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WMS

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
OF R. NICOLELLI

Mr. Nicoletti
(Switzerland)

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Stamps in Europe: Study & Arrangement
February - 5 May 1944



War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland

J E W S I N E U R O P E

July & August

1 9 4 4

Jews in Europe July 1st/44.

~~WAB RAM~~

Please draft appropriate reply for the Minister.

JH

448 of Apr 29: "if at any
Gov. would find it possible
these approaches (i.e. to ICRC
human satellite Govs. to accord
and other persons detained in
it accorded to civilian internees
to the Germans, or otherwise
ogram, you are authorized to
of Switzerland that it take
"

840.1
JWS IN EUROPE

substance of this request to
Max Huber, Pres of ICRC in letter of May 2nd, with a
copy to M. Pelet-Golay of same date, stating that
"WRIS would be most appreciative if at any time Swiss Gov.
should find it possible to associate itself... etc."

We have, therefore, availed ourselves of this
authorization, although I do not see that it was reported to Dept.
Max Huber's (ICRC) answer was conveyed to Dept.

in Legation's 3147 of May 17 (NAT on claim)
I find no record of an answer from Swiss Gov.
in my "Jews in Europe" file, although there may be one
in AI's master file.

Jews in Europe - July 1st / 44.

and
final sentence of Dept's 1498 of Apr 29: "If at any time you believe that Swiss Gov. would find it possible to associate itself with these approaches (i.e. to ICRC to persuade them to ask German & satellite Govs. to accord same treatment to Jews and other persons detained in concentration camps as that accorded to civilian internees under Geneva Convention) to the Germans, or otherwise assist in this general program, you are authorized to suggest informally to Gov. of Switzerland that it take some action in the matter."

Mr. Harrison conveyed substance of this request to Max Huber, Pres of ICRC in letter of May 2nd, with a copy to M. Pelet-Golay of same date, stating that "WRIS would be most appreciative if at any time Swiss Gov. should find it possible to associate itself... etc."

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I find no record of an answer from Swiss Gov. in my "Jews in Europe" file, although there may be one in AI's master file.

040.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

July 3, 44

C.I.

A.I. No. 8852

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 22116 (B.24.No (2)3-Pfifferling.-DG/Ge.) of May 2, 1944, which conveyed the information that Mr. Kurt Pfifferling, who claims to be a Honduran citizen, has been arrested by the German Gestapo.

The Division is respectfully informed that the Legation forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a translation of the Division's note under reference, together with a translation of its enclosed letter from the Wurttemberg Ministry of the Interior.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated June 26, 1944, from Washington which indicates that the War Refugee Board and the Department of State, with reference to the Pfifferling case, consider that, among others, the Legation's notes A.I. No. 8138 of April 14, and A.I. No. 8433 of May 13, 1944, are applicable.

The Department of State has instructed the Legation
to

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BMK.

RECORDED BY EAST 1-349

to ask that the Division be so good, pursuant to the Legation's above cited note of May 13, as to have the Swiss Legation at Berlin take appropriate action necessary to safeguard Mr. Pfifferling's life as a national of Honduras. It would also be greatly appreciated if the Swiss Legation at Berlin might be requested to submit a report setting forth the results of its action.

The Legation takes this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 3, 1944.

Bergau & Tost Copy for Mr. McClelland

July 3/44

2 other camps for Jews

(CI)

A. I. No. 8857

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to state that it has received a telegram dated June 24, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which conveys the information that the Department of State and the War Refugee Board have received reports which indicate that a number of persons who are unquestionably nationals or who claim to be nationals of the United States or of other American Republics are held in camps situated in Germany and in territory under German control to which the respective protecting powers and the International Committee of the Red Cross have either been granted no access or have been allowed such strictly limited forms of access that they have not been able to render effective aid to the individuals in question.

The subject telegram points out that there are such camps at Theresienstadt, at Drancy near Paris, Elsen-Bergen near Hanover, and at Bergau near Dresden. It is added that since the latter part of 1943 the camp at Tost in Silesia appears to have been placed in this category and that there may possibly be in existence other

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

840.1 WERS IN EUROPE

other camps of the same kind.

The Legation is under instructions, in connection with the foregoing, to request the Division in its capacity as the Power protecting the interests of the United States, kindly to investigate the reported situation. The Legation is also instructed to request the Division to make efforts to have Swiss representatives visit the camps to which reference is made in order to report on claims of individuals detained in these camps to United States citizenship, or in applicable cases to citizenship of other American Republics whose interests are under Swiss protection. The Department of State expresses the further wish that similar efforts be made with respect to camps and other establishments which may exist in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria or any other area controlled by authorities who are allied with Germany or dominated by authorities of the latter country.

The Department of State observes that the request to visit such camps should be based on Article 86 of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention as applied, by mutual agreement of belligerents, to interned civilians. The Legation is furthermore instructed to point out that the extraordinary restrictions which the German authorities have placed on communications with these

camps

camps have deprived the protecting power and the persons detained in the camps of normal means of dealing with their claims to the protection of foreign states and that consequently it is essential for the protection of vital interests of such detainees that visits be paid to these camps.

Reference is made by the Department of State, in connection with the foregoing, to the contents of the Legation's note A.I. No. 8621 of June 7, 1944, and to previous communications with regard to Franz Kahn, verification of whose claim to American citizenship has been impeded unjustifiably by the extraordinary regulations which have been imposed on correspondence.

It would be very greatly appreciated if the Division would be so good as to give appropriate consideration to the request made by the Department of State as conveyed above.

It may be added, for the Division's information and guidance, with reference to the above-mentioned camps at "Kelsen-Bergen near Hanover" and "Bergau near Dresden" that the Legation is forwarding to the Department of State the contents of the Division's kind note No. 32344 (B.24.USA (2)6.-E/Ct.) of July 1, 1944.

The Legation takes this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

A true copy
of the signed
original:

Bern, July 3, 1944.

July 3/44

(C.I.)

It may be observed for the Division's guidance that immediately upon receipt of the foregoing the A.I. No. 8848 of the Department of State whether it

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 31504 (S.24.USA (2)6-2/JW.) of June 28, 1944, and to previous communications concerning the question of according protection to persons in Germany and German-occupied territory who claim citizenship of the several American Republics.

The Legation is under telegraphic instructions from the Department of State at Washington to inform the Division of the following statement comprising a translation of a portion of a note dated May 25, 1944, from the Costa Rican Foreign Office:

"I am pleased to request that Your Excellency be so good as to address the Government of Switzerland through the appropriate channels informing it that Costa Rica maintains the validity of the passports issued by its consular officials; that therefore persons possessing such passports should be regarded as under the protection of the Costa Rican flag and should receive the protection granted by the Geneva Convention to prisoners of war and by analogy to concentrated or detained civilians and that for that reason all individuals holding Costa Rican passports who were released from camp Vittel should again be sent there and may be included among those benefiting by the exchange with the Germans when opportunity presents."

To the Division of Foreign Interests, Federal Political Department,

BERN. Bern, July 7, 1944.

A true copy of the signed original

848 1559 IN MINUTE

It may be observed for the Division's guidance that immediately upon receipt of the foregoing the Legation inquired of the Department of State whether it also applies to those individual Costa Rican cases which were the subject of the Legation's note A.I. No. 5194 of June 1, 1943.

A telegram dated June 28, 1944, has now been received in reply from Washington which conveys the information that the Department of State can only assume that, in requesting the Department of State to inform the Division in the sense of the foregoing, the Costa Rican Government had in mind the contents of the Legation's above cited note of June 1, 1943. It is further stated in the telegram of June 28, that the Department of State feels and believes for that reason that the Division will agree with the view that the previously expressed request of the Costa Rican Government is superseded by its later request as quoted above.

The telegram from the Department of State adds that the existing concerted humanitarian policy of the American Republics is not inconsistent with the earlier position taken by the Costa Rican Government, since it provides only for the decision to be postponed until such time as a decision on claims to foreign nationality can be made without the lives of those concerned being endangered.

The Legation takes this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 3, 1944.

A true copy
of the signed
original. *ma*

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department Date: July 3, 11 a.m., 1944
 No: 4221
 Code:  Charged to:

CI.

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's 1921 of June 5 (WRB 31).
 Foreign Office note of June 27, received June 29,
 encloses two notices which are dated June 20. We
 are sending Department by airmail copy and transla-
 tion of both. Legation's telegram No. 4223 gives
 English translation.

HARRISON

Copy to Mr. McClelland

TJH/re *copy in FA*

840.1 JETS IN EUROPE

DECLASSIFIED
 State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
 By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

Mr. Mc Clelland

MEMORANDUM

July 3, 1944.

To: Mr. Huddle
From: Mr. Tait

(C.I.)

Dear Klahr:

I attach a draft telegram regarding Jews in Europe which is a paraphrase of the two notices received under cover of Foreign Office note of June 27 about which I spoke to you at the end of last week.

Despite the length of this cable, it seems advisable to send it in by telegraph.

At the moment there are three other communications in preparation which require the use of A.I. file JEWS - EUROPE, and I hope therefore that the telegram attached, together with the note from the Swiss Foreign Office on which the telegram is based, will suffice for your purposes. If not please let me know, and the file will be at once sent over to you.

G.T.

Enclosures:

No. 1 - Draft telegram to Department;

GT/hs No. 2 - Swiss Foreign Office note of June 27, 1944.

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

C.S.

Date: July 3, noon, 1944

No: 4223

Code: Brown

Charged to:

Notice No. I:

Swiss Legation Berlin has no knowledge camps BOSTORFOST Silesia and BERGAU near Dresden but will nevertheless immediately undertake all necessary measures with view establishing both nature and object thereof. Reports concerning said camps will be transmitted earliest possible.

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

QUOTE Alien relatives ENDQUOTE, that is those close relatives of American nationals not possessing American citizenship, are not being admitted to internment camps reserved for nationals of American nations. While awaiting exchange they are detained in above-mentioned temporary camp in which are likewise held, for example, persons approved for Palestine civilian exchange but not possessing British nationality. (Note: Please see penultimate paragraph Department's 1846 May 27 indicating more lenient attitude in this regard.)

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

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

Polish

840.1 1944 JUL 11 AM 10:05

Polish and other Eastern European Jews, it is quite possible, thought it advisable to obtain a false Latin American passport. German authorities have subjected them to general treatment accorded Eastern Jews, having established that these documents not authentic. As persons concerned have not had possibility approach Swiss authorities, cases this character not generally known to Legation.

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

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

Notice No. II:

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

These persons, it developed in due course, possessed no proof of nationality which they claimed. Consequently they were removed from camp where they had no right to be. It was further stated by competent German Foreign Office official that he could not accede to Legation's request for list of persons removed from Vittel because question merely involved internal German police measures and persons concerned had no right to Swiss protection. (Legation's telegram No. 3171 May 18 summarized this representation.) Deportation measures taken at Vittel and Compiègne have affected no United States national, according statements Secret Counsellor SETHE. The Swiss Foreign Office transmitted during April to the Swiss Legation Berlin the list bearing 238 names deported from Vittel as result measures

taken by Germans, which received from American Legation.

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

United States false passports are practically non-existent. German authorities have shown greatest reserve regarding deportation American nationals as this fact is known to them. It is against persons claiming Latin American citizenship that QUOTE cleaning ENDQUOTE of internment camps is directed. It rests on fact that Jewish population in Poland and other Eastern European regions is in possession very large number false Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Haitian, Honduran, Ecuadoran, Paraguayan and Nicaraguan passports.

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

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

- 143) Saul MALCOWSKY, Venezuelan
- 144) Sara MALCOWSKY, Venezuelan
- 145) Maurice MALCOWSKY, Venezuelan
 - 1) Eugenia GORLIN, Chilean
 - 2) Anna FRUMKIN, Chilean
 - 3) Hermine FRUMKIN, Chilean

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

undertake

undertake on their behalf all necessary representations.

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

C.) Authorization of German authorities has been sought by Swiss Legation to have representative Swiss Consulate Paris visit Vittel camp with view informing American internees of communications from their government (note: Please see penultimate paragraph Department's 1221 April 10 and its 1269 April 13). Camp will be visited near future as authorization given in principle.

D.) Every opportunity taken by German authorities to reiterate that there has been deported no internee able furnish proof Latin American citizenship or American nationality. Relatively large number of persons, German authorities observed, claimed citizenship of South American republic, supporting this with documents evidently false or being unable furnish slightest proof. These persons never left Polish territory and Spanish is not spoken by them. Right is claimed by German foreign police to assimilate bearers of false documents with rest of population of Poland or other occupied countries and not to recognize subject false documents.

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

E.) With regard to request that Swiss authorities protest to German authorities against their action in passing on QUOTE merits of individual claims of persons holding United States or Latin American documentation ENDQUOTE it must be pointed out, in admitting that above-quoted term envisages priority claims for civilian exchange, that Swiss Legation has often indicated to German authorities that North and South American citizens included in civilian

exchange

exchange groups were often persons other than those proposed and recommended by Swiss Legation and in whom greatest interest shown by American Government.

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

According view Swiss Legation, owing fact that exchange groups constituted in Germany by domestic authorities particularly police, no substantial consideration being given to Swiss Legation's suggestions, satisfactory composition exchange groups can only be obtained through exchange by interested governments prior to departure of groups of formal lists. Except in cases MALCOWSKY, GORLIN and FRUMKIN families, no person able show valid claim to citizenship of American country has been deprived of rights pertaining thereto during 1944, to knowledge Swiss Legation. Additionally several hundred citizens of United States and Latin America protected by Swiss Legation, whose papers, forwarded through intermediary competent authorities (QUOTE pending case ENDQUOTE), not yet recognized by countries concerned. Nevertheless these persons thus far permitted remain in internment camps foreseen for citizens of American continent. German authorities, in certain number cases this category already awaiting decision for one or two years, formally inquired recently whether one or another citizen of American countries is effectively recognized by his government as such and whether he is accepted for civilian exchange.

F.) All Latin American countries represented in Germany by Swiss Legation Berlin, except that Sweden represents Mexico and Spain represents Bolivia and Paraguay. The matter in question (note: recognition of individual claims to nationality of Latin American countries pending review of case by government concerned) has been taken up with Swiss Legation by no Latin American country which Switzerland represents. Only Venezuela and Honduras, during first half June, signified to German authorities that all bearers of identity papers issued by Venezuelan and Honduran Governments are to be treated in accordance with international regulations applicable civilian internees.

End notices.

HARRISON

TJH/hs:mk
Copy to: Mr. McClelland

Copy in F.A

Jews in Europe

*Copy from of 2nd
note 1663, July 11/44
to F.P.O.*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: July 3, 1944
No: 2259
Code: Brown Received: July 4, 4 p.m.

For the Minister.

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain have agreed, in furtherance of their joint policy to use every available means consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to bring about the rescue of victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death, jointly to approach the Swiss Government in regard to the reception and care of refugees with a view to renewing assurances previously made concerning additional imports if needed to meet the needs of refugees admitted to Switzerland. After consulting with your British colleague, who has received general instructions in the matter, a joint approach should be made to the Swiss Government in the sense of the following:

"The Governments of the United States and Great Britain desire again to express their admiration for the humanitarian policy which has been followed by the Government of Switzerland in giving asylum and care to the large numbers of refugees who have made their way to Switzerland.

"The Governments of the United States and Great Britain desire to reaffirm their willingness to arrange for the provision of such additional imports as may be required to ease the burden on Swiss resources resulting from the temporary care of refugees already received in Switzerland or those who may subsequently be received under the liberal and humanitarian Swiss policy in this regard."

A similar joint approach is being made to the Government of Sweden. Joint approaches also are being made to the Governments of Turkey, Spain and Portugal, expressing the hope that they will adopt a more liberal policy as regards the reception and temporary care of refugees and offering to arrange for the provision of such additional imports and funds as may be required to ease the burden on local resources arising from the care of such refugees as may be received.

HULL

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D JUL 4 1944
BERN

*WRB - Mr. McMillan
(Please talk to Richard
Harrison this week re some
material he has on the
Bern, July 4, 1944.
Hungarian situation in German
occupied Europe.
5 July 44 H.H.*

(C.I.)

Mr. Huddle,

A Zurich refugee aid organization furnished the American and British press men here last week with a "reliable report" on the German extermination of European Jews at certain camps in Silesia. This report estimated 1,700,000 Jews from all European countries including the most recent contingent of some 400,000 Hungarian Jews had been put to death in Silesia. The report goes into the matter in much detail with a description of the cyanide process allegedly used by the German executioners.

The press men looked with some doubt on this report until Brigham of the NYT sent it off on Sunday. While it was not featured in the TIMES, other press men received queries on it from both New York and London, and the NEW YORK TIMES cabled about the source of the report, the length of the original text and its availability.

It appears that this report may in part be based on a mistranslation of the words "Ausrottung" and "Entjudung". I spoke yesterday with one of the men who "planted" the report with the newspaper agencies and he insisted, for example, that the Hungarian policy of "Entjudung" of the Hungarian cities means that the Jewish elements therein are put to death.

I have been collecting material on the Jewish situation in Hungary and expect to send over to you shortly a rather complete telegram on the subject.

[Signature]
Landreth M. Harrison.

8401 Jews in Europe

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

CASE FILE

J.M. McClelland

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department C.I. Date: July 4, midnight, 1944
 No: 2280
 Code: ██████████ Received: July 5, 8 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

US URGENT

Following telegram, No. 2444 July 3, has been received from Legation Stockholm.

Department's 1323 July 3 and Stockholm's 2437 July 3. A report which has been received from Gullion states that up to 9.30 p.m. tonight Finnish exit and Swedish entry visas had been obtained for 49 Americans, 28 British, 7 Canadians, 1 Dutch, 4 Belgians, 5 Italians, 2 Polish, 1 Estonian, 4 stateless persons, and 57 Jewish refugees.

