War Refugee Board
American Legation
Bern, Switzerland

JEWS IN EUROPE
September & October
1944
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,


Im Voraus bestens dankend, zeichnen wir

hochachtungsvoll

[Unterschrift]

Bern, 1. September 1944

Meier
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

im Nachgang zu unserem Schreiben vom 14. pto.

Im Voraus bestens dankend, zeichnen wir

hochachtungsvoll

[Unterschrift]

Monreux, 1. September 1944
Les Coloninelles
Bern, September, 1st. 1944.

Dear Mrs. Wyler:

Following our telephone conversation of this morning I am returning enclosed herewith the documents which you left last week with my colleague, Mr. Godley. I trust that on your return to Bern I shall have a chance to talk to you about this whole unfortunate question of the El Salvador "nationality" papers which are being issued by Mr. Mantello in Geneva. If one felt, based on the best available information, that continuing to forward these documents really constituted protection for the people to whom they are sent (in the case of Hungary, for instance, they have been of no value whatsoever and have even in certain instances occasioned the arrest of the bearer for possession of false documents), and if it were possible to obtain from the Government of El Salvador specific recognition of the validity of the individual documents issued by Mr. Mantello — which has not been the case — our Legation would be quite willing to do all we could in this respect. But in the absence of this specific sanction we cannot undertake to officially present to the Swiss authorities false documents.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister

Mrs. Bert Wyler
C/o Mrs. Frank
15, rue de l'Athénée,
Geneva.
This telegram is 704 Hon. Honduran Interests.

For Mr. Zamirik (W.R.B.)

In communicating the above to the Swiss Foreign Office, please inform it that the Government of the United States will be pleased to serve as the channel of communication in this connection.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re

x 740/1 Jews - Europe

State Dept. 7441-72
By R. H. Field Dec. SEP 22 1972
PARAPHRASE

Legation’s 4518 July 14.

In its A-268 of August 14, Embassy Tegucigalpa transmitted the following translation of note 253, dated August 10, from the Honduran Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"Very attentively and through the worthy medium of Your Excellency, I request that the Swiss Government, if it so pleases, assume the protection of Honduran interests in Hungary in the same form in which it has taken charge of the interests of Honduras in Germany and German-occupied countries.

"I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to renew to the Swiss Government the thanks of the Government of Honduras for the way in which the representation of Honduran interests has been carried out in the above-mentioned countries.

"To Your Excellency I desire to renew the expression of my highest and most distinguished consideration."

In communicating the above to the Swiss Foreign Office, please inform it that the Government of the United States will be pleased to serve as the channel of communication in this connection.

HULL

In quadruplicate

[Handwritten notes below the text]
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department Date: September 2, 3 p.m., 1944
No.: 3027
Received: September 3, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 156. For McClelland.

A portion of an airgram from Caracas of August 22 follows in substance:

I have just learned from the Foreign Office that the Swiss Government has been requested by Venezuela to extend to the territory of Hungary and other countries in central and eastern Europe the protection of Venezuelan interests, for the purpose of rendering assistance to holders of Venezuelan passports in those regions.

HULL

In duplicate
re

COPY IN FA
copied in duplicate for AL mjb
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: September 2, 3 p.m., 1944
No: 5762
Charged to:

With reference to numbered paragraph 2 in the Department's No. 2149 of June 24 (WNB 26), it is reported in a Swiss note of August 30 that to the knowledge of the Swiss Legation at Sofia there exist only one or two internment camps in Bulgaria. There was never an American citizen there. The only Latin American country represented by Switzerland in Bulgaria is Chile. There is now no Chilean in Bulgaria.

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

HARRISON

TJR/hk
Copy of paraphrase to Mr. McClelland
Schweiz. Hülfswerk für jüd. Flüchtlinge im Ausland

«HJIFES»

Telephon 6 30 36 und 6 43 99
Postcheck-Konto IIb 2107 Vevey
Telegramm-Adresse: Hijes Montreux

Montreux, 4. September 1944
Les Colonnailles

C.L.

