to such matters.

Akzin tells me that he has already spoken to you about the possibility of joining your organization. You should find him useful.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) John

Mr. Patrick H. Malin, Vice Director,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11d Regent Street,
London, S.W.1.

AA /JWP:ESL:dg 10/7/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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~~you would find him extremely useful.~~

Cordially yours,

Mr. Patrick M. Malin, Vice Director,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11d Regent Street,
London, SW1.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE
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Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
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London, SW1.

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Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11d Regent Street,
London, SW1.

LSLesser:tmh 10-6-44

X.S.Y.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Pat:

As the work of the War Refugee Board approaches its last weeks, I have been giving some attention to the problem of placing members of the staff who may wish to continue in the refugee field. One of these is Dr. Benjamin Akzin, who has expressed interest in being considered for a job with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

Attached is a copy of Akzin's record, which he has prepared. It is my understanding that a similar statement has been left at the Washington office of the Intergovernmental Committee for transmission to London.

Akzin has shown considerable competence and thoroughness in performing the tasks that have been assigned to him at the Board during the past eight months. It may be that, as your own organization expands to meet its increased responsibilities, you will be interested in Akzin's qualifications and experience.

Cordially yours,

Mr. Patrick M. Malin, Vice Director,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11d Regent Street,
London, SW1.

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Mr. Patrick M. Malin, Vice Director,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11d Regent Street,
London, SW1.

AA:JWP:dg 10/5/54

~~DRAFT OF~~ LETTER FROM MR. PEHLE TO MR. MALIN

Dear Pat:

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Attached is a copy of ~~Dr.~~ Akzin's record, ~~it was prepared by himself.~~ *which he has prepared.* It is my understanding that a similar statement has been left at the Washington office of the Intergovernmental Committee for transmission to London.

~~Dr.~~ Akzin has shown considerable competence and thoroughness in performing the tasks that have been assigned to him at the Board during the past eight months. It may be that as your own organization expands to meet its increased responsibilities ~~you or Miss Biehle will want to talk to him and ascertain his suitability for an assignment in your organization.~~

Cordially yours,

*you will be interested
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The Palestine Mandate in practice (Iowa Law Review, 1939)
Pan-Arab nationalism (Asia, 1939)
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During my years of life abroad and during my period of work in Washington, I have acquired the art of dealing with people in official and unofficial circles of many countries.

I have been living in this country since 1932, and became an American citizen in May 1940.

Proje

Curriculum Vitae

Benjamin Akzin, born 1904 in Riga (Latvia).
Attended Russian and German schools in Riga and Saratov (Russia.)
Studied law and political science at Universities of Vienna, Paris,
Liverpool, London, Harvard. Visited for brief periods of study and
research Universities of Chicago, Michigan, Wisconsin, California,
and the Library of the League of Nations in Geneva.

Academic degrees: Doctor of political science, Vienna, 1926.
Doctor of Law, Paris, 1929. Doctor of jurisprudence, Harvard, 1933.

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Lecturer, Franco-Russian Institute, University of Paris, 1930-1932.
Lecturer, College Libre des Sciences Sociales, Paris, 1931-1932.
Associate Editor, Annuaire Interparlementaire, Paris, 1930-1939.
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Research assistant, Harvard Bureau of International Research, 1934-1936.
Professor of law and government, Portia College and Law School, 1936-1941.
Lecturer, College of the City of New York, 1940-1941.
Foreign affairs specialist, Library of Congress, 1941-1944.
Foreign affairs specialist, War Refugee Board, 1944-

Publications:
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La Desuetude en droit constitutionnel (Revue de droit public, 1928)
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Sirey. 1938.

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