On board the BIRGER JARL there will be five members of the Legation, one of whom is a Finn and another a Dane.

There appear on a list separate from the above-mentioned 57 Jewish refugees the names of 62 Jewish refugees who were refused Swedish entry visas. The head of the Jewish community in Helsinki believes that not more than 25 of this group of 62 will appear at Abo in time to travel with the evacuation party, but it should be noted that those of the 62 who do reach Abo in time will be taken along, in the hope that the Swedish Government may permit them to enter the country at such time as their support while in Sweden may be guaranteed by the War Refugee Board.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re

DECLASSIFIED
 State Dept. Order 11652
 By 21 7/20/01 SP8 22 1972

840.1 J.M. McClelland

CASE FILE

Nicaragua

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

(C.I.)

Date: July 6, midnight, 1944

No: 2318

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: July 7, 9 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Rep Aug. 7/44
Tel. No. 5091
(C.I.)

WRB No. 71. For McClelland.

Legation's 3871 June 17, paragraph 6.

On April 22 the Nicaraguan Foreign Office, our Embassy at Managua reports, despatched to the Swiss Foreign Office a telegram which included the following sentence:

"It is requested that Your Excellency ask the Government of Germany to apply the international Prisoners of War Convention to all bearers of Nicaraguan passports who are interned in camps under the control of that Government."

In view of apparent contradiction, kindly advise us of the precise situation with regard to Nicaragua.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re Copy in FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order, 1-11-78
By H. H. Pitzer Date SEP 22 1972

840.1 JEW IN EUROPE
ELIOT'S NY CASE

CASE FILE

*McClelland
AUSCHWITZ, BIRKENAU*

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: July 6, 1944

No: 4296

(C.I.)

Code: Clear

Charged to:

2. The 2 camps apparently straddle main railroad line from Dzierzitz to Chrzanow about 2 kms to SW of Oswiecim (German name: Auschwitz). Camp of A is located between Sola River and railroad line, while camp of B lies about 2 kms NW of railroad and slightly south of village of Brzezinka. Their southern limit is village of Rajsko. Each camp is encircled by an outer chain of 50 to 60 watch-towers at radius of 2 kms; these circles of towers almost touch at one point with only railroad line running between. Two camps thus about 4 kms apart. Inner compound of A is 500 by 300 meters and consists of 3 rows of barracks surrounded by double fence carrying charged wires with 5 meter high watch-towers at 150 meter intervals between fences. Between compound and outer circle are clustered to N, 3 factory buildings of "Deutsches Aufrüstungswerke", Krupp and Siemens; to W staff building.

Compound of B is 1600 by 850 meters. NE end of camp is distinguished by high smokestacks of 4 crematoria. To NW is a small birch forest called "Birkenwald", while 2-1/2 kms to W a farm camp called "Harmense".

For geographical orientation see 1:200,000 scale map of Upper Silesia plebiscite zone.

3. A was originally solely a concentration camp and in April 1942 housed about 15,000 political prisoners, mainly Poles, with a few Germans and Russians, including criminals, asocials, homosexuals, and members of "Bibelforscher" religious sect; also Jews from all occupied countries. Over entrance gate are inscribed words "Arbeit macht frei".

B, primarily used for Jews, was constructed by 12,000 Russian war prisoners brought there, as punitive measure, during December 1941. By May 1942 all but few hundred had died from exposure and undernourishment. Authors state that their bodies, which had been shallowly buried by thousands, had to be later exhumed and burned due to frightful odor they spread. When authors arrived there were about 2000 men in B.

4. Treatment

840.1
SERIAL 17

4. Treatment and working conditions in A and B are vicious. On arrival all possessions and clothing are confiscated, heads shaved to make escape more difficult, and camp number tattooed, in case of Jews during 1942, on left side of chest, and after beginning of 1943 for all prisoners on left forearm. Ragged and filthy Russian uniforms and wooden shoes are distributed. In B each "Block" or barrack, 30 by 10 by 5 meters high houses 4 to 500 internees in cell-like rooms too cramped to permit either standing or lying down. Food for Jews consists of tepid, ersatz coffee in morning, 1 liter soup generally turnip at noon and 300 grs bad bread at night. Non-Jews receive more. Working hours are, in summer from 5 to 12 and 13 to 18, in winter from 7 to 15 without interruption. Men are worked outdoors irrespective of weather or season. Working conditions for Jews are calculated to bring them to state of collapse within 2 weeks. They are beaten or shot for slightest slowness, awkwardness or infraction. Heavy physical labor is demanded: road construction, gravel pit, cement work, house demolishing, or work in various factories, particularly the "Buna" synthetic rubber plant near B. When working outside second circle of watch-towers each group generally assigned 10 by 10 meter area. Anyone accidentally overstepping line or falling out of march column returning from work is shot for "attempting to escape". Any internee who actually tries to escape, if caught alive, is publicly hung before whole camp; if only body is brought back it is placed at entrance gate of camp with sign reading "hier bin ich".

Authors report mortality among group of 1000 Slovakian Jews which arrived in mid-April 1942 at 30 to 40 per day. Three weeks after arrival only 150 were alive. A similar transport of 1300 naturalized French Jews from Paris which arrived early in April 1942 were all dead within month.

5. Those too weak to work are placed in ill-famed "Block 7" in B, the so-called "Krankenbau". Here an operation called "Selektion" is practiced consisting of sorting out by camp doctor each Monday and Thursday of worst cases who are then transported in trucks to the "Birkenwald" where they are gassed in a special barrack, bodies being burned afterwards. In Block 7 about 800 died by "Selektion" and 1200 of so-called "natural death" each week. Death certificates for latter category are regularly drawn up and sent to Oranienburg. Authors worked in Block 7 Krankenbau between May 1942 and January 1943 and from direct observation estimate total such deaths during this period at 50,000.

6. According to Polish Major "Krankenbau" in A, in March 1942, consisted of Blocks 28, 20 and 21. Later, 3

other

other Blocks, 19, 9 and 10, composing so-called "Hygienic Institut", were attached to it. In latter various medical experiments were performed: sterilization by x-rays, artificial insemination, blood transfusions - using male and female prisoners from camp. One example: out of family transport of 4000 Jews from Theresienstadt which arrived on September 7, 1943, all were gassed in Birkenwald on March 7, 1944 except 11 pairs of twins delivered to this "Hygienic Institut".

No one was admitted to Krankenbau in A unless he had a fever of at least 38.6 centigrade. "Patients" were divided into two groups: Jews and Non-Jews. 80 to 90% of former were killed outright by fenolin injections in heart region. Many Jews voluntarily submitted to this rather than commit suicide on high-tension wires. Non-Jews were divided into curables and those whose recovery would take several weeks. Latter, if still ailing after month, along with many political prisoners condemned to death, were killed by fenolin injections. To further make room for new "patients" German doctor checked over everyone in Krankenbau once a month and drew up a list of 200 to 400 who were killed by same method. Those destined for the "Spritze" (as it was called in camp jargon) were sent naked from Block 28 to Block 20 where "operation" was performed early in 1942 by SS-man Kler, a shoemaker by profession. For services rendered to the Führer, Kler was promoted to "Oberscharführer", given extra rations and the Iron Cross. Later when Kler's nerves began to fail him he was assisted by a Pole named Panszozyk (prisoner no. 607) from Cracow. Still later this killing was done by another Pole named Jerzy Szymkowiak, No. 15490, who volunteered. He is said to have died in summer of 1943.

Delousing, as anti-typhus measure, was also frequently used by German doctor as pretext to weed out additional ill and weak for execution. Any Jew suspected of typhus was automatically sent to Birkenwald to be gassed.

In A great many political prisoners were regularly executed by shooting against wall in court between Blocks 10 and 11. This reached high point in May 1942 when 2 or 3 times weekly, at morning appel, 40 to 60 men were separated out and sent to await execution in cells of Block 11.

7. Jews who were brought to A toward end of 1941 were for most part Polish political prisoners and killed by various methods as such. Not until spring of 1942 were transports of Jews "en masse" sent to B (constructed principally for them) to be exterminated on purely "racial" grounds.

First large Jewish transport to arrive in A - March 1942 - consisted of 7000 Slovakian girls. By spring of 1944 only 400 of them were still alive in B. They had been numbered from 1000 to 8000. Men, on other hand, were numbered at time of arrival of authors, from roughly 27,500 on. Only those admitted to camp received numbers. No number was used twice except in case of Russian pows who were always numbered from 1 to 12,000. By April of 1944 when authors escaped number series for men had reached 174,000. Approximately 148,500 persons had entered camps of A and B. Effective of B when authors left was about 34,000, composed of 16,000 Jews and 18,000 "Aryans". 13,000 of this total were women, and 4500 gypsies, remains of group of 16,000, who died off very quickly.

Effective of A in spring of 1944 is not given.

Of 146,500 persons who had entered camps during authors' stay, some 20,000 were "Aryans", mainly Polish political prisoners, plus a group of 700 Czechs and 200 French "Communists". Among latter was Thorez's brother and Leon Blum's younger brother who was tortured and gassed.

8. As first large transports of Jews began to arrive in spring of 1942 process was to admit about 10% of more able-bodied men and 5% of women into B. This selection was made by Gestapo "political" commission at the unloading of trains. Balance, including elderly people, women with small children, those ill or otherwise unsuited for work, and abandoned children were taken directly to Birkenwald in trucks and gassed. At first the bodies were thrown into immense graves, but in fall of 1942 they were exhumed and burned (with gasolene) in great piles in the open fields. A burning pit was then instituted. The ashes from it were always carefully sifted and spread far and wide.

9. Authors were in regular contact with Jewish work group called the "Sonderkommando" charged with emptying gas barrack and burning corpses so they were in position to obtain reasonably accurate information as to numbers exterminated. They could also control those admitted to camp who received numbers. A large part of their report consists of frightful statistical record of vast number of Jews destroyed while they were in B. A few examples should be given.

From July 1 to September 15, 1942, huge family transports of Jews from France, Belgium and Holland constantly arrived. At one point in July, 16,800 (numbered 49,000 to 64,800) were admitted to camp. This represented barely 10%

of convoys so that over 100,000 were gassed. A few weeks later, 9000 were admitted to B (numbered 71,000 to 80,000) with estimate of those directly gassed set at 65 to 70,000 persons. With number 80,000, systematic annihilation of Polish ghetti began. During Dec. 1942 and Jan. 1943 transports arrived daily with Jews from Mljava, Makow, Zichenow, Lomza, Grodno, Bialostok and Krakau. Only 5000 of them ever entered B. At least 90 to 100,000 were destroyed. Authors speak of "Sonderkommando" working day and night in two 12 hour shifts. About 4000 Jews murdered daily. In middle of January 3 transports of 2000 persons each arrived from Theresienstadt. Their baggage was labelled "CU", "CR", and "R". From these 6000 only 600 men and 300 women entered camp. During whole month of February 1943 an average of 2 convoys daily arrived with Polish, Dutch and French Jews. The number who perished was around 90,000.

10. At the end of February, 1943 4 newly constructed crematoria and gassing units were put into operation in B - 2 larger and 2 smaller. The larger type consisted of vast central hall flanked on one side by furnace room and on other by long, narrow gas chamber. About 2000 persons at once were crowded into central hall, which was camouflaged to resemble bathing establishment, made to undress, given piece of soap and towel, and then herded down a short stairway into adjoining, lower gas chamber. This is hermetically closed and SS men wearing gasmasks mount to roof and shake down into room from three openings in the ceiling a powdered cyanide preparation labelled "Cyklon", manufactured in Hamburg. Within few minutes everyone in gas chamber is dead. Latter is aired and "Sonderkommando" proceeds with gruesome work of transporting bodies on small flat cars running along track passing under the central hall to the furnace room. Here there are 9 ovens, each with 4 openings with a high smokestack rising in middle. Each opening can incinerate 3 normal bodies within 1-1/2 hours. Daily capacity of larger crematoria is 2000; of 2 smaller about 1000 each. Total for all 4 units is some 6000 daily.

At this time gas barrack and burning pit in Birkenwald were abandoned, all traces being completely obliterated. It should be recalled in this respect that 2 similar extermination camps in Poland were functioning a few months ago: Malkini-Treblinka near Bialostok and Belzec near Bug. It is confirmed that Belzec was completely eradicated early this year. The same is said concerning Treblinka. Doubtless Nazis plan to destroy A and B when they have served their terrible purpose. This desire to cover up their tracks from posterity is further emphasized by arrival in A early in 1943 of 500,000 liberation forms which were carefully filled out with data on those gassed and filed in archives.

Further

Further illustrative of this preoccupation is "post-card episode". Early in Sept. 1943 a family transport of 4000 souls from Theresienstadt arrived in B. This transport was officially designated as "SB - Sonderbehandlung - Czech Jews with 6 months quarantine". On March 1st 1944 these people were forced to write post-cards to relatives in foreign countries dated March, 23 to 25, stating they were in good health and asking for packages. On March 7th 3791 persons from this group were gassed, the balance mostly old people (with the exception of the 11 pairs of twins already mentioned) having died during quarantine period. Several of these cards were received in Switzerland.

11. For inauguration of new crematoria in B at beginning of March 1943, 8000 Jews from Krakau were destroyed. For this occasion prominent civilians and high army officers arrived from Berlin and declared themselves satisfied with performance after having elbowed one another to use the peephole looking into gas chamber.

12. Mid-March 1943, 45,000 Jews from Saloniki arrived. 10,000 entered the camp (numbered 109,000 to 119,000); the rest, outside of a few women, went into the crematoria. The 10,000 in the camp died rapidly from malaria, typhus, mistreatment and "injections", so that when authors left B not a single Greek Jew was alive. During December 1943 more large transports of Dutch, French and Belgian Jews arrived, including for first time, Italian Jews from Fiume, Trieste and Rome. 5000 men entered camps (numbers 160,000 to 165,000); at least 30,000 persons were gassed. (So these extraordinary figures continue.)

13. Authors set number of Jews gassed and burned in B between April 1942 and April 1944 at from 1.5 to 1.75 million, about half of them Poles, the others (in thousands followed by country of origin): 150 France, 100 Holland, 60 Germany, 50 Lithuania, 50 Belgium, 50 Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway together, 30 Slovakia, 30, Bohemia, Moravia and Austria together, 300 from various camps for foreign Jews in Poland.

HARRISON

RDM/mk

Copy in FA

McClelland

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: July 6, noon, 1944

No: 4291

C.I.

Code: ██████

Charged to:

The following is from McClelland for WRB.

1. There recently reached Switzerland through underground Czech channels two eyewitness reports concerning the Nazi concentration and extermination camps of Auschwitz (to be referred to hereinafter as A) and Birkenau (to be referred to hereinafter as B) in eastern Upper Silesia.

The above-mentioned independent reports are based on the experiences of two Slovakian Jews who were interned in these camps from April 1942 to April 1944, when they escaped, and on the experiences of a non-Jewish Polish major who spent one and one-half years in A. Direct personal experiences only are given, no hearsay. Since these accounts tend to corroborate fragmentary information received by various organizations and individuals in Switzerland during the past two years, in particular the dates and composition of transports of Jewish deportees which arrived from all over Europe in A and B, there is every reason to consider them as authentic. Furthermore, before the report was drawn up, the two Jews, who are hereinafter referred to as "authors", were closely cross-questioned by trustworthy persons.

(There is to be inserted herewith the text of my telegram No. 4295 of July 6, 1944.)

14. The following names were given as being among those responsible for these acts in A and B: Lagerführer GRAEGER, head of the Gestapo political section; Untersturmführer SCHWARZHUBER from the Tyrol, Commandant of B; Lagerkommandant HOESS (of both camps); Scharführer STIWETZ; Oberscharführer PALITSCH; SS-Mann KLER; SS-Scharführer WYKLEFF; ENTREST, camp physician. Also responsible for the cold-blooded murder of many Jews were a certain number of Reichs German professional criminals interned in

A

840.1 2381 II 11/19/44

A and B. Among the foregoing the following should be named: Albert HAEMMERLE, Alexander NEUMANN, Rudi BERCHERT, Rudi OSTERINGER, ZIMMER, Arno BOEHM, and the following political prisoners: Alois STAHLER and Alfred KLEIN.

The above report is being sent to the War Refugee Board for whatever use it deems most effective. When mailing facilities permit, microfilm copies of the two reports "in extenso" will be sent.

HARRISON

Copy in F.A

RDM/mk

TELEGRAM SENT

Date: July 7, 11 a.m., 1944

No: 4324



Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Department's telegram 2196 of June 28th.

Reference to the Department's 1498 of April 29th, which proposal was conveyed on May 2nd to Minister of the Red Cross, with an appropriate statement that it would be appreciated if the Swiss Government find it possible to associate itself with such approaches to the German Government as might be undertaken by InterCross.

With regard to the procedure suggested in the Department's no. 2221 of June 30th, I have been in continuous communication, formally and informally, as well as personally and officially, with appropriate officials of the Swiss Government, as have McClelland and other officers of this Mission. It is my conviction that the Swiss have done, and will conscientiously continue to do all they feel they consistently can do without compromising their position and jeopardizing their usefulness otherwise, as I have reported previously. The efforts of the Swiss to effect the release of children from enemy territory, their continued actual clandestine reception and accommodation of refugees, regardless of practical obstacles, and their willingness under given conditions to approach both the German and the satellite governments testify, along with other indications, to their humanitarian activities. Also, whether or not the Swiss felt able to undertake action, they always accorded sympathetic consideration to all proposals. The expression of appreciation of the Department, as conveyed in its no. 2221, will be welcome and at the first opportunity I shall convey it to M. Pilet-Golaz.