Ernest H. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister

Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir nehmen Beifall, zuerst von 20. Juni

 unlängst, an deren Anweisung gerichtet, in welchem die

 ausmitteln, dass der spanische Gesandte in

 Madrid mit dem spanischen Regierungsvertreter

 von Turquía, des von Vittel entfernt, soll an ein reguläres Internierungslager

 zurückgeschickt werden sollen.

Es scheint aber, dass der spanische Gesandte in Berlin

 diese Angelegenheit nicht mit der richtigen Energie behandelt, da er uns vor einiger Zeit im Telefongespräch

 vorübergehend anwies, dass die Gesandten nicht mehr in Vittel sein sollten. Auf verschiedene Anliegen und Telefongespräche, die wir uns in der Nebelschicht gedient, teilten wir überhaupt keine Antwort.

Wir waren Ihnen dankbar für Ihre Hilfe und danken Sie dem spanischen Gesandten, der vorhanden war, dass die spanischen Gesandten in Berlin an ihrer Pflichten erinnert und veranlasst wird, die erstenen Auskünfte zu erteilen.

Wir danken Ihnen für die freundliche Mitteilung ganz erneut und beziehen in diesen

 mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Schenk, Ambassmann des
Flüchtlinge im Ausland

Hijes

[Handgeschrieben:]

I am pleased to inform you of a request to the Spanish Gov't. on Aug. 19th to,

recommend that the Spanish Gov't.

be urged through its Embassy in Berlin to take all possible steps to

permit holding of protest meeting. To prepare a protest at 8:15 a.m.

comes to be decided. The Dept. seems to have received appropriate steps were

[Signature:]

[Handgeschrieben:]

[Signature:]

[Handgeschrieben:]

[Signature:]

[Handgeschrieben:]

[Signature:]

[Handgeschrieben:]

[Signature:]

[Handgeschrieben:]

[Signature:]
Sehr geehrter Herr McNeill,


Im Voraus bestens dankend, seien wir

[Unterschrift]

[Hostetler]

[Signatur]

[Poststempel: Bern 5. September 1944]
Monsieur
Roswell D. Mc. Clelland,
Special Assistant to the
American Minister
Alpenstr. 28.
Berne.

Cher Monsieur,

Je viens d'apprendre de Monsieur Weingort que vous êtes en possession d'une liste de quelques dizaines de personnes, déportées de Vittel à Belsen Bergen.

Vous m'obligeriez en me la faisant parvenir si vite que possible.

En vous remerciant d'avance je vous prie, Cher Monsieur de bien vouloir agréer l'expression de mes salutations distinguées.

Dr. A. Silberschein
Paraphrase

The following refers to numbered paragraph 3 of the Department's 2149 of June 24 (WB 36).

A note dated August 31 from the Swiss states that the Swiss Legation at Bucharest wrote on August 4th that no American civilian was detained in any Romanian camp. The same is true of Chilean nationals. Chile is the only Latin American country whose interests are represented by Switzerland in Romania.

HARRISON

TJH:dmh:nf
In duplicate to AI
Copy to HIM
Bern, September 6, 1944.


Sirs:

In answer to your letters of the first and fourth of September, I am pleased to enclose a copy of the list of 51 persons transferred from Vittel to the camp of Bergen-Belsen on the 16th of May, 1944.

In answer to your second letter of the fourth of September regarding the question of Paraguayan document holders in Germany, I can state that we cabled once more to the War Refugee Board on August 19th strongly recommending that the Spanish Government be urged to take all possible steps through its Embassy in Berlin to protect the holders of Paraguayan passports in Bergen-Belsen and other internment camps. The War Refugee Board replied on August 31st that appropriate steps were being taken with the Paraguayan Government in Asuncion and with the Spanish Government in Madrid.

Very truly yours,

Enclosure: List.

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

RDM/mjb
Bern, September 6, 1944.