HARRISON

JKH:RDM:mjb:nf
In duplicate

Copy in file

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 1-11-72
By: M. H. Fisher Date: SEE 22 1972

210707 NI 10975 1068

minutes
should be
glad to come in and
talk to you about
this this afternoon.
Mr. Huddle feels
that some remarks
should be added to
effect that we have
constantly been in
touch with the Swiss
on these matters as
a part of normal
diplomatic practice
so they would need
to make such sugges-
tions. *AB*

TELEGRAM SENT

Date: July 7, 11 a.m., 1944

No: 4324

CL

Charged to:

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Department's telegram 2196 of June 28th.

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HARRISON

JKH:RDM:mjb:nf
In duplicate

Copy in file

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 1-11-72
By E. H. Felt Date SEP 22 1972

8401 JAW IN EUROPE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: July 7, 11 a.m., 1944

No: 4324

Code: ████████

CL

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's telegram 2196 of June 28th.

With reference to the Department's 1498 of April 29th, the substance thereof was conveyed on May 2nd to Minister Pilet as well as to the Red Cross, with an appropriate indication that it would be appreciated if the Swiss Government would find it possible to associate itself with such approaches to the German Government as might be undertaken by InterCross.

With regard to the procedure suggested in the Department's no. 2221 of June 30th, I have been in continuous communication, formally and informally, as well as personally and officially, with appropriate officials of the Swiss Government, as have McClelland and other officers of this Mission. It is my conviction that the Swiss have done, and will conscientiously continue to do all they feel they consistently can do without compromising their position and jeopardizing their usefulness otherwise, as I have reported previously. The efforts of the Swiss to effect the release of children from enemy territory, their continued actual clandestine reception and accommodation of refugees, regardless of practical obstacles, and their willingness under given conditions to approach both the German and the satellite governments testify, along with other indications, to their humanitarian activities. Also, whether or not the Swiss felt able to undertake action, they always accorded sympathetic consideration to all proposals. The expression of appreciation of the Department, as conveyed in its no. 2221, will be welcome and at the first opportunity I shall convey it to M. Pilet-Golaz.

HARRISON

JKH:RDM:mjb:nf
In duplicate

Copy - fa

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By: R. H. Frazier Date SEP 22 1972

R4901 SWISS IN EUROPE

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

WAB/PM

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**
GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 291.74
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/T-A/14

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D JUL 8 1944
BERN

Genève, July 7th, 1944
37, quai Wilson

*Re 1st Palestine Certificates
German exchange*

Dear Mr. Huddle,

I am glad to be able to inform you that on July 5th an exchange took place in Istanbul of 283 Jews against 111 Germans. As explained to you some time ago the Germans had accepted the idea of exchanging bearers of Palestine immigration certificates against German nationals and this is the first result of our efforts to carry out this scheme with the help and assistance of the British Government and the Protecting Power.

A few of the exchanged people are Palestinians while most of them are Dutch Jews or former German Jews who had been granted Palestine immigration certificates a long time ago.

Yours very sincerely

R. Lichtheim
R. Lichtheim

Mr. J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
B e r n e .

040.1 1943 IN EUROPE

C.I.

Bern, July 7, 1944.

840.1 JMS IN EUROPE

My dear Mr. Minister:

In answer to your letter of the 21st of June, please find enclosed a list of those persons who were removed from the camp of Vittel.

I am sorry not to have been able to send this to you at an earlier date, and trust that this will be of use to the Refugee Department of your Legation.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosure:

List.

The Honorable
Aleksander Lados,
Minister of Poland,
Bern.

RDM/mjb

~~WRB/AM~~



Mingelen
Good - 3/1/44
SHARE Kurr dont it.
also RY 22/44

Bern, July 8, 1944.

them:

reiative of your letter of July 7, 1944, informing me regarding the final success of your efforts to exchange holders of Palestinian certificates against certain German nationals, and sincerely hope that this is only the beginning of very satisfying results.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Mr. R. Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

840.1
LENS IN SINGAPORE

~~WRB/AM~~

Bern, July 8, 1944.

Dear Mr. Lichtheim:

I am appreciative of your letter of July 7, 1944, informing me regarding the final success of your efforts to exchange holders of Palestinian certificates against certain German nationals, and sincerely hope that this is only the beginning of very satisfying results.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Mr. E. Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

JKH/mjb

840.1
JEWIS IN ERRORS

MEMORANDUM

July 8, 1944.

AI
Mr. Tait:

The Department's 3871, June 17, stated that Nicaragua had not as yet confirmed the attitude which should result from the steps taken by the Department of State with reference to status of passports fraudulently issued by its agents.

The accompanying telegram from the Department, No. 2316 of July 6th, contains a statement from the Nicaraguan Government which, at best, seems to be somewhat equivocal.

It seems, however, that it will be desirable to approach the Foreign Interests Section to find out, first, whether the telegram was actually received by the Swiss Foreign Office, and, second, if it was received what interpretation the Swiss have placed upon it, and what if any action they have taken as a result of receiving it.

The Swiss might also wish to amend, in such case, the statement made in the aide memoire of June 13th wherein the position of Nicaragua was described as indicated above.

Presumably the Foreign Interests Section will be able to answer the above indicated questions.

840.1
RECEIVED
JULY 11 1944

Note from Political Dept

July 19th Swiss Legation Berlin - delivered Berlin May 5th.
has acted for Nic's stat (notified, Germans)

31st July: Germans not get ask note J.K.H.

Nic. Tele? v July 19th

In duplicate to AI
Copy to Mr. McClelland

JKH/mjb

Via Air Mail Pouch

No. 8694

Bern, July 8, 1944.

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

840.1
JETS IN EUROPE

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's telegram No. 4225 of July 3, 1944, which transmitted the substance of two NOTICES from the Swiss Foreign Office concerning the treatment and deportation of persons claiming the citizenship of various American Republics.

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

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

Respectfully yours,
For the Minister:

George Falt
First Secretary

Enclosures

Enclosures:

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

File No. B40.1
TJH/hs
In quintuplicate to Department.

COPY
hs

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Berlin, le 20 juin 1944.

COPY
hs

SCHWEIZERISCHE GESANDTSCHAFT

in Deutschland

Berlin W 8
Pariser Platz 2

Abteilung Schutzmachtangelegenheiten

AE/Wh.

NOTICE

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

ad.l.:

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

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

du

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ad.2.:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ad.3.:

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

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

ad.4.:

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

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

dessus

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

ad.5.:

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

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

13.
Il y a lieu d'ajouter à ce propos qu'à la suite d'une démarche entreprise par la Légation des Etats-Unis à Berne, auprès du Chef du Département Politique fédéral, la Légation de Suisse à Berlin a demandé et obtenu du Ministère allemand des Affaires étrangères, en date du 11 mai, l'assurance formelle que dorénavant même des porteurs de pièces d'identité contestables, relevant de pays de l'Amérique latine, pour autant qu'ils se trouvent déjà dans des camps d'internement pour ressortissants du Continent américain, ne seront plus soumis à des mesures de déportation. Un rapport circonstancié a été remis à ce sujet, en date du 15 mai, par le Ministre de Suisse à Berlin, au Chef du Département Politique fédéral. Depuis cette démarche aucun nouveau cas de déportation de porteurs de pièces d'identité sud-américaines n'a été signalé.

Aucune

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

ad.6.1

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

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

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

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

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

juste

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

ad.7.:

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

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

Berlin, le 20 juin 1944.

TRANSLATION

NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Berlin, June 20, 1944.

EJH/hs

TRANSLATION

SWISS LEGATION
in Germany

Foreign Interests Section

AE/Mh

Berlin W 8
Pariser Platz 2

NOTICE

regarding the deportation of citizens
of the United States and of Latin Ameri-
can Republics (Notice No. 8540 of June 6,
1944, from the Legation of the United
States of America, Bern).

Question 1:

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

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

Britain

*) Legation's telegram No. 2937 of May 9, 1944.

***) Legation's telegram No. 3171 of May 18, 1944.

Britain, the United States, and Latin American Republics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question 2:

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

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

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

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

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

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

By note No. 28110 of March 30, 1944, the Chilean Legation declared that it had heard of the deportation of the above-named persons and it requested the Special Division to undertake all necessary representations on their behalf.

By notes dated May 5 and June 20, 1944, the German Foreign Office gave consideration to the cases of the Gorlin and Frumkin families and strong representations were made for the return of these Chilean citizens to an internment camp. Similar

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

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

Question 3:

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

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

Question 4:

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

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

Question 5:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question 6:

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

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

not

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

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

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

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

Question 7:

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

The

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

Berlin, June 20, 1944.

GT and TJH/hs

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: July 10, 8 p.m., 1944



No.: 4388

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Legation's 2738, April 29, this subject, and Legation's 4324, July 7, on activity and cooperation of Switzerland in aiding war victims.

It is reported by Lichtheim of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Geneva, that through the efforts of the British and Swiss Governments there was completed at Istanbul on July 5th the exchange of 283 Palestinian, Dutch and German Jews, bearing regularly issued Palestine certificates, for 111 Germans.

HARRISON

JKH/mjb
In duplicate

Copy - 7a

8401 JEWS IN EUROPE

J. STERNBUCH
MONTREUX

TELEPHONE 840 34
TELEGRAMS: J. STERNBUCH

Montreux, 12. Juli 1944

(C.L.)

An die
Legation de Pologne

B e r n e

840.1 JEMS IN EUROPE

By 12/11

*1. In Mittel
für die
Hilfskommission
für die
Polen in
Schweiz*

*No one has seen
head of such a
telegram - no trace
of it*

Sehr verehrter Herr Legationerrat,

Betr: Vittel, Telegramm aus New-York

> Ich nehme höfll. Bezug auf das Telegramm aus
New-York, wonach vorderhand 10 Vittel-Internierte sofort
ausgetauscht werden.

Ich beehre mich, Ihnen nachstehend 10 Namen
aufzugeben, mit der freundl. Bitte, das weitere durch
Herrn Dr. Kühl zu veranlassen, der unserm Komitee ange-
hört.

Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Bemühungen bestens
und genehmigen Sie, verehrter Herr Legationsrat, die
Versicherung meiner

ergebenen Hochachtung:

J. Sternbuch

Liste der 10 Namen

- Familien Rottenberg
- " Rappaport
- " Fränkel
- " Weingort
- " Wolf
- " Nachman Goldstein
- " Lieber
- " Eisensweig
- " Bauminger
- " Katsenelensohn

CASE FILE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: July 11, 11 p.m., 1944

No: 2376

Code: Brown

OL

Received: July 12

American Interests - Germany.

Your⁺ 4225, July 5, 2 p.m.

Please state informally to Swiss authorities that camp in Silesia is undoubtedly Fost. It may well be that there is no camp named Bergau near Dresden, but it is believed that some camp exists in that area the name of which is similar to Bergau. Available information which has been found reliable to the extent that names are not distorted by transmission through word of mouth indicates that persons formerly confined at Westerbork have been transferred to a camp near Dresden. It might be advantageous for the Swiss to compare notes with the International Red Cross in the effort to determine the correct name of the camp since the Germans obviously intend to deny its existence unless it is correctly named to them.

Russ appears to be another name. Check on this.

840.1 JEWIS IN EUROPE

HULL

re

+ no copy in WRE file

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
JUL 10 1944

July 11, 1944.

From: 804
Evaluation: B-2
Source: André

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Auschwitz & Buchenwald

Ack'd by 1072

At the risk of duplicating material already received from other sources, there are transmitted herewith, in translation, excerpts from the recent confidential circular letter of the "Aktion Nationaler Widerstand" with regard to the fate of the Jews in Hungary and other German-occupied countries.

This morning newspapers give a brief resumé of the main points of the enclosed report, which is nevertheless transmitted because the work of translation had already been done and it may contain material which has not been received. The description of the Jewish extermination center at Auschwitz exceeds in horror anything that hitherto has been disclosed.

The editor of the confidential sheet of the "Aktion Nationaler Widerstand", a well-known Swiss publicist and himself the editor of a distinguished Swiss monthly publication, has the following to say concerning these revelations. His reactions are of interest since he endeavors to foresee the consequences to Europe not only from a political but from a cultural point of view as well:

The attached reports were received by us from a quarter which leaves no doubt as to their veracity Something in us, however, still refuses, regardless of undisputed proofs, to believe them. More than in the extirpation of European Jewry, we are stung by the destruction and renunciation of humanity,..... this method of putting a conflict out of the way by the most ghastly, inhuman and disgusting means. These are the things we somehow cannot accept as true, inasmuch as the consequences for the future of civilization will be immeasurable and eternal. Such reports bring us in some way to a frontier of neutrality, with regard to which it seems just as fatal not to cross it, as it is fateful to cross it. Here amass the complexes of guilt and horror, the consequences of which cannot be imagined.

Many will wonder what the Nazis' intentions are, particularly in view of a defeat, which they have undoubtedly envisioned long ago. This question brings home once again the diabolic nature of this movement. The leading men in Germany are anything but primitive barbarians. They know the psychologies of the "bourgeois", the "Christian" and the "humanitarian" consciences very well, and their aim is thoroughly to destroy the foundation of all of them, just in case of a defeat. It was and still is one of their most evil tricks, in one way or another, to make as many people as possible guilty of all the crimes which they had to commit in order to reach their goal. The Jews afford the simplest means to give it international character. Only if we take these endeavors into consideration can we somehow understand that still in 1944 it was possible to instigate Hungary to a

persecution

890.1
JEWS IN EUROPE

Record of indescribable (Horrors)

According to reliable information 90 percent of the Jews who were deported from Hungary were brought to Auschwitz, Upper Silesia.

We have an exact description of the extermination camp in Auschwitz. We append a short excerpt of our records which have been checked for accuracy and which have been confirmed from several sources. The records are based on the statements of two Slovak Jews. One of them was taken to Auschwitz on April 13, 1942, from the concentration camp of Szered and later on transferred to Birkenau. The other one was brought to Lublin on June 14, 1942 from the camp near Novaky. Later on he was switched to Birkenau and then to Auschwitz. These two Slovak Jews succeeded in escaping after long preparations and almost superhuman effort, and they now are safe on neutral soil. Their story follows:

Immediately after the arrival in Auschwitz we were taken to a large barracks. On the one side of the barracks we were ordered to surrender our luggage, while on the other side we had to completely undress and surrender our clothes and objects of value. We then had to walk naked to another barracks where we were shorn of our hair after which procedure we were disinfected with Lysol. Upon leaving that barracks each one was handed a number. The lowest figure was 28,600. With this number in our hands we were driven into a third barracks where, as evidence of our reception, the number was tattooed on the left side of the breast in the most brutal way. From there we were driven in groups of 100 into a cellar and from thence again into another barracks, where we were issued convicts uniforms and wooden shoes. On the same day, however, these suits were taken from us again, and we were, instead, issued ragged uniforms formerly used by Russians. After that we were taken to Birkenau.

The working camps of Birkenau and Harmanse, as well as the small agricultural establishment of the camp, were under the command of the camp in Auschwitz. The prisoners were numbered consecutively in the order of their arrival at the camp. When we escaped in the first days of April, 1944, the numbering had reached 180,000. Later the numbers were tattooed on the left foot. The treatment was the same for all prisoners, but their nationality and class of "crime" was marked on their suits either with the aid of triangles of various colors or with different letters. Details on this point can be found in the original record. At the camp of Auschwitz there are workshops of the DAW (Deutsche Auf-rüstungswerke - German Armament Factories) of the firm Krupp and Siemens, as well as a large Buna factory which is still under construction. Many prisoners work in these factories.

The actual territory of the camp measures 500 x 300 meters. It is surrounded by a double row of pillars, 3 meters high, made of concrete and provided with high tension wires. Between these two fences there is a row of watch-towers equipped with machineguns and searchlights. These towers are 5 meters high and approximately 150 meters distant

from

from each other. Inside of the inner fence equipped with high tension wires there is an ordinary wire fence. The mere touching of that fence brings forth shots from the towers. This is known as the "System of small posts" (kleine Postenkette). The camp itself consists of three rows of houses. Opposite the camp there is the "System of big posts" (grosse Postenkette). It stands about two kilometers away and consists of watchtowers 150 meters distant from each other. In the area between the small and the large system of posts there are the various workshops and working places. The "System of small posts" is manned only at night and the electric current in the double fence is also on at night only. In the mornings the garrison of the "System of small posts" is removed and the towers of the "System of big posts" are manned. Any escape through these two systems of posts is practically excluded. The guards in the large system of posts used to be relieved only after the prisoners had been counted. When any one had escaped sirens were sounded and SS men with bloodhounds searched for the escapee for three days. After three days the search was discontinued. Any escapee caught alive is hanged in the presence of the whole camp. The corpses of escapees killed in flights are brought back to the entrance of the camp and an inscription is fixed on their hands marked "Here I am".

When we arrived at Birkenau the camp kitchen was arranged to supply food for 15,000 people. At that time there were two houses in the camp and a third one under construction. Each building is approximately 300 square meters in area and holds between 400 to 500 persons. From the third day after my arrival I was sent to the armaments factories of Auschwitz to work with 200 other Slovak Jews but we remained domiciled in Birkenau. We received food twice daily, at noon one liter of carrot soup and in the evening 300 grams of bad bread. The working conditions were the hardest and worst which can be imagined and most of us died after having been weakened by hunger and the inedible food. 30 to 35 persons died each day in our group. Many were killed at their working places by the "Capos" (overseers). The resulting gaps were replaced each day from the people who had remained in Birkenau. When two weeks after our arrival another transport arrived, there were only 150 persons left alive of our transport which had consisted of 650 persons. When we returned to Auschwitz I was assigned as "head warden" to the so-called hospital. This is the place where the prisoners were brought who could perform no work. We had 150 dead each day in that house and their corpses were brought to the crematory of Auschwitz.

At the same time the so-called "selection" took place. Twice weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, a physician indicated the number of prisoners who were to be killed by gas and whose corpses were to be destroyed by incineration. The selected victims were loaded on a truck and brought to a birch forest nearby. Those who arrived on the spot alive were gassed and their corpses burned in a ditch. In the hospital, the notorious "block number 7", 2,000 persons died every week, of whom about 1,200 died a natural

death

death and 800 as a result of "selection". The original record contains exact details as to the origin and numbering of the deported.

We quote only the following example:

Tattooed consecutive numbers: 38,000 - 38,600.
600 naturalized French Jews. These Jews arrived with their families, in all about 1,600 persons. Of these 400 men and 200 women had passed through the procedure indicated upon arrival at the camp and had been numbered with the foregoing serial. The remaining, about 1,000 French Jews, elderly women and men or children, had been brought immediately to the birch forest on a side-track, where they had been gassed and burned.

From that time on each new transport of Jews was treated in the same manner. Approximately 10 percent of the men and 5 percent of the women were assigned to the camp, while the others were gassed and burned right away.

The poisoning by gas and the incineration of the corpses was carried out by the so-called "special command", which worked in two shifts day and night. In that time hundreds of thousands of Jews were gassed and burned. The men of the special command lived in a special department. They were not allowed to get in contact with us because of the stench of dead corpses which emanated from them. They were always dirty, wild and brutal.

In February, 1934 (probably an error in printing and should be read "1944") the newly built crematory and the gas chamber were opened at Birkenau. At the present time there are four crematories in operation in Birkenau. Each one of them consists of three parts, i.e. furnace for incineration, bathing hall, gas chamber.

In the center of each furnace there is a high chimney, around which there are 9 incinerators with 4 openings each. Each opening holds three normal corpses, which are destroyed by incineration in about one hour and a half. The capacity of the stoves amounts to 2,000 corpses daily. Next to the incinerators there is a large hall for preparation which is so built as to provide the impression of a bathing establishment. The hall holds 2,000 people, and there are allegedly underneath them waiting rooms holding the same number of people. From that hall the way goes through a door and down some steps to the very long and narrow gas chamber which is equipped with fake showers on its walls to give the impression of a large shower-bath. On the flat roof of that chamber there is a window which can be hermetically sealed with the help of three valves. From the gas chamber there is a cart-track leading to the stoves. The victims are lead to the hall where they are told that they are going to bathe. After they have undressed they are issued towels and soap in order to give them the impression that they are really going to bathe. Then they are driven into the gas chambers.

After the doors have been locked, SS men pour a powdered preparation from tin-cans into the gas-chamber through the opened valves. The tin-cans are labelled with the inscription "cyclone for the extirpation of pests", they bear the trade-mark of a Hamburg factory. It is probably a cyanogen preparation which evaporates at a certain temperature. Within three minutes all victims are dead. The corpses are then brought to the furnaces by the special command. The four crematories poison and destroy 6,000 people every day.

When the first crematory was opened in March, 1943, for the destruction of 8,000 Jews from Krakow, prominent official guests arrived from Berlin to witness its initiation. They expressed deep satisfaction with the efficiency of that apparatus of destruction, and they personally looked through the peep-holes into the gas chamber.

Consecutive numbers 148,000 to 152,000.

On September 7, 1943, family transports arrived from Theresienstadt. They were marked with the sign SB and subjected to a quarantine of six months as Czech Jews. During the period of quarantine they were given a special treatment. When the six months had lapsed, they were destroyed. Youth died singing. Only 11 pairs of twins were left alive to be used for biological experiments in Auschwitz. The killed Czech Jews were forced, one week prior to their death, to write letters to their families bearing a later date, and even to ask for parcels from their relatives.

The domestic administration of the camp at Birkenau is in the hands of specially appointed prisoners. Each block has five officials, viz. (1) the senior of the block, (2) the clerk of the block (Blockschreiber), (3) the guardian of the block, (4 & 5) block-servants.

The present block-senior in Birkenau is Franz Danisch, political prisoner from Königshütte, prisoner number 11,182. The present clerk is Kazimier Grok, political prisoner from Poland, number 30,029. The command of the blocks is in the hands of 6-8 SS blockleaders. Their commander at present is Untersturmführer Schwarzhuber, a Tyrolian, a great drunkard and sadist.

According to a cautious estimate, the number of Jews who have been poisoned with gas in Birkenau between April, 1942, to April, 1944, is as follows:

- 900,000 from Poland,
- 100,000 from the Netherlands,
- 45,000 from Greece,
- 150,000 from France,
- 50,000 from Belgium,
- 60,000 from Germany,
- 50,000 from Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway,
- 30,000 from Bohemia, Moravia and Austria,
- 30,000 from Slovakia,
- 300,000 alien Jews from various camps in Poland,
- 1,715,000 total.

A CRY OF DESPAIR FROM HUNGARY

"Deportations from Hungary started on May 15, and within three weeks, i.e. up to June 7, as many as 335,000 Jews had already been deported. Ninety percent of them were sent to Poland - Birkenau-Auschwitz, and the others to Germany. With regard to the situation in Hungary I wish to call attention to the fact that there is a great difference between the deportations from Hungary and those from the other German-occupied countries. In all other countries deportations were handled exclusively by the Gestapo without assistance of the local population or authorities. In Hungary, however, the attitude of the population which is mostly passive and marked even by a certain degree of approval, encourages the Government to proceed with increasing cruelty. The Hungarian Government endeavors all the time to surpass the demands of the German authorities. Moreover, in other countries the physical sufferings of the Jews started with the deportation, while in Hungary it starts with barbarous tortures applied to the victims by the Hungarian police in the ghettos, allegedly to induce the Jews to disclose where they have hidden their money. As is known, the resources of the Hungarian Jews were confiscated several weeks ago already. Gold and money was surrendered. In consequence of these tortures there are many casualties already in the ghettos. Most of the victims are brought half dead to the trains. We have tried several means to save them, but unfortunately without any success. The German authorities make promises, but they fail to keep any of them. The Hungarian Quisling Government, however, is not even ready to make promises or to begin with negotiations. A further difference is that the Hungarian Government is not completely subject to the German occupational authorities, and that it could, consequently, offer some help in various respects. It fails, however, to do anything.

Between June 7 and 30th 100,000 more Hungarian Jews were deported. In the provinces there are only four towns left in which there still are Jews, and when they will have been deported, i.e. in 8 or 10 days, Budapest will follow. Budapest and its neighborhood is inhabited by 350,000 Jews. Ghettos have already been organized in the neighborhood of Budapest weeks ago. In the city of Budapest the establishment of ghettos started on June 16, and had to be terminated on June 21. The ghettos were sprinkled all over Budapest as the Government believes that if they were all concentrated in one single quarter, the remainder of the city will be subjected to much more violent bombing raids.

All of Hungary's Jewry is sentenced to death. There are no exceptions, no possibilities for escaping, no chances to hide. We face our destiny."

DIARY SHOWING THE DEATH PANGS OF PARTS OF A POPULATION

"The concentration of the Hungarian Jews was started on April 16, 1944, and followed the same lines everywhere. First they were hurriedly concentrated in ghettos, then came a

gradual

gradual worsening of the conditions. They were brought to brickyards, to tenement courts without water, or to places merely on the bare earth. Then they were robbed of all their material belongings and subjected to brutal examinations accompanied by heavy physical illtreatment because of allegedly hidden objects of value. Last came the deportations, 70 people to a car with a bucket of water as only provision for the trip. We cannot fully describe the details of the concentration in all the different places, although we have them in hand, but we will only briefly report some of the most characteristic places of concentration.

Nyiregyhaza.

April 16. The Jews from 46 neighboring villages were brought to Nyiregyhaza and Simapuszta, which is 12 kilometers away. In Nyiregyhaza 4,120 Jews from Jyiregyhaza and 6,639 from the neighborhood, in all 10,759 persons were crowded into 123 houses. The surface of these 123 houses, including the kitchens and entrance halls, measured 9,665 square meters, i.e. less than one square meter per person. According to the regulations each person was allowed, besides his regular clothes to wear 2 sets of underwear and one parcel weighing 50 kilos which had to contain food for 2 weeks. In the provinces, the Jews were unfortunately so quickly herded together by the police that they could take practically nothing with them. As an example the case of the Jews of Nyirbator may be cited. They were picked out in their apartments on Friday, April 21, at 11 p.m. by foreign policemen, at 1.30 a.m. loaded on farmers' carts requisitioned in other villages, and brought to Simapuszta with brutal treatment.

May 1. The situation had grown much worse. The Jews from Nyirogyhaza were brought to the ghetto of Padospuszta, where the food situation was deplorable. The Jews asked for rugs, strawsacks and straw in order at least to prevent that the old and sick be forced to lie on the bare ground.

May 5. The Jews who had been concentrated in Nyiregyhaza from the neighboring districts were brought to the estate of Baron Molnar, located about 6 kilometers outside of the town. There they were crowded together in tobacco barns. There was only one fountain, 150 meters outside of the camp, and the inmates of the camp were only from time to time allowed to go to fetch water, accompanied by a policeman. It was very sad that the Jews of Nyiregyhaza who, after having suffered terrible illtreatment, succeeded in being admitted to the ghetto, were forced to leave the ghetto again just before they had finished arranging it.

May 7. The camps of Nyirjespuszta and of Simapuszta were both surrounded by policemen at dawn. No one was permitted to approach the camps at that time. The inmates were hungry. They were receiving 100 grams of bread and the same quantity of beans daily. They had no money and no clothes except those they had put on.

May 8.

- May 8. The deportations from Nyiregyhaza continue. Only the members of the Jewish council and the front-fighters are still there. In Nyirjpuszta there are still 5,665 people, crowded together on a spot of but a few square meters. The treatment is the same as in the concentration camps. The situation is intolerable because the only fountain begins to be choked up with dirt. The shortage of water is still worse in Simapuszta than in Nyirjes. The camp of Harangodpuszta is being filled up beginning today.
- May 10. The shifting to Harangodpuszta continues. The capacity of the tobacco barns in that place does not exceed 3,000 persons, but already on May 10 there were many more people there. The overcrowding is dangerous. The camp completely lacks water, and the attempt to dig wells has brought no success. Although the authorities had permitted to take the most urgently required objects along the police collected all these things at the entrance of the camp and even confiscated most of the victuals. In the camps of Simapuszta, Varjulapos and Nyirjes the daily food ration per head of the population amounts to 100 grams of bread, 100 grams of potatoes and 10 grams of flour.
- May 15. Monday, in the early hours of the morning the first 3,200 persons were crowded in railway cars and despatched to an unknown destination. There were old people, sick people, babies and pregnant women among them. They were physically illtreated and crowded 70 to a car. The population was kept under arrest (bei gänzlicher Festhaltung der Bevölkerung).
- May 22. We have been informed this morning by telephone that 9,600 persons have already been deported. There are no concentration camps left in Nyirjes and Harangodpuszta. In Simapuszta only 760 people are left, in Nyiregyhaza only the members of the Jewish Council.
- May 23. The 760 Jews remaining in Nyiregyhaza have also been deported.
- June 6. From a telephone call with the police it was learned that all Jews from Nyiregyhaza and the neighboring "Pusztas" have already been deported, including the Head Rabbi, Dr. Bela Bernstein.
- Munkacs.
- April 30. The 15,000 Jews of Munkacs have been crowded together in 12 narrow streets. The approximately 20,000 Jews from Bereg have been concentrated in two brickyards at Kallus and Sajovics. As they could take no money and no victuals with them, the situation is critical and catastrophic.

May 1.

- May 1. German soldiers have penetrated into the ghetto causing numerous casualties. Three cases of typhus have been reported. The situation is terrible because of the shortage of medicine and food. One physician and one engineer have committed suicide.
- May 9. Two members of the Jewish Council have been shot to death, the others seriously ill-treated.
- May 14. The situation in the ghetto of the town and especially in the two brick yards had grown much worse up to Sunday morning. The Jewish officials and auxiliary police were formerly permitted to leave the ghetto, but this permission has been recalled. The brick yards were surrounded by the police whereupon the deportations started. Families were not separated. Regardless of whether fit to work or not people were crowded into railway cars under the most terrible conditions and with great atrocities. A new transport was despatched on Monday. The Jewish Council was reduced from 12 to 6 members.
- May 18. In the larger of the camps there used to be 13,000 persons. Deportations started on Sunday, and by Wednesday the camp was empty. The transports, 70-80 persons per car, left in the direction of Kassa. The deportees were not allowed to take anything with them. Good clothes were taken away from them. Each car carried only one bucket of water. The Jews, almost tortured to death, tried to escape from the cars in Satoraljaujhely whereby 30 of them luckily lost their lives. The smaller camp was also liquidated. It held 7,000 persons. The Jews from Munkacs were shifted, under difficult circumstances, from the ghetto of that town to the evacuated larger camp on the early morning of the 17th. They were shifted under such brutal conditions that some of them attacked the policemen with knives whereby 5 Jews were killed. All physicians, even those appointed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, shared the same destiny although they belonged to special categories.
- May 30. We have received the following catastrophic news: All Jews have been deported from Munkacs, Huszt and Nagyszöllös.

Nagyvarad.

- May 3. The ghetto posters were hung up at dawn. Already at 5 a.m. a detective accompanied by a policeman took all objects of value away from the Jews. The Jews were allowed 15-20 minutes to pack some clothes, linen and victuals for 2 weeks. 16-18 people were crowded together in one room. A fence was made around the ghetto and the windows opening on the street were blocked up with boards.
- May 11. The supervision of the ghetto was made more stringent on the 11th. People were not even permitted to approach the ghetto. It is significant that the

streets of which only one side faced the ghetto, like Szacsvey, Kertesz and Kapucinus streets, were guarded by police, and that the Christian population alone was allowed to walk on the pavement. The Jews considered as rich were arrested without exception. They were imprisoned in the police building and the castle, where they were subjected to satanic tortures in order to make them tell where they had hidden their treasures.

May 24. The small ghetto holding the Jews from the neighborhood was almost empty. The people tortured almost to death were crowded up 70 into a car. The large ghetto was still more closely surrounded and the tortures continued.

May 25. The deportations continue. Nagyvarad is free of Jews.

Kassa.

April 28. The ghetto of Kassa originally enclosed 11 streets. These were on April 30 reduced to 3, but finally the majority of the Jews was concentrated in the brick yard.

May 2. The destiny of the 12,000 Jews living in the brick yard is catastrophic. In the drying room of the factory there is at least a roof for the women, children and aged people, but as these rooms have no side-walls, they offer no proper shelter to these people who have been robbed of all their belongings. The Jews had to leave their apartments immediately and they arrived in the brick yard without victuals and without the most urgently needed equipment. Their apartments were completely plundered after they had left. Victuals were assigned only to 60 percent of the deportees. Water for drinking was brought to the camp only once daily in the city-watering-cars.

May 8. We have received the following letter from a reliable old friend, a prominent personality: "I have escaped all these atrocities for some hours. A demand has come that I perform some work at the public kitchen. I fear that I will not bear it much longer as we suffer indescribably. We lie in the dirt without straw-sacks and rugs and will freeze to death. The apartment is sealed. I see no way out. Do not send anything as we would not get it anyway. We have something to eat only for a few more days. What will come afterwards God only knows. At this place there are approximately 15,000 people. After long queuing up each one of us can obtain once every day some kind of a liquid resembling a soup from the public kitchen. It is uncertain, however, who will be able to maintain its operation (of the kitchen) as the Religious Community will not be able to. We are neglected to such a point that we do not look like human

beings

beings any more. I have not eaten for days, hoping thus to shorten my life. There is no possibility of cleaning. We have never undressed since we are here. Kind regards to all and pray for us that we may soon die."

- May 15. The first 8 barracks of the first camp have been emptied. This was the beginning of the last chapter of the history of the sufferings of Kassa's Jewry. 4,800 people were at first loaded on the train. The men and young men were completely undressed by the police in the open air in front of the cars in order to prevent them from hiding anything. The women and girls were submitted to the same examination in barracks by the police. The 4 weeks of concentration have weakened us to such a point that 8 died when they were brought to the train. With the most cruel and brutal methods 70-80 people were crowded into each car.
- May 18. The deportation is in full swing. The concentration camp was completely closed by the police. Not even the members of the Jewish Council were allowed to approach the camp.
- May 20. At 6 p.m. the members of the Jewish council were arrested. The Christians who had given any assistance to the Jews were also brought to the train and deported.
- June 7. There are no Jews left in Kassa.

Under such and similar circumstances the whole Jewish population of Hungary, except Budapest, was confined. A decree has just been published for Budapest, and there is no doubt as to what lies in store for the Jews of that city.

COPY IN FA -----

C.L.

No. 1663

The Legation of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Federal Political Department and has the honor to refer to the Legation's note No. 1548 of February 5, 1944, concerning the reception and care of refugees, and assurances concerning additional imports, if needed, to meet the needs of refugees admitted to Switzerland.

The Government of the United States repeats its appreciation of the humanitarian policy of the Government of Switzerland in giving asylum and care to the large number of refugees who have made their way to Switzerland, and desires to reaffirm its willingness to arrange for the provision of such additional imports as may be required to ease the burden on Swiss resources resulting from the temporary care of refugees already received in Switzerland and those who may subsequently be received under the liberal and humanitarian policy of the Government of Switzerland.

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

Bern, July 11, 1944.