Dear Dr. Silberschein:

In answer to your letter of the 28th of August, I must state that the only definite information we have received from the Swiss Federal Political Department concerning the persons transferred to Bergen-Belsen from Vittel was contained in a note sent to our American Interests Section on July 28th. Attached to this note was the enclosed list of 51 persons of Jewish origin claiming Latin American nationality transferred from Vittel on May 15th. This list was compiled by a delegate of the Swiss Legation at Berlin on the occasion of his visit to Vittel on July 6th.

We have no indication whatsoever that persons previously removed from the camp of Vittel were ever transferred to Bergen-Belsen. The earlier list we received from the Swiss authorities concerning Vittel gave the names of 163 persons "die...mit unbekannten Bestimmungsort aus dem lager Vittel entfernt wurden".

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosure:

List.

Dr. A. Silberschein,
10 Avenue de Miremont,
Geneva.

HM/mjb
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: September 6, 2 p.m., 1944
No.: 3074
Code: ...
Received: September 7, 11 a.m.

PARAPHRASE
No. 159 from the War Refugee Board.

For McClelland.

Unofficial reports have been received by the War Refugee Board that the International Red Cross believes Theresienstadt to be a privileged camp and considers that action with a view to bringing its inmates within the scope of Inter-Red Cross activity is unnecessary.

However, repeated reports have also been received by the War Refugee Board of recent deportations from Theresienstadt to extermination camps. Such reports, if true, indicate that no security is enjoyed by its inmates. Kindly so inform the International Red Cross, which in the light of the foregoing may have knowledge thereof. The well known tendencies in certain German official circles to exterminate a maximum number of Jews before the end of the war may result in a sudden deterioration of the position of Jews in Theresienstadt and elsewhere unless adequate precautions are taken. An express or tacit approval of the reported position of the International Red Cross would mean moral responsibility for the possible loss of human lives. The Board is not able to assume this responsibility and it is its conviction that the assumption of such responsibility would be displeasing to the International Red Cross.

The War Refugee Board therefore earnestly hopes that the International Red Cross will extend its protective activities to the inmates of Theresienstadt, including the distribution of Palestine certificates and other documents entitling them to partial assimilation with civilian internees, general Inter-Red Cross supervision, eligibility for exchange, etc.

You are requested to submit in a diplomatic manner the view of the War Refugee Board to the International Red Cross that in dealing with Jews in territory under German control in the coming critical weeks attempts to correct unsatisfactory situations already...
already in existence are not sufficient and the opinion of the Board that in the light of present circumstances it is urgent that all measures be taken to deal with sudden deterioration. The International Red Cross is therefore earnestly urged to take preventive as well as corrective action, however much this may go beyond the traditional pattern of its program. This line of action may be unprecedented, but so is the situation.

If possible, you should discuss the foregoing points personally with Huber.

HARRISON

In duplicate

re

Copy to F. A.

[Handwritten note:"

...it was impossible to assist these people."

"A report will be made of this event."

"Let me know if you have received this.""
To: Department

Date: September 7, noon, 1944.

No: 5894

Charged to: [Redacted]

Paraphrase

Reference is made to the Department's no. 2407 of July 13 (WIB No. 64). The numbered paragraphs below correspond to the numbered paragraphs in the Department's 2407. An aide-memoire of August 4th from the Swiss Legation at Berlin contained this information which was transmitted from the Swiss Foreign Office in a notice dated August 26th:

2) Pursuant to instructions from the Spanish Government, the Spanish Embassy at Berlin informed the Germans that the Government of Paraguay recognizes all Paraguayan passports currently circulating in Germany. No reply has been received from the Germans. The Embassy is not in touch with bearers of doubtful Paraguayan passports and is completely unaware of their fate. The Embassy's request to visit Bergen-Belsen has been refused. It believes that some bearers of such passports are held at this camp. It is not in written communication with them. The Embassy observes that it has never been able to establish contact with Spanish citizens "Safardites" (Spanish Jews from the East) interned several months prior to repatriation at Bergen-Belsen. The Embassy doubts that anything can be done on behalf of this category of Paraguayans. It appears that additional steps on behalf of these Jews was not taken by the Embassy.