To the

Federal Political Department,

Bern.

DVB/mk

NO. 1 2311 11 1040

Copy to IAI
CASE FILE

~~SECRET~~

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Pass Board with the fact
who are prisoners
detained for 30

4. let me know paper

From: Department Date: July 13, midnight, 1944
No: 2407
Received: July 14, 3 p.m.

Minute

Code
Forwarded to...
No. 5393

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 64. For Harrison and McClelland.
Legation's 3871 June 17.

WRB sincerely appreciates the cooperation of the Swiss Foreign Office. The Board recognizes the deep concern which is felt by Switzerland for the fate of victims of Nazi persecution, and it is confident that continued efforts of the Swiss and American Governments must result in some degree of success.

1. As you know, it is the practice of this Government, with respect to the renewal of passports which are held by persons in enemy territory, not to authorize the extension of such passports beyond their validity period of two years. The holders of such passports are, nevertheless, issued Swiss identity certificates by the Swiss authorities. It is suggested that a similar practice be adopted, if necessary, in the case of passports which are issued in the name of other American republics whose interests Switzerland represents in enemy territory. This suggestion is based on the premise that while the duration of a passport as a travel document is limited to the period of its validity, it retains its value as prima facie evidence of nationality. It is the understanding of the War Refugee Board, accordingly, that the request that Switzerland extend protection to all persons threatened with enemy persecution who hold passports and other documents issued in the name of the American republics applies, until the government which is concerned advises to the contrary, without regard to time limit indicated in any such passport. If it were held otherwise, less value would attach to a passport than to a simple consular letter certifying to national status. It is requested that you discuss this matter with the appropriate Swiss authorities, and also that you endeavor to obtain their cooperation in developing some procedure that will, regardless of their extension,

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

assure continued protection to the holders of expired Latin American passports. It is greatly hoped, in the interest of avoiding delay, that the foregoing can be put into effect by the Swiss without the necessity of further communication with any of the governments concerned. If, however, the Swiss Government cannot procure this result without instructions from the governments whose passports were issued, please advise regarding such governments and the changes in procedure which are required to achieve the foregoing.

2. It is understood that the Government of Paraguay requested the Spanish Government last May to extend its protection to all holders of Paraguayan documents. The assistance of Spain was requested by the United States and certain other American republics in accomplishing the return of deportees to Vittel. On April 19 the Government of Spain stated that it would try to learn the facts at the earliest possible moment, with a view to attempting to arrange for the return of these refugees. Early in June the Spanish Foreign Minister, in reply to a request by the Government of Nicaragua, offered his good offices to attempt to procure the return to Vittel of any holders of Nicaraguan passports who might have been removed therefrom.

3. The Swiss authorities are earnestly requested to lend their assistance in ascertaining the identity and whereabouts of all persons bearing passports or other documents issued in the name of any American republic who have been removed from Vittel, Compiègne, or other civilian internment camps, and to exert their utmost efforts to secure the return of such persons to the camps in question.

4. The readiness of the German Government to consider all Jews interned in these camps who bear identity documents, as well as those elsewhere who are known to the German Foreign Office, as eligible for exchange against Germans who desire repatriation has been noted, as has likewise the readiness of that Government to accept the recognition by the United States of the status of such persons as a basis for their treatment and eligibility for exchange. It is assumed, therefore, that henceforth the German authorities will not rule on the validity of Latin American documents. Please confirm this. It would appear that recognition of status by the United States Government will suffice by itself, and that the Germans do not consider affirmative approaches by individual Latin American countries to be essential. On the assumption that this is a proper statement of the German attitude, please explore with the Swiss the possibility of proceeding on this basis. We assume that the Swiss are fully acquainted with the circumstances which render action on this basis desirable in order to achieve humanitarian results without delay.

5. The Governments of Costa Rica and Honduras have authorized the United States to transmit to Switzerland their request for protection of persons who bear passports issued in their name. It is assumed that the appropriate Swiss authorities have been so informed. Kindly refer, in this connection, to Department's 1632 May 10 as regards Honduras and 1993 June 10 as regards Costa Rica. The Guatemalan Government is sending you a similar communication. The Government of Ecuador, according to information which has been received here, sent the Swiss Government early in May a telegram in which it requested the safeguarding of persons who claim Ecuadoran nationality. It is understood also that similar instructions regarding persons who hold Uruguayan documents were sent by cable on June 15 from Montevideo to the Uruguayan Minister in Bern.

6. With regard to persons eligible for exchange, your attention is drawn to the problem of persons in enemy-controlled areas in whose names Latin American documents have been issued but who are not in physical possession of these documents, their delivery having been impossible. It will be appreciated if you will obtain from available sources the names, ages and last known addresses of such persons, so that they may not be placed at a disadvantage because of this circumstance which is beyond their control. Kindly consult on this subject Riegner, Sternbuch, Saly Mayer, and other representatives of rescue organizations. The Board should be notified when such a list is formulated, and your views and the informal opinions of the Swiss authorities are requested with regard to the advisability of making such a list available to the German Government in an effort to protect such persons.

Hungary
7. It should be noted that Hungary is included in the term "German-controlled" territory as used in this message and in all other communications which deal with the protection of persons bearing documents issued in the name of American republics. The Swiss authorities may be informed accordingly and requested to transmit such information to the German and Hungarian authorities if there is any possibility of doubt on this score. In this connection, please inquire and report which, if any, of the American republic besides the United States are represented by Switzerland in Hungary.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re *Copy in 7a*

ROBERT GOLDSCHMIDT

MONTREUX

Matériel pour entreprises

MONTREUX, le 17. VII.44.

Rue de la Gare, 37

File
JFK

CL

Téléphone 64205

Ch. postaux 11.5

RECEIVED
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BERN
JUL 19 1944

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur
des Etats Unis d'Amérique,

BERNE

Concerne:

Excellence,

Le Gouvernement américain ainsi que les gouvernements alliés ont lancé des avertissements au Gouvernement du Reich concernant l'assassinat en masse des Juifs déportés à Birkenau ainsi que dans d'autres endroits connus du Service de renseignements de votre Gouvernement.

Je doute de l'effet pratique de ces avertissements.

Permettez-moi une suggestion.

Ne pourrait-on pas bombarder ces crématoires et ces lieux damnés?

Certes il y aurait des victimes parmi ces innocents martyrisés par les criminels allemands, mais on pourrait en sauver beaucoup de cette façon.

Les bombardements provoquent des paniques dont certains pourraient profiter pour s'enfuir. Il y a de nombreux Indous en Suisse grâce aux bombardements alliés de camp de concentration. J'espère et je vous en prie instamment au nom de tous les honnêtes gens de **CABLER IMMEDIATEMENT EN CE SENS À WASHINGTON.**

Si les gouvernements alliés ne se montrent pas énergiques, il n'y a aucun doute que, après l'extermination des Juifs, les Nazis ne se gêneront pas d'utiliser leurs installations pour liquider de la même façon les prisonniers de guerre alliés. En détruisant ces installations vous agirez en l'intérêt allié et humain. Je crois qu'il ne faut pas se faire d'illusion sur les Nazis, tant qu'ils en auront les moyens ils feront du mal.

845.1
Guerre en Europe

ROBERT GOLDSCHMIDT

MONTREUX

veuillez agréer, excellence, l'assurance de ma parfaite et haute considération.

Robert Goldschmidt

1911

Madame,
Le Gouvernement suisse ainsi que les Gouvernements alliés ont honoré vos relations au Gouvernement de Suisse par l'adhésion en 1902 des lois fédérales à l'égard des
sans d'autre manière connue en vertu de l'adhésion de
votre Gouvernement.
Le cours de la vie privée de vos ressortissants
particuliers est une question.
Le point en jeu concerne vos ressortissants et ces lois
Général il y aurait des violations dans les incidents
par les citoyens allemands, mais on pourrait enlever les
de cette façon.
Les considérations précédentes ont permis aux citoyens
pourrait servir pour l'avenir. Il y a de nombreux incidents
dans les cas de répression dans le cas de répression.
L'absence de la loi en cette matière au nom de la loi
dans le cas de répression dans le cas de répression.
Et les Gouvernements alliés ne peuvent pas empêcher,
Il n'y a aucun doute que, après l'adhésion des lois,
les lois ne se gênent pas d'être appliquées.
pour l'avenir ne se gênent pas d'être appliquées.
Il est évident que l'adhésion des lois en l'état actuel
et normal. Je vous en prie de faire l'adhésion des
les lois, tant qu'il n'y a pas de loi d'adhésion des

Based on Dept's 2467 of July 13.
 Renewing "ad hoc" documents

A. I. No. 8994

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BISANG

As you are fully aware, it is the practice of the United States Government, with respect to the renewal of passports which are held by persons in enemy territory, not to authorize the extension of such passports beyond their validity period of two years. The holders of such passports are, however, issued Swiss identity certificates by the appropriate Swiss representatives.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated July 13, 1944, from the Department of State which contains a suggestion from the War Refugee Board that a similar practice be adopted, if necessary, in the case of passports which are issued in the name of other American republics whose interests Switzerland represents in enemy territory. This suggestion is based on the premise that, while the duration of a passport as a travel document is limited to the period of its validity, it retains its value as prima facie evidence of nationality. It is accordingly the understanding of the War Refugee Board that the request that Switzerland extend protection to all persons threatened with enemy persecution who hold passports and other documents issued in the name of the American republics

640.1 1344 III 1344

republics applies, until the government concerned advises to the contrary, without regard to the time limit indicated in any such passport. The War Refugee Board points out that if it were held otherwise, less value would attach to a passport than to a simple consular letter certifying to national status.

The Legation is instructed informally to take up the foregoing with the Division with a view to developing with its cooperation some procedure that will, regardless of their extension, assure continued protection to the holders of expired Latin-American passports. It is greatly hoped by the War Refugee Board, in the interest of avoiding delay, that the above-mentioned procedure can be put into effect by the Division without the necessity of further communication with any of the governments concerned. If, however, the Division cannot procure this result without instructions from the governments whose passports were issued, the Department of State desires to be informed regarding such governments and the changes in procedure which are required to achieve the foregoing.

It should be added for your guidance that Hungary is included by the War Refugee Board in the term "German-controlled" territory as used above and in all other communications which deal with the protection of persons bearing documents issued in the name
of

of American republics.

Any information concerning the extent to which the Division may be in a position to adopt the desired procedure will be most gratefully received.

Bern, July 18, 1944.

affairs list of all lat. Am. ...
Copy for Mr. McClelland July 18

A.I.No. 9002

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 31604 - B.24.USA (2) 6 - R/Sw of June 27, 1944, with which there was transmitted two notices pertaining to the treatment in German camps of certain persons of the Jewish race who allegedly claim the citizenship of Latin American countries.

It may be recalled that the second of the subject notices, which constituted a reply to the Legation's notice A.I. No. 8640 of June 9, 1944, contained the statement under point 5 that the Swiss Legation at Berlin had, on May 11, 1944, obtained from the German Foreign Office the formal assurance that henceforth even bearers of doubtful identity papers of Latin American countries will no longer be subjected to deportation action, provided that they are already in Internment camps for citizens of the American continent.

It would be extremely useful to the Legation and to the Department of State at Washington, if

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

HMV.

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

the Division might find it possible to request the Swiss Legation at Berlin to obtain lists of all persons claiming Latin-American nationality who, on May 11, 1944, were under detention in civilian internment camps situated in Germany and German controlled territory. In order to lighten the burden of this task, the Swiss Legation at Berlin might appropriately request the men of confidence at the several camps concerned to undertake the preparation of the desired lists.

The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renece to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 16, 1944.

July 18

- 1) Panama - Spain Vittel matter.
- 2) Re: Bombing subject on validity of docs & A. recip. exchangeability.
- 3) Denunciation of Ecuador & Uruguay, Annexes de Buenos Aires.
- 4) Hungary is regarded by our Gov. as "enemy-occupied territory".

several paragraphs of the aide-memoire of June 13,
 A.I.No. 9001

The American Legation presents its compliments
 to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal
 Political Department, and has the honor to refer to
 the aide-memoire dated June 13, 1944, which the Chief
 of the Federal Political Department handed to the
 American Minister, concerning the repatriation and
 documentation of persons in Germany and German-con-
 trolled territory who allegedly claim citizenship of
 Latin American republics. Reference is also made to
 the Legation's informal communication A.I.No. 8994
 of July 13, 1944.

The Legation has now received a telegram from
 the Department of State which conveys the sincere
 appreciation of the War Refugee Board for the Divi-
 sion's cooperation. The telegram further states that
 the War Refugee Board recognizes the deep concern
 which is felt by Switzerland for the fate of victims
 of Nazi persecution and expresses confidence that
 the continued efforts of the Swiss and American
 Governments must result in some degree of success.
 The telegram also contains the following observa-
 tions and requests with particular reference to the
 several

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

840.1 JEWIS IN SWITZERLAND

Ecuador

Ret to Vittel

forth the German authorities will not make bearing passports or other documents issued in the name of any American republic who have been removed from Vittel, Compiègne, or other civilian internment camps, and to exert its utmost efforts to secure the return of such persons to the camps in question. (It may be recalled that one such list concerning Vittel was forwarded by the Division under cover of its kind note No. 27742 - B.24.2A - 3.X/ab. - of June 2, 1944, and amended by its kind note No. 34321 - B.24.2.A.-3.-P/M. - of July 14, 1944).

3. Paragraph which begins on bottom of page 3:

The readiness of the German Government to consider all Jews interned in the camps in question who bear identity documents, as well as those elsewhere who are known to the German Foreign office, as eligible for exchange against Germans who desire repatriation have been

Ecuador

4. Paragraph which begins at the bottom of page 4:
 Noted in Washington, as has likewise the readiness of that Government to accept the repatriation which has been received at recognition by the United States of the status of such persons as a basis for their treatment and eligibility for exchange. The assumption is expressed therefore that henceforth

Washington

Ecuador

Hungary

Handwritten notes in left margin: "Hungary", "Germany", "Czechoslovakia"

forth the German authorities will not rule on the validity of Latin American documents, and the Legation is instructed to seek from the Division confirmation of this point. It would appear that recognition of status by the United States Government will suffice by itself, and that the German authorities do not consider affirmative approaches by individual Latin American countries to be essential. On the assumption that this latter statement is a proper statement of the German attitude, the Legation is instructed to take up with the Division the possibility of proceeding on this basis. There is good reason to believe that the Division is fully acquainted with the circumstances which render action on this basis desirable in order to achieve humanitarian results without delay.

Paragraph which begins at the bottom of page 4:
 The Government of Ecuador, according to information which has been received at Washington, forwarded to the Swiss Government early in May, 1944, a telegram in which it requested the safeguarding of persons who claim Ecuadoran nationality. It is further understood in

Done, July 20, 1944 Washington

Washington that similar instructions regarding persons who hold Uruguayan documents were sent by cable on June 15, 1944, from Montevideo to the Uruguayan Minister at Bern. It would accordingly be very greatly appreciated if the Division would be so good as to inform the Legation whether it has received the subject declarations regarding Ecuadoran and Uruguayan documentation.

The Legation is also under instructions to point out to the Division that Hungary is included in the term "German-controlled" territory as used in the foregoing paragraphs and in all communications which deal with the protection of persons bearing documents issued in the name of the American republics. It is accordingly requested that when the Division communicates information on this subject, it be made available to both the German and Hungarian authorities, if there is any possibility of doubt on this score.

In soliciting the Division's kind cooperation in connection with the questions raised above, the Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 18, 1944.

Handwritten note:
 Please refer
 to German
 controlled

Vertical text on left edge:
 THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PROTECTION OF PERSONS
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 16, 1944

Copy for Mr. McGlelland

Toot & Bergau inquiries

with the International Committee of the Red Cross
A. I. No. 8999
in an effort to determine the correct name of the
NOTICE
camp since the German authorities obviously intend
to ~~The Division of Foreign Interests is, respectively~~
fully informed that a telegram has been received
from the Department of State at Washington which
refers to the Division's kind note No. 32344 -
B.24.USA (2)6-2/Ut. of July 1, 1944, concerning the
identity and location of certain camps in Germany
where civilians are under detention.

The telegram from Washington states that the
camp in Silesia is undoubtedly Toot. This also adds
that it may well be that there is no camp named Bergau
near Dresden, but that it is believed that some camp
exists in that area the name of which is similar to
Bergau. Information available to the Department of
State which has been found reliable to the extent
that names are not distorted by transmission through
word of mouth indicates that persons formerly con-
fined at Westerbork have been transferred to a camp
near Dresden.

The Department of State suggests that it might
be advantageous for the Division to compare notes

To the

with

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BERN.

840-1 JENSEN IN REPORT

-2-

with the International Committee of the Red Cross
in an effort to determine the correct name of the
camp since the German authorities obviously intend
to deny its existence unless it is correctly named
to them.

Born, July 18, 1944.

940.1 INDEX IN EUROPE

Re: certain persons among 1st group removed from Vittel Copy - Mr. McClelland
July 18

to the same nationalities suggested in the subject
A.I.No. 9000

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 27742 (B.24.21-3.2/ab.) of June 2, 1944, with which there was transmitted a list of persons who were removed from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to an unknown destination.

The Division is respectfully informed that the subject list has been received by the Department of State at Washington and that it has supplied the Legation with the following information regarding certain persons named in the list whose nationality was unknown:

- No. 9 - COINE, Sara - Guatemalan;
- No. 78 - ROSENBERG, Henryk - Costa Rican;
- No. 94 - NOTENBERG, Nathan - Paraguayan;
- No. 105 - WOLF, Sael - Paraguayan;
- No. 106 - WOLF, Rachel - Paraguayan;
- No. 107 - WOLF, Sigmond - Paraguayan;
- No. 108 - WOLF, Erna - Paraguayan;
- No. 109 - WOLF, Label - Paraguayan;
- No. 146 - BAUMINGE, Leon - Paraguayan;
- No. 147 - SAUTOSER, Inja - Paraguayan.

The Legation is under instructions, in making the foregoing available to the Division, to request it to be so good as to take in behalf of the above-named persons any action undertaken for the claimants

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BARR.

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

to the same nationalities enumerated in the subject list.

It may be added for the Division's guidance that the case of Sara Olsiek was the subject of the Legation's note A.I.No. 8979 of July 15, 1944.

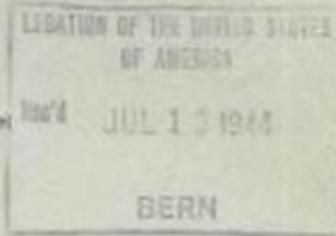
The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 18, 1944.

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית / ארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**
GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 29174
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/T-A/14



Genève, July 18th, 1944
37, quai Wilson

(O.L.)

Dear Mr. McClelland,

1. We are informed that a special commission including M. Delarue, Swiss attaché in Berlin, has visited some time ago the camp of Laufen in Germany in order to verify the passports issued by certain Latin-American States. It is said that as a result of this visit the impending deportation of a number of bearers of such passports was stopped.

2. Could you verify this report and would it be possible to extend such visits to other camps, including Vittel, where there are still some bearers of such documents ?

I take it that the Swiss authorities can probably act only in the case of documents issued by states represented by Switzerland. But according to my information nearly all of the American States, with the exception of Paraguay and Bolivia, are represented by Switzerland as the Protecting Power.

3. We are specially interested in the case of the family of the late rabbi Schorr in Vittel. It appears that the wife of rabbi Schorr and her daughter Felicia Kon with 3 children (Peter, Jack and Stephen Kon) were in Vittel. The mother has committed suicide. The daughter Felicia Kon and her children are still in the Vittel hospital according to a report received from some people now exchanged in Istanbul who left Vittel only 3 weeks ago.

We would like to do all we can to save Mrs. Felicia Kon and her children. As far as we know they have Costa Rican passports and Costarica is also represented by Switzerland.

Any help you can give by arranging for visits of Swiss representatives to the camps in order to avoid deportation of bearers of South-American passports and any assistance you can give us in the special case of Mrs. Kon and children will be deeply appreciated.

I am, dear Mr. McClelland, very sincerely yours

R. Lichtenheim
R. Lichtenheim

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the
American Minister
B e r n .

(over)

840.1 JERU IN EUROPE

Correct

Individual card

Costarica

AL # 2248 of July 3rd. We informed Told Dept. DFE
on base of wire from Dept. → Costa Rica maintains validity of
participants issued by its consular officials. Such persons if regarded
as "protected" - Costa Rican flag & / vic. protection granted by
Cruzera Comertoon to detained civilians. For a reason all
persons holding CR power who were removed from vessel of CR
retained & may be included among those benefiting by
exchange with Germans when opportunity presents itself.
+ rest of Rodriguez's letter

(7) Spanish Paraguay Biz

(8) Heyman

(9) Lutz v. who I received doc.

(10) Pencil

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
JUL 18 1944
BERN

file.

MEMORANDUM

July 18, 1944.

To: Mr. McClelland
From: Mr. Tait

I should like to refer to numbered paragraph 7 of the Department's telegram No. 2407 of July 13, 1944 (WRB No. 64), which requests that Messrs. Riegner, Sternbuch, Saly Mayer and other representatives of rescue organizations be consulted with a view to the formulation of a list of persons in German-controlled territory (including Hungary) in whose names Latin American documents have been issued but who are not in physical possession of these documents, their delivery having been impossible. You have doubtless received a copy of this telegram.

In view of your frequent consultations with representatives of rescue organizations in Switzerland, it would appear best, unless you perceive some objection thereto, for you to endeavor to obtain the information regarding persons of the category mentioned.

RAO.1
JUL 18 1944

tioned. When this information is obtained from the representatives in question, we might discuss together the nature of the approach to the Swiss and of the report to Washington.

I imagine that you will agree that it might not prove politⁱ to tell Riegner, Sternbuch and the others exactly why the Legation desires to be supplied with the names of the persons concerned.

G.T.



Jour au Europe *Acte No. 701* *52/10*
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Rappeler dans la réponse :

G. 85 - G. 59/3

GENÈVE, le 18 juillet 1944.
Palais du Conseil-Général

Chèques postaux L. 5527

Téléphone 4 23 85

Télex "INTERCROIXROUGE"

PK/AP



3rd AE write ?

RECEIVED
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BERN
JUL 20 1944

Monsieur McClelland
Légation des Etats-Unis
B e r n e

29, Alpenstrasse

Intern. Américains ?

Concerne : sujets américains internés dans les camps
de concentration en Allemagne.

Monsieur,

Nous avons l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre
du 4 juillet 1944 par laquelle vous nous avez transmis le
désir du Département d'Etat et du War Refugee Board de re-
cevoir des renseignements sur les sujets américains qui
seraient internés actuellement dans un certain nombre de
camps de concentration.

Nous allons tâcher d'enquêter pour savoir si les ren-
seignements donnés par le télégramme que vous avez reçu sont
exactes et nous nous efforcerons notamment de vérifier si
des Américains sont détenus dans un camp à Bergau, celui-ci
nous étant, en effet, inconnu.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre
considération la plus distinguée.

Pour le Comité International
de la Croix Rouge.

*Insolite pour
dans camps
appart. Co
le MESA*

McClure
Director de la Division
d'Assistance Spéciale

en place où se trouve

840.1 PRIS. I. PRISONIERS

Reply 7/28 EDM/mjv

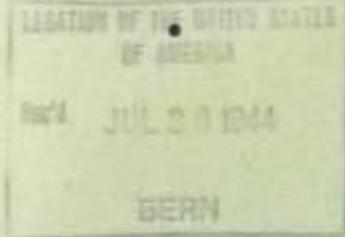
Herbert & Packagen für Bergen-Belsen.

50310

Schweiz. Hilfsverein für
jüd. Flüchtlinge im Ausland
•HIJEFS•

Montreux, 19. Juli 1944
Les Colondalles

Telephon 6 30 56 und 6 43 99
Postcheck-Konto lib 2107 Vevey
Telegramm-Adresse: Hijejs Montreux



MR.
HOWELL D. McCLELLAND
Special Assistant to
the American Minister
B e r n .

Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir nehmen höflich Bezug auf Ihr Schreiben vom 13. ds.
an Herrn L. Sternbuch gerichtet und danken Ihnen ver-
bindlichst für die uns erteilte Auskunft.

Inzwischen ging heute die Mitteilung ein, dass Herr
Herbert Kruskal am 6. Juli von Istanbul aus nach Pa-
lastina weitergereist ist, ebenso seine Frau und
Kinder. Er berichtet gleichzeitig, dass allen Freunden
oder Verwandten von in Bergen-Belsen Internierten die
Mitteilung gemacht werden soll, diesen regelmässige
und häufige Lebensmittel-Paketsendungen (vor allem
Brot und nicht verderbliche Sachen, einseitige
Fleischkonserven, Fischkonserven, Kondensmilch und
Medikamente) zugehen zu lassen, auch wenn keine Ge-
nehmigungen dafür zurückkommen.

Wir hoffen, dass es nun auf Grund Ihrer Intervention
gelingen wird, auch den Austausch für Herrn Leo Kruskal
in Bärse durchzuführen.

Wir begrüssen Sie

mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Handwritten signature and stamp

840.1 JEWS IN EUROPE (Packages for Bergen-Belsen)

El Salvador

(1488-100)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: July 31, 1944, 7 p. m.

No.: 2484

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: July 22, 6 p. m.

Paraphrase

WRB No. 87. For McClelland.

There follows, for your information and guidance, the substance of a portion of an airgram the Department has received from the Embassy at San Salvador:

then
The/Foreign Minister, Dr. Arturo Ramón Avila, had, in a note dated April 17, requested the Spanish Minister in charge of German interests "with a view to safeguarding the lives of all persons who hold Salvadoran passports or claim (pretendan) Salvadoran citizenship, to interest himself on their behalf to the end that, for humanitarian reasons, all rights, privileges and immunities which are granted interned civilians in conformity with the Geneva Convention may be extended to these individuals by the Government of Germany."

On May 20 the present Foreign Minister, Dr. Ulio Enrique Avila, practically repeated this note to the Spanish Minister, with the following as the principal change: "With a view to safeguarding the lives of all persons who hold Salvadoran passports or prove (justifiquen) their Salvadoran citizenship."

The alteration, as noted, is from "claim" to "prove."

In spite of attempts that were made to have him send a note verbale in terms identical with those of the one sent by his predecessor, the Foreign Minister insisted on this modification. No further steps are contemplated by him.

The Spanish Minister has informed the Embassy in confidence that the second request seemed to him so much like the first that he has not troubled to transmit it. The Swiss, therefore, are no doubt still working under the more liberal terms of the first note. Hence it is strongly suggested that no further action be taken unless there is a change in the situation.

340.1
SERIES IN PROGRESS
Salvadoran Passports

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Order 11652
By H. H. Evans Date

SEP 22 1972

HULL

7/31/44
HULL
20

In quadruplicate/re

Haiti

WRC (Copies 11)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department 

Date: July 21, 8 p.m., 1944

No.: 2485

Code: 

Received: July 22, 11 a.m.

Received WRS July 22 1944
For Action
Answered
No.

PARAPHRASE

WRS No. 68. For McClelland.

Legation's 4025 June 23.

Matter referred to in your telegram has been discussed with the Foreign Minister of Haiti. Below is his reply, in substance, as transmitted to the Department by Port-au-Prince Embassy.

The Government of Haiti will instruct its Legation at Bern to request that the Swiss authorities inform the German Government that it considers all Haitian passports which are held by persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory as valid until each case shall have been examined. This applies to individuals who are not able to comply with the decree law of February 4, 1942, and likewise to bearers of documents the validity of which is doubtful.

The Foreign Minister will confirm this decision in writing. It will require the approval of the Council of Ministers, a meeting of which will be held before long, but the Minister does not anticipate any objections from that body.

The Haitian Government, the Minister stated, views this as a purely humanitarian measure, many of the beneficiaries being considered as undesirable. There will, it was gathered, be unfavorable decisions reached, after the war, in many cases.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re Copy - 7a.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Lett. 5-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972

040.1 JEWIS IN EUROPE
Haitian Passports

TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: July 21, 8 p. m., 1944.

No: 4665

Code: [REDACTED]

Charged to:

(C.I.)

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Legation's 4502 and
×× 4518 both dated July 14.

In view of the information regarding Chile
and Uruguay contained in the Legation's reference
telegrams, the inquiry contained in the last para-
graph of the Department's 2407 of July 13 was not
forwarded to the Swiss.

HARRISON

TJH:hs:nf

In triplicate
2 copies to AI
1 copy to REM

+ 340.1 Jews in Hungary
×× 240.1 Jews in Europe

840.1 JEW IN EUROPE

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**

GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 29174
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
JUL 23 1944
BERN

Genève, July 21st, 1944
37, quai Wilson

MK/T-A/14

Cl.

840.1
LETS IN EUROPE

Dear Mr. McClelland,

During our conversation last Saturday (July 15th) I had the advantage to remit to you a list of a few Palestine immigration (exchange) certificate holders whom we know to be interned in Bergen-Belsen. You have been good enough to promise me to forward this list to the International Red Cross Committee which, on their side, promised me to let have these people parcels as soon as the names will be forwarded to them by you.

list transmitted

I presume that you have forwarded this list to the IRCC already.

I wonder whether you have included in this list the children of Mr. Basnicki (Dr. Erich Marx and Carola Marx née Basnicki) who are also in Bergen-Belsen and whom I forget to mention.

Very sincerely yours

M. Kahany
Dr. M. Kahany

*Thank you for
up the letter of July 24
to Schur, etc. on
pal case - Huns*

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the
American Minister
B e r n .

CASE FILE

2. As shown in presentation
to person in charge of
New York Consulate. ~~APP~~ ~~ADM~~

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: July 21, 11 p.m., 1944

No.: 2490

Code: [REDACTED]

Received: July 22, 6 p.m.

(C/L)

281/244
[REDACTED]

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 78. For Harrison and McClelland.

Please express to the Swiss Foreign Office the sincere appreciation which is felt by WRB and the Department for its efforts and cooperation as shown in Legation's 4223 of July 3. Legation's 4295 of July 6, as well as all other available information, indicates that the "general treatment which is accorded to eastern Jews" is synonymous with cold-blooded murder. It is requested, therefore, that you consult with appropriate officials of the Swiss Foreign Office in an urgent effort to obtain further help from them promptly, by intervention and otherwise, in rescuing from such treatment the families Gorlin, Walkowsky, and Frankin.

You should ask that representations on behalf of those families be continued in the strongest terms, as well as on behalf of all others who have documents in the name of any American republic, in compliance with the requests which those governments have made. The United States Government holds German action in declaring some documents invalid to be arbitrary and inconsistent with the generally-accepted rule that the government in the name of which a passport is issued is to determine its validity; hence, not Germany but only the government in whose name documents are issued can deny their validity. The distinction, moreover, which the Germans have sought to draw between bearers of such documents who are now in internment camps and those who are situated elsewhere, whether they are settled in Poland or in any other country and whether they know Spanish or any other language, is regarded by this Government as untenable. The United States Government accordingly views most seriously the consignment by the Germans to "general treatment accorded to eastern Jews" of any persons who possess documents which have been issued in the name of any American republic, and it must insist on the return to internment camps reserved for nationals of American republics of all persons who have been removed from such camps for consignment to the above-mentioned general treatment or similar treatment.

In

840.1
JWS:IM:SHOPE

DECLASSIFIED
Black Dept. Form 1-1-72
By SA R. P. [REDACTED] 2 1972

In your discretion, please convey through any unofficial channels available to you the sense of the following to appropriate German and satellite officials in Foreign Offices and foreign police: Should they be responsible for consigning any bearer of documents issued in the name of any American republic to the above-mentioned general treatment or similar treatment, they must expect personally to bear the consequences. Some of the American republics, horrified by the bestiality and the brutality of Nazi mass murder, have accorded to certain individuals the protection of their passports or other documents. Individual Foreign Office and police officials in Germany and satellite countries should be anxious to make use of the opportunity which the presentation of such documentation offers to save human lives. If, therefore, they indulge instead in fine reasoning and take action that is tantamount to sentencing such persons to persecution or death, they assume the responsibility and invite the consequences of their action. Their failure, furthermore, to seize every available opportunity to save lives would be taken as strong evidence of their concurrence with the policy of Jew and civilian population mass murder and of their participation in such crimes, the consequences of which were covered in President Roosevelt's March 24 statement. The paramount concern of this Government is the safety of United States citizens, but we believe the Swiss Foreign Office recognizes the great concern which is felt by the American people and governments for the safety of all victims of Nazi persecution, regardless of nationality. This grave concern has been made manifest by the creation of the War Refugee Board and by the solemn warnings which have been issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. In the light of this concern and of the policy which Germany has openly expressed of exterminating Jews and other civilian peoples, the Swiss Foreign Office will understand why this Government regards as unacceptable the German contention that only "internal German police measures" are involved in the removal from internment camps of persons who claim to be nationals of American republics, for subjection to the "general treatment that is accorded to eastern Jews." Because of Switzerland's centuries-old humanitarian traditions, we are confident that a method will be discovered by the Swiss Foreign Office for further intercession towards obtaining from the Germans adequate assurances for the safety of persons holding passports or other documents of American republic, regardless of what their present whereabouts may be. It is requested that an additional attempt be made to obtain for WRB a list of all persons deported from Vittel and other camps who claim the nationality of any American republic. We assume that Legation's airmail No. 8466 of June 12 contained

Handwritten note:
 The matter of the
 Swiss Foreign Office
 should be taken into
 consideration.

Handwritten mark:
 9

Handwritten note:
 It will take some
 time to check
 these conditions &
 they are

Handwritten note:
 still underway

the 238 names which you supplied to the Swiss, as well as the list of 163 names from the Swiss Consulate in Paris. The importance of obtaining such lists and likewise of taking the other measures that are indicated herein is emphasized by the fact that the persons who were named in Department's 2045 June 16 are relatives of United States citizens.

The position which the United States Government takes against German determination on the "merits of individual claims of persons who hold United States or Latin American documentation" (Legation's 4223, Section 4, Notice No. 2, Part E) relates to recognizing the eligibility for exchange of persons who make such claims and to their having extended to them the treatment to which nationals of the country whose citizenship they claim are entitled, and not (repeat not) to priority of exchange or to the method of selecting individuals for exchange.

We are making further efforts to have the various governments whose interests are protected by Spain or Switzerland request suitable action in Madrid or Bern (please refer to Department's 2407 July 13 and 2316 July 6, with regard to Part F of Notice No. 2). Without awaiting such requests, you should persistently continue efforts to get results on the basis of this Government's attitude and that of the governments which have already communicated their point of view to the Swiss. In this connection, please discuss informally with Swiss officials the desirability of putting the most liberal possible construction and of taking the speediest action possible on communications received from any American Republic with reference to the protection of individuals from cruelty and persecution. The sole object thereof is to rescue human beings from unprecedented brutality. In these abnormal times, to delay action through strict adherence to technicalities which are proper under ordinary conditions merely results in the ruthless killing of a greater number of innocent people. We believe that Swiss officials have a clear understanding of this.

In view of the situation in Hungary, special efforts should be devoted to procuring German and Hungarian assurances with respect to the protection, eligibility for exchange, etc., of any persons in Hungary who possess documents issued in the name of any American Republic. Kindly ask the Swiss authorities to make all necessary representations to this effect. We note in this connection the recommendation which you made in the last paragraph of Notice No. 1 in your 4223 July 3.

HULL

In quadruplicate/re

Jews in Europe.

So far as your paragraph three is concerned, it is very difficult for us to undertake special steps on behalf of individuals interned in Vittel. I can state, however, that on the 22nd of July Bern, July 22, 1944. the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bern stated that this Government would not recognize the validity of passports issued by the German authorities. Persons holding such passports would not be granted the protection provided by the Government of Switzerland to interned civilians. The Government

Dear Mr. Lichtheim:

In reply to your letter of the 18th of July, I have passed on to our Division of American Interests, which handles such matters with the Swiss Political Department, the information you gave me about the visit of Mr. Delarue to the camp of Laufen. I personally feel that such visits would be of considerable value in emphasizing the fact to the Germans that the holders of Latin American documentation are now considered as entitled to the same treatment as other interned civilians of belligerent countries, as well as to exchange.

In a recent message from the Swiss Division of Foreign Interests we were informed that the German authorities were disposed to consider as exchangeable all those persons who were located in regular civilian internment camps on the date of May 11, 1944. It has, however, been very difficult to obtain any clear statement from the German authorities as to whether they considered such camps as Bergen-Belsen "regular" civilian internment camps.

In answer to your paragraph two, I shall recommend to our Division of American Interests that they ask the Swiss to undertake a further visit to the camp of Vittel as soon as this is possible. You are correct in assuming that only Paraguay and Bolivia are represented by Spain in Germany and German-occupied territory, the balance of the other Latin American countries being represented by Switzerland except for Brazil, which is represented by Portugal, and the Argentine, which is represented by Sweden.

So

Mr. Richard Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

1040 J. JERS IN EUROPE

So far as your paragraph three is concerned, it
very difficult for me to undertake special steps on
half of individuals interned in Vittel. I can state,
however, that on the 3rd of July we informed the Political
Department on behalf of the Government of Costa Rica that
this Government maintained the validity of passports
issued by its consular officials. Persons holding such
passports should be granted the protection provided by
the Geneva Convention to detained civilians. The Govern-
ment of Costa Rica further requested that the Swiss Govern-
ment as its protecting power ask the German Government
to return those persons removed from Vittel to the camp,
and that they further considered all persons holding their
documents as eligible to benefit from an exchange with
Germans as soon as the opportunity arose.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

HDM/mjb

Copies forwarded with
covering letters to ICRC.

I. Liste der in Bergen-Belsen sich befindenden Zertifikatsbesitzer.

1. Brohner Josef und Familie
2. DAVIDS Josef H.
3. DINKEL Susanne (Frau)
4. FRIEDLMANN Mosche und Familie
5. FROMMER Nesanel und Familie
6. GESUNDHEIT Renia Renate
7. HARTOGS-KATZ Hendrik Alexander & Frau
8. HELLER Josef und Familie
9. KISSIN Elka Lota
10. KLEESTADT Bertold und Frau
11. MUNDSZTUK Icek
12. NEUHAUS Siegmund und Familie
13. ORLEAN Elia und Familie
14. ORLEAN Juda ~~und~~ Lejb und Familie
15. RAPOPORT Leiba und Familie
16. REICH Dora und Familie
17. REICH Felicja
18. ROTHSCHILD Josef und Frau Rosa
19. RUBIN Jakob und Familie
20. RUBIN Josef und Familie
21. Solberg Josef und Familie
22. STEIN Meir und Familie
23. TRINK Ing. Otto und Frau Dagna (Danusia)
24. WIINER Chiel Henryk
25. ZNAMIROWSKI Chiel und Familie
26. *Therese Klee*
27. *Marinus Kau und Frau*
28. *Haus Goslar*
Dr. Erich Marx
Carola Marx b. Basznizki

Jews in Europe

(CI)

Bern, July 22, 1944.

Dear Dr. de Schwarzenberg:

I herewith enclose for the confidential information of the International Red Cross a list of persons remaining in the camp at Bergen-Belsen who hold Palestine certificates. This list was furnished to us by Dr. Kahany of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. His information is, in general, very reliable, and it is hoped the sending of parcels to these people can be planned.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Enclosure:

List.

Dr. J. E. de Schwarzenberg,
Member of the Secretariat of the
International Committee of the Red Cross,
Palais du Conseil-Général,
Geneva.

HDM/mjb

840.1 JEWIS IN EUROPE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~I. Liste der in Bergen-Belsen sich befindenden Zertifikatsbesitzer.

1. BROHNER Josef und Familie
2. DAVIDS Josef H.
3. DIKKEL Susanne (Frau)
4. FRIEDMANN Mosche und Familie
5. FROMMER Hesanel und Familie
6. GESUNDHEIT Renia Renate
7. HARTOOS-KATZ Hendrik Alexander & Frau
8. HELLER Josef und Familie
9. KISSIN Mika Lota
10. KLEBSTADT Bertold und Frau
11. MUNDGETUK Ioek
12. NEUHAUS Siegmund und Familie
13. ORLEAN Elia und Familie
14. ORLEAN Juda Lejb und Familie
15. RAPPOPORT Leiba und Familie
16. REICH Dora und Familie
17. REICH Felicja
18. ROTHSCHILD Josef und Frau Rosa
19. RUBIN Jakob und Familie
20. RUBIN Josef und Familie
21. SOLBERG Josef und Familie
22. STEIN Meir und Familie
23. TRUNK Ing. Otto und Frau Dagna (Damasia)
24. WILNER Chil Henryk
25. SZAMIROWSKI Chiel und Familie
26. KLEE Therese
27. KAU Marimus und Frau
28. GOSLAR Dr. Hans
29. MARK Dr. Erich
30. MARK Carola b. Basniski

Let. to Dr. Lichtheim 7/28 RIM/mjb

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**

GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 29174
Telegrams : Zionorg Geneva
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)
RL/T-A/14

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
Rec'd JUL 26 1944
BERN

Geneva, July 25th, 1944
37, quai Wilson



Dear Mr. McClelland,

I have to thank you for your letter of July 22nd in reply to my letter of July 18th and for the valuable information contained therein.

In the second paragraph of your letter it is stated that according to a message from the Swiss authorities the Germans are disposed to consider as exchangeable all persons located in regular civilian internment camps on the date of May 11th, 1944.

In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the fact that according to a letter received from an Englishman confined to the camp of Vittel a first group of 163 Polish internees holding South-American passports was deported from Vittel in April while a second group comprising 48 persons was deported on May 16th.

I am enclosing a copy of the list of names of this second group which I have received from Mr. Weingort.

Would it be possible for you to take up this matter with the Swiss authorities? If really May 11th is the crucial date then it might be possible to locate and save these persons who perhaps have been sent to some other camp and should come under the category of those considered as exchangeable by the Germans. I suggest that the German authorities should be approached with the request to send these people back to Vittel or some other regular civilian internment camp and that they should be treated as holders of American passports eligible for an exchange.

*Done with
Sept 2 1940
of July 22*

This has been done

Very sincerely yours

Richard Lichtheim
R. Lichtheim

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the
American Minister
Bern.

*Widdow's
L.A. does*

*In reply to your letter of 7.25 I can state
that list of 48 persons previously reported
L.V. on May 16 was taken to the
L.V. to the G.I. for the same purpose as
L.V. 371 for the Germans in Berlin. We
have in our past strongly indicated a basis
for the removal of German's removal of
L.V. as a consequence of "national relief
measure" which is intended to exchange
it to be to return to people.*

840.1 GEN 11. SHILOH

Paraguay Affair

July 25, 1944
Copy to McClelland

is not yet sufficient to permit determination of
MEMORANDUM FOR HIS EXCELLENCY ARTHUR D. LEAHY
REGARDING THE REPATRIATION
FROM GERMAN CONTROLLED TERRITORY OF
PERSONS CLAIMING PARAGUAYAN NA-
TIONALITY.

Contents of telegram dated July 22, 1944, from the Department of State to United States at Washington.

It is Department of State's feeling and as indicated in the Department of State's telegram No. 2391 of July 12, 1944 (corresponding to the Legation's note A.L. No. 8977 of July 15, 1944, the Department of State is perfectly willing to leave to the discretion of the Swiss Government the time and manner of presentation of the proposal for the exchange of the refugees bearing Paraguayan documents.

Keep for exchange of refugees bearing Paraguayan docs.

The Department of State is, however, very conscious of the fact that immediate action appears necessary in order to save the lives of these individuals since there is no assurance that they have been transferred to one of the camps set aside by the Germans for bearers of Palestine certificates and other documentation evidencing a possibility of their exchange against German nationals. Too great a delay in the presentation of the proposal to the German authorities might well be fatal. The Legation is instructed to make sure that the Swiss Government appreciates this point and in particular to make clear that information available to the Department of State

040.1 4504 III
Paraguay Affair

is not yet sufficient to permit determination of ^{Embassador Deley is presenting proposal to} response of the United States Government to ^{German authorities may conceivably interpret the} Minister de Pury's proposal with regard to the Ameri-
^{Spanish Government,} can-German civilian exchange. Furthermore, the proposal in question specifically applies only to United States and German nationals.

It is Department of State's feeling and hope that consideration of broader phases of repatriation question involved in Minister de Pury's proposal should not and will not preclude in the meanwhile restricted agreements designed to save the lives of smaller groups of individuals who are especially imperiled.

The three paragraphs of the Department of State's telegram No. 2391 in question (corresponding to three consecutive paragraphs beginning on page three of the Legation's note A.L.No.6377 of July 15, 1944) were repeated on July 12 to the American Embassy at Madrid with an explanation of the position of the United States Government with the following request:

"Please inform Spanish Government of foregoing and request that it support through its Embassy at Berlin whatever action the Swiss Legation may take in behalf of the United States Government vis-à-vis the German Foreign Office along the foregoing lines and that it coordinate its activities and cooperate with the Swiss Legation to the utmost of its ability in the effort to attain this desirable humanitarian objective."

Prolonged

A true copy
of the signed
original

Prolonged delay in presenting proposal to German authorities may conceivably embarrass the Spanish Government.

Bern, July 25, 1944.

A true copy
of the signed
original:

Haitian Doc Holders removed from Vittel.
July 28, 1944

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
REC'D JUL 27 1944
BERN

Copy to Mr. McClelland,

-2-

A. I. No. 9100

The American Legation presents its compliments to the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 27742 - B.24.2A-3-K/ab of June 2, 1944, with which there was transmitted a list of persons removed by the German authorities from the civilian internment camp at Vittel. It may be recalled that among the persons listed there were four persons allegedly claiming Haitian nationality.

Reference is also made to the Division's kind note No. 31604 - B.24.USA(2)6 - B/Jw of June 27, 1944, concerning the question of recording protection to persons in Germany and German-controlled territory who claim citizenship of the several American Republics.

The Division is respectfully informed that the Legation has now received a telegram dated July 21, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which indicates that the question of Haitian documentation has been discussed with the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The substance of his reply as transmitted by the American Embassy at Port-au-Prince to the Department of State is given below.

The

To the
Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BERN.

840.1
LENS IN SYROPS
Haitian Foreign Interests

A true copy
of the original

THE STATESMAN, a firm
SOCIETY BELIEVES
TO THE STATESMAN OF
THE STATESMAN OF
OCTOBER 1, 1944

The Government of Haiti will instruct its Legation at Bern to request that the Swiss authorities inform the German Government that it considers all Haitian passports which are held by persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory as valid until each case shall have been examined. This applies to individuals who are not able to comply with the decree law of February 4, 1942, and likewise to bearers of documents the validity of which is doubtful.

The Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs will confirm this decision in writing. It will require the approval of the Council of Ministers, a meeting of which will be held before long, but the Haitian Foreign Minister does not anticipate any objections.

The Haitian Government, according to the Haitian Minister of Foreign Affairs, views this as a purely humanitarian measure, many of the beneficiaries being considered as undesirable. There will, it was gathered, be unfavorable decisions reached, after the war, in many cases.

The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, July 26, 1944.

A true copy
of the signed
original:

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

Rec'd JUL 27 1944

File: Jews in Europe

MEMORANDUM

To: ~~BERN~~ Mr. McClelland

July 26, 1944.

From: Mr. Tait

(C)

Dear Mr. McClelland:

I should like to attach for your information and possible guidance a copy of a letter I have sent today to a law firm at Basel that requested that the Legation ask the Swiss Foreign Office to take action on behalf of a bearer of a San Salvadoran passport issued at Geneva. Any comments that you may care to make in the premises will be appreciated.



G. T.

Enclosure:

copy of letter.

840.1 JEWELRY, EUROPE

*No accepting SS papers
for presentation to the Swiss*

Bern, July 25, 1944.

Dr. Werner Bilsu,
advokatur und Notariat,
St. Jakobs-Strasse 1,
Basel.

Sir:

I should like to refer to your letter of July 14, 1944, regarding Messrs. Werner and Heins Lewin, who were last known to be residing at Amersfoort in the Netherlands.

It is noted that you desire the Legation to request that the appropriate Swiss authorities take action on behalf of your clients and that the Swiss Legation at Berlin be asked to arrange for their transfer to an American internment camp in German-occupied territory on the basis of their alleged San Salvadoran citizenship.

Under instructions from the Department of State at Washington the Legation acts as a channel of communication between the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department, the Department of State at Washington and the Government of El Salvador. It is always prepared to forward communications from the Division of Foreign Interests to the interested government, but as it merely acts as a channel of communication it cannot initiate action with regard to the interests of El Salvador in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

In view of the foregoing it is regretted that the Legation is not in a position to accede to your request that representations be made on behalf of your clients.

A true copy
of the signed
original *ma*

Yours very truly,
For the Minister

George Tait
First Secretary

GMG/*mk*

BOLIVIA BACKS up its 'dem'

CASE FILE

~~11/19/44~~ (change to 01 for action)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: July 27, 11 p.m., 1944
 No.: 2581
 Code: [REDACTED] Received: July 28, 3 p.m.

3

PARAPHRASE

WRS No. 98. For McClelland.

The American Embassy at La Paz has informed the State Department of the following statements made by the Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- 1) Bolivia will not withdraw any of its passports that are now held by persons detained by the German authorities.
- 2) If and when, on the request of the Germans, Bolivia's protecting power submits lists of persons who bear Bolivian passports, the Bolivian Government will instruct the protecting power with respect to the confirmation of such passports.
- 3) The Government of Bolivia approves of an approach by the United States to the German Government through appropriate channels, looking towards the initiation of negotiations for the exchange of German nationals against the bearers of Bolivian passports or consular documents.
- 4) Bolivia will communicate at once with the local representative of Spain, its protecting power, demanding the safeguarding of the lives of all persons who hold Bolivian passports or who claim on the basis of consular documents to have Bolivian nationality, and the granting to such persons of all rights, immunities and privileges which are accorded to civilian internees of **enemy** nationality to whom the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention is, by analogy, currently applied.

Department is taking appropriate action with respect to point 3).

You are requested to transmit the above informally to the appropriate Swiss authorities for their information.

DECLASSIFIED HULL

State Dept. Exec. Order 11-72

By R. H. Felt Date SEP 22 1992

SEARCHED [initials]
 INDEXED [initials]
 SERIALIZED [initials]
 FILED [initials]

In quadruplicate/re
 Coll in FA

048 JERS IN EUROPE
 Bolivian Passports

C.L.

Bern, July 28, 1944.

Dear Dr. Lichtheim:

I thank you for your letter of the 25th of July. I have transmitted the list of 48 persons presumably removed from the camp of Vittel the 16th of May which you received from Mr. Weingort to our American Interests Section. They will in turn forward it via the Swiss Division of Foreign Interests to the German Government in Berlin.

We have once more, as in the past, asked the Swiss authorities to undertake energetic representations with the Germans not only against the practice of removing such holders of Latin American documentation, but with a view to obtaining, if possible, the return of these people to the camp.

Kindly inform Dr. Kahany that the list of certificate holders whom your office knows to be interned in Bergen Belsen, including Mr. Basniaki's children, was forwarded to the Red Cross. Please express my appreciation to him as well for the copy of his interesting letter of July 24th addressed to Dr. Schwarzenberg of the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding Palestine certificates.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

Dr. Richard Lichtheim,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37 Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

RDM/mjb

Re: Parcels for Bergen Belsen

Bern, July 28, 1944.

Schweiz. Hilfsverein für
Jüd. Flüchtlinge im Ausland,
Les Colondalles,
Montreux.

Sirs:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th of July regarding the question of forwarding parcels for internees in the camp of Bergen Belsen. This difficult problem is at present being examined by the International Red Cross. I hope that it may be possible to undertake something practical in this respect. There are, however, many complicated considerations of funds, the availability of supplies, and the necessity of having some prior assurance that internees in this camp would be allowed to and would really receive parcels dispatched to them by the Red Cross.

As soon as any satisfactory solution, even of a temporary nature, can be reached, I shall not fail to communicate with you.

I am happy to hear from you that Herbert Kruskal, his wife and child, were included in the recent Palestine exchange and have safely arrived at their destination.

Very truly yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.

RDM/bjb

840.1
ITEMS IN BRACKET
PACKAGES FOR BERGEN-BEISEN

Wengert's list

Liste

der am 16. Mai 1944 aus Vittel mit unbekanntem Ziel entfernten Internierten.

not on
same list

BAUMINGER	Kalman	Paraguay
BAUMINGER	Marta	"
BAUMINGER	Joel	"
BAUMINGER	Bluma	"
BLUMENKOPF	Stelle	"
BLUMENKOPF	Nuchim	"
BLUMENKOPF	Chaja	"
BLUMENKOPF	Helena	"
ECK	Nathan	"
ECK	Klara	"
ECK	Rosa	"

48 persons.
List furnished by
Saul Wengert.

Forwarded by K. Weitzmann of
Juntas Aguan, for release
undercover of letter of July 26th.
K.M.C.

FACKLER	Szyja	Costa Rica
FACKLER	STEFANIA	"
FACKLER	Henria	"
FRANKEL	Rosa	Paraguay
GEHORSAM	Abraham	"
GELLER	Konrad	"
GELLER	Erna	"
KADISZ	Isek	unbekannt
KADISZ	Awiwa	"
KADISZ	Rachmiel	"

According to information
supplied to me verbally by
Salkowstein on Aug. 1st all
the people "deported" from
Vittel have turned up in
Brazos - Kelsen. I asked him
to send me this in writing,
giving sources of his
information. K.M.C.

KRYSTENFREUND	David	Honduras
KRYSTENFREUND	Itta	"
KRYSTENFREUND	Szajndla	"
KRYSTENFREUND	Ruchla	"
KRYSTENFREUND	Aron	"

+ LANJAU, Estella

NATHANSON	Vladislav	Costa Rica
NATHANSON	Stefanie	"
NATHANSON	Jadwiga	"

POZNANSKI	Jenta	Paraguay
ROZANYKWIAT	Taddie	"
ROZANYKWIAT	Gerda	"
ROZANYKWIAT	Richard	"

WEINGERT	Abraham	"
WEINGERT	Mathilde	"
"	Leja	"
WEINSTEIN	Lea	"

WENTLAND	Malka	Ecuador
WENTLAND	Noemi	"

SCHNIN	Isaak	Costa Rica
SCHNIN	Salomon	"

Blatt 2.

ZIERKEV	Salomon Isak	Costa Rica
ZIERKEV	Malka Frieda	"
ZIERKEV	Regina	"
ZIERKEV	Bernhard	"
SCHAFU	Samsop	"
SCHAFU	Rosa	"
Hager	Malka	U. S. A.
ZURAWIN	Adam	Honduras

{	ZUCKER	Salomon Isaac	}	Costa Rica
	"	Bernhard		
	"	Regina		

6 Heymans - Honduras
 4 Strosswicks " .

Vitte., le 6 juillet 1944

1. BAUMINGER, Kalman	PARAGUAY
2. BAUMINGER, Martha	"
3. Blumkopf, Nuchim	"
4. ECK, Nathan	"
5. ECK, Clara	"
6. ECK, Raja	"
7. FAKLER, Sayja	COSTA RICA
8. FAKLER, Stefania	"
9. FAKLER, HENRYK	"
10. FRAENKEL, Rosa	PARAGUAY
11. GEHORSAM, Abraham	"
12. GELLER, Conrad	"
13. GELLER, Erna	"
14. KADYSK, Icek	HONDURAS
15. KADYSK, Aviva	"
16. KADYSK, Rachmil	"
17. KRYPSTENFREUND, Dawid	"
18. KRYPSTENFREUND, Ita	"
19. KRYPSTENFREUND, Szajndla	"
20. KRYPSTENFREUND, Ruchla	"
21. KRYPSTENFREUND, Aren	"
22. LANDAU, Estella	PARAGUAY
23. NATANSON, Wladislaw	COSTA RICA
24. NATANSON, Stephania	"
25. NATANSON, Jadwiga	"
26. POZNANSKA, Jenta	PARAGUAY
27. ROZANYKWIAT, Thades	PARAGUAY
28. ROZANYKWIAT, Gerda	"
29. ROZANYKWIAT, Richard	"
30. WEINGORT, Abraham	"
31. WEINGORT, Mathilde	"
32. WEINSTEIN, Leja	"
33. WENTLAND, Malka	EQUATEUR
34. WENTLAND, Noemi	"
35. SCHEIN, Isaac	COSTA RICA
36. SCHEIN, Salomon	"
37. ZUCKER, Salomon Issac	"
38. ZUCKER, Bernard	"
39. ZUCKER, Regina	"
40. ZURAWIN, Adam	HONDURAS
41. SHAPU, Samson	COSTA RICA
42. HEYMAN, Bronislaw	HONDURAS
43. HEYMAN, Cecylie	"
44. HEYMAN, Stephania	"
45. HEYMAN, Vladislawa	"
46. HEYMAN, Sasza	"
47. HEYMAN, Lydia	"
48. SKOSOWSKI, Cecilia	"
49. SKOSOWSKI, Isidor	"
50. SKOSOWSKI, Lucyna	"
51. SKOSOWSKI, Jadwiga	"

COPY
dmh

Transfer of 51
from Vittel.

Jews in Europe
July 28th

DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL
Division des Intérêts étrangers

B.24.2.A.3.-P/M1



Faisant suite à la note No. 32344 du 1er juillet 1944, le Département Politique Fédéral, Division des Intérêts étrangers, a l'honneur de remettre sous ce pli à la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique une liste établie le 6 juillet 1944 par un Délégué de la Légation de Suisse à Berlin lors de sa visite du camp de Vittel, nomenclature contenant les noms d'internés israélites de nationalité ibéro-américaine, qui en date du 15 mai 1944 ont été transférés au camp de Bergen-Belsen.

Le Légation de Suisse ajoute à ce propos qu'au camp de Bergen-Belsen ne sont détenues que des personnes ne dépendant d'aucune Puissance protectrice qui sont prévues pour être échangées et dont le droit de participation à un échange est reconnu par les Autorités allemandes.

Le Département saurait gré à la Légation des Etats-Unis de bien vouloir informer les Gouvernements de Costa-Rica et du Honduras du transfert à Bergen-Belsen de leurs ressortissants respectifs.

Le Département Politique saisit cette occasion de renouveler à la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique les assurances de sa haute considération.

Berne, le 28 juillet 1944.

Annexe:

1 liste (2)

A la Légation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique,

B e r n e .

340.1 JEWS IN EUROPE

Vittel, le 6 juillet 1944.

1. BAUMINGER Kalman	PARAGUAY	41. SHAFU Samson	COSTA RICA
2. BAUMINGER Martha	"		
3. BLUMENKOPF Euehin	"	42. HEYMAN Bronislaw	HONDURAS
4. BOK Nathan	"	43. HEYMAN Cecylie	"
5. BOK Clara	"	44. HEYMAN Stephania	"
6. BOK Raja	"	45. HEYMAN Vladislawa	"
7. PAHLER Sayja		46. HEYMAN Sasa	"
8. PAHLER Stefania	COSTA RICA	47. HEYMAN Lydia	"
9. PAHLER Henryk	"	48. SKOSOWSKI Cecilia	"
10. FRANKEL Rosa	PARAGUAY	49. SKOSOWSKI Isidor	"
11. GEHORSAM Abraham	"	50. SKOSOWSKI Lucyna	"
12. GELLER Conrad	"	51. SKOSOWSKI Jadwiga	"
13. GELLER Erna	"		
14. KADYSK Icek	HONDURAS		
15. KADYSK Aviva	"		
16. KADYSK Rachmil	"		
17. KRYSZTOPIRZAK Dawid	"		
18. KRYSZTOPIRZAK Ita	"		
19. KRYSZTOPIRZAK Szajndla	"		
20. KRYSZTOPIRZAK Ruchla	"		
21. KRYSZTOPIRZAK Aren	"		
22. LANDAU Estella	PARAGUAY		
23. HANANSON Wladislaw	COSTA RICA		
24. HANANSON Stephania	"		
25. HANANSON Jadwiga	"		
26. POZHANSKA Jenta	PARAGUAY		
27. ROZANYEWLAT Thades	PARAGUAY		
28. ROZANYEWLAT Gerda	"		
29. ROZANYEWLAT Richard	"		
30. WEINGORT Abraham	"		
31. WEINGORT Mathilde	"		
32. WEINSTEIN Leja	"		
33. WEINLAND Malka	"		
34. WEINLAND Noemi	EQUATEUR		
35. SCHEIN Isaac	"		
36. SCHEIN Salomon	COSTA RICA		
37. ZUCKER Salomon Isaac	"		
38. ZUCKER Bernard	"		
39. ZUCKER Regina	"		
40. ZURAWIN Adam	HONDURAS		

— See Stambush's letter of Sept 11th

Yours in Geneva

הנהלת ההסתדרות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

**THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE**
GENEVA OFFICE

Telephone : 29174
Telegrams : Zionorg Genève
Letters : Zionist Organisation
37, quai Wilson, Genève (Suisse)

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
JUL 20 1944
BERN

Genève, July 28th, 1944
37, quai Wilson

RL/T-A/14

C.I.

Dear Mr. McClelland,

In my letter to you of July 18th I have committed a mistake by stating that Mrs. Felicia Kon and her children have Costarican passports. In fact they have passports of Nicaragua.

In your letter of July 22nd you told me that the Government of Costa Rica has confirmed the validity of the passports issued here.

Does the same apply to Nicaragua? Has Nicaragua given a similar promise and has she also informed the Swiss Government of her decision? I understand from your letter of July 22nd that Nicaragua is also represented by Switzerland.

Please excuse me for troubling you again as a result of the slip which has occured in my letter of July 18th.

040.1 1943 II 21000

Very sincerely yours

R. Lichtheim

R. Lichtheim

Referring back to my letter of 22nd July we have rec'd a message from FPD, DFI forwarding to us a list of 51 persons transferred from Vittel to Kemmer Belsen, on Aug 15th. Just what - etc.

Nicaragua: Ask Lichtheim whether DFI men gave the answer on Nicaragua? WPA memo of July 25th Buxton Dept's 2516 of July 6.

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the
American Minister
B e r n .

As far as we are informed the Gov of the Swiss Foreign Office (DF) on April 22nd to apply Swiss POW Camp. to all persons. The passport was sure returned on camp Bern.

News in Europe

Salvador Sept 5 1942 July 8
(SS will ask Swiss Fed.
Hans)

① Legation's 4109, June 28

(proposal to send 1000 1940

SS docs into Bernmann

Will S. usage, national

(searches), June 27, 1942
Attitude of SS
unpleasant as
solicited

② Sept's 2197, June 27

(in re Switzerland to be officially
requested by SS to arrange
SS's rep in Hungary) June 27

③ July orig. wire about SS

prop'n's, in Hung. 3867 ✓ of

June 17th / (G. in H.)

"Interstanding previous experience in
Germany since 1909 + nationalities,
certificates issued by C. G. & C. S.
in Geneva"

D. J. 1942

o. r. t
ats de Nationalité
de Salvador à Genève.

certains nombre de personnalités
dans les pays occupés par l'Axe,
ont été établis à leur intention
Premier Secrétaire du Consulat
Dans ces certificats, il est
reconnue comme citoyen de la
les droits et devoirs inhérents

antello a entrepris cette
absolument désintéressée et
de légalisation, traduction,
vement importantes.

utilément usage de ces docu-
ou être, provisoirement du moins,
royés dans des camps réservés

définitif, il fallait cepen-
torités de Salvador et de
prises dans cet ordre d'idées
télégrammes confirmant l'ho-
vés à Berne. Entre autres la
a reçu confirmation par son
r Rjeniewicz, Conseiller de

la prise en charge de la Puissance Protectrice.

Or, c'est la Suisse qui représente les intérêts de
Salvador en Allemagne et dans les pays occupés par l'Allemagne.

Monsieur Dumont, fonctionnaire préposé au Service des
Intérêts Etrangers du Département Politique à Berne interrogé
à ce sujet a déclaré que l'homologation des documents de
Genève lui avait été signifiée:

Son service pouvait dès lors se charger des missions
suivantes:

- I) Transmission des documents par le courrier
diplomatique suisse et remise officielle aux
intéressés par les soins du Représentant suisse
du ressort de la résidence de chaque intéressé.
- II) Placement des intéressés sous la protection de
la Représentation Diplomatique Suisse.

III)

11. 8 of negotiations
of June 17 - in re
increasing no. of sum false
papers, inordinately.

(Gen. E) Attitudes of Swiss

✓ Description's 4659, July 21 -
from Zichthorn's Register on
relative merits of SA docs & Tel
certificates.

20 books

8 488

(Gen. H)

11/11/51

Gen. W. D. S.

37

Dr Kahany

COPIE
mak

R a p p o r t
sur les Certificats de Nationalité
du Consulat Général de Salvador à Genève.

Pour venir au secours d'un certain nombre de personnalités israélites en danger de mort dans les pays occupés par l'Axe, des Certificats de Nationalité ont été établis à leur intention par Monsieur Georges Mantello, Premier Secrétaire du Consulat Général de Salvador à Genève. - Dans ces certificats, il est confirmé que telle personne est reconnue comme citoyen de la République de Salvador avec tous les droits et devoirs inhérents à cette nationalité.-

A souligner que Monsieur Mantello a entrepris cette action de secours d'une façon absolument désintéressée et qu'il a même engagé pour frais de légalisation, traduction, et expédition des sommes relativement importantes.

Dans divers cas, on a fait utilement usage de ces documents dont les titulaires ont pu être, provisoirement du moins, sauvés de la déportation et envoyés dans des camps réservés aux Citoyens Américains.

Pour arriver à un résultat définitif, il fallait cependant l'homologation par les autorités de Salvador et de Washington. Les démarches entreprises dans cet ordre d'idées ont abouti. Il apparaît que des télégrammes confirmant l'homologation américaine sont arrivés à Berne. Entre autres la Légation de Pologne à Berne en a reçu confirmation par son Gouvernement (consulter Monsieur Rjensiewicz, Conseiller de Légation, Tél. 2 28 52 Berne).

Cette homologation obtenue, rien ne s'oppose plus à la prise en charge de la Puissance Protectrice.

Or, c'est la Suisse qui représente les intérêts de Salvador en Allemagne et dans les pays occupés par l'Allemagne.

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- II) Placement des intéressés sous la protection de la Représentation Diplomatique Suisse.

III)

III) Pour parler avec les Autorités Allemandes en vue de la libération des intéressés déjà arrêtés ou de leur transfert dans un camp réservé aux Citoyens Américains.

Monsieur Dumont a attiré l'attention sur la particularité suivante:

En vertu d'un accord intervenu entre tous les pays de l'Amérique, seule la Légation des Etats-Unis à Berne est qualifiée pour présenter les requêtes concernant le Service de la Puissance Protectrice. - A la Légation des Etats-Unis, Messieurs Tait et Godley, Thunstrasse 79, Tél. 2 50 15 Berne, sont chargés spécialement de ces interventions.

Messieurs Tait et Godley interpellés ont eux aussi déclaré qu'ils étaient au courant de la reconnaissance par l'Amérique des documents de Genève, mais qu'ils se refusaient néanmoins d'intervenir à l'intention des intéressés, sans y être spécialement autorisés par Washington.

Ils ont motivé leur refus de la façon suivante:

Jusqu'alors c'est une affaire entreprise sous la seule responsabilité du Consulat Général de Salvador à Genève. Dès le moment que la Légation Américaine intervient, on court le risque qu'après la guerre, les intéressés s'en prévaudront pour "forcer" leur entrée en Amérique.

En attendant, les intéressés sont torturés et assassinés.... alors que l'intervention américaine pourrait les sauver et que certainement, après la guerre, rien ne sera plus facile que d'empêcher les quelques survivants de franchir l'océan, si par impossible, ils avaient à ce moment l'intention d'émigrer vers l'Amérique.

En l'occurrence, il y a véritablement l'occasion unique pour réaliser la merveilleuse promesse du Président Roosevelt lequel a déclaré à la face du Monde, qu'il faut employer tous les moyens pour sauver de la mort les innocentes victimes du racisme.....

Genève, le 31 juillet 1944.

I n s t r u c t i o n s

concernant les certificats de nationalité de Salvador.

- 1) Cette nationalité vient d'être acquise comme suite aux démarches entreprises par les parents et amis en Amérique.
- 2) Il n'y a aucune raison de faire, dès à présent, état de cette nationalité devant les autorités du pays de la résidence des intéressés.
- 3) Ce n'est que le jour où, par malheur, on serait arrêté, qu'il y aura intérêt de présenter le document. En effet, on aura alors droit au traitement réservé à tous les citoyens Salvadoriens -- Etant donné que l'Etat de Salvador n'est pas en guerre avec l'Allemagne et n'a fait que rompre ses relations diplomatiques avec ce pays, étant donné par ailleurs, que les Allemands au Salvador n'ont pas été internés, on pourra réclamer un traitement identique en vertu des principes de la réciprocité internationale.
- 4) Dès lors, en cas d'arrestation, il faudra présenter une requête écrite, sollicitant une mise en liberté, le cas échéant, sous surveillance de la police, et tout au moins l'envoi dans un Camp d'Internés Civils Américains. Une copie de cette requête sera adressée immédiatement et directement à Monsieur le Consul Général de Suisse le plus proche du lieu de la détention, puisqu'aussi bien, c'est la Suisse qui est chargée des intérêts de Salvador.
- 5) En vue d'une arrestation éventuelle, il est recommandé de soumettre, dès à présent, le cas à un avocat, afin que celui-ci puisse, le cas échéant, entreprendre toute démarche utile.
- 6) Les autorités compétentes en Amérique ont dès à présent donné l'assurance formelle que les titulaires des certificats sus-mentionnés sont prévus pour l'échange contre des citoyens allemands qui se trouvent en Amérique.-- Pour l'introduction de la procédure d'échange, chaque titulaire de certificat a le plus grand intérêt de se faire inscrire pour "l'échange avec l'Amérique" dès qu'il aura été transféré dans un camp.