3) At the German Foreign Office, the Section of Law of War for Internment and Exchange stated that it was unable to give the Swiss any information regarding the fate of Latin American internees who were deported from Vittel as the German Government considers them as Jews from occupied countries regarding whom the Germans need give no account to third powers. Application to the Interior Section of the German Foreign Office was therefore made by the Swiss Legation. This section is in direct touch with the police. The Swiss insisted vigorously that they be informed of the place of detention of the deportees from Vittel who are considered eligible.
eligible for exchange by the American government. A reply has not been received from the Germans.

4) Verbal assurances were given on May 11th by Seth covering all Latin Americans then detained in civilian internment camps. It is well understood from the German side would no longer question identity papers in their possession. No supplementary declaration concerning the nature of documents necessary for persons covered by assurances previously given. Inasmuch as these persons are already in civilian internment camps over which certain control is held by the German Foreign Office, although limited, the said Ministry can hinder subsequent deportation on the basis of the Swiss Legation's declarations aiming toward inclusion in civilian exchange. The best method to protect a person who was not in the camp on May 11th and accordingly is not covered by assurances given, would be to notify the Germans as soon as possible of his personal status and deliver a declaration from the interested government that it recognizes the right of the person concerned to effective citizenship. It is feared by the Swiss Legation that it has knowledge of only a very small fraction of cases in this category. The Swiss Legation is generally aware only of the cases communicated to it because the persons concerned were detained in an internment camp which is known.

5) The Uruguayan Government's declaration has been communicated to the Germans. The Swiss Legation had not received definite wording of the declaration of Ecuador. (Legation Note: Regarding latter, inquiry is being made of the Swiss Foreign Office.) End of the aide-memoire.

With further reference to numbered paragraph 2 of the above referred to telegram from the Department, the covering Swiss notice observes that according to a separate report from the Swiss Legation at Berlin several bearers of Paraguayan documents were included in the group of 51 deportees from Vittel. Feldscher inquires concerning the advisability of the Spanish Embassy at Berlin associating itself with the representations of the Swiss Legation regarding the group of 51 deportees. Feldscher believes that representation made by two countries might, despite the complete negative attitude of the Germans, have a slightly greater chance of success, as only a small number of representatives of neutral countries remain in Berlin.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir erhielten durch die Vermittlung der amerikanischen Gesandtschaft, Bern einen Bericht der Schweizerischen Gesandtschaft in Berlin vom 22. August 1944, den wir Ihnen in Abschrift beiliegen.

Da dieser Bericht eine Reihe von Unstimmigkeiten enthält, die im Widerspruch stehen mit Ausführungen, die wir von Ihnen, von der chilenischen Gesandtschaft Bern sowie von anderen Behörden erhielten, haben wir uns erlaubt, einige Bemerkungen zu diesem Bericht zu machen, die wir Ihnen ebenfalls in Abschrift beiliegen.

Wir wären Ihnen sehr verbunden, wenn Sie die Beilagen genau prüfen und die nötigen Schritte bei der Abteilung für fremde Interessen des Eidgenössischen Polizeidepartements unternehmen würden, damit die verschiedenen Punkte richtiggestellt werden.

Es wäre auch noch abzuklären, ob die erwähnten 51 Personen sich tatsächlich in Bergen-Belsen befinden, da von ihnen bisher kein Lebenszeichen eingetroffen ist, während seit einigen Wochen Post aus Bergen-Belsen hier ankommt.

Wir sehen Ihrer Rückkäußerung mit Interesse entgegen und zeichnen indessen

mit vorsätzlicher Hochachtung

...
Notiz


1. Es trifft zu, dass die Ausweispapiere der 14 krankheitshalber in Vittel verbliebenen Juden mit zweifelhaften Ansprüchen auf die Zugehörigkeit zu einem iberoamerikanischen Staat von den betreffenden Regierungen noch nicht anerkannt worden sind.


Die Gesandtschaft hat außerdem das Auswärtige Amt a) um Befassung der 14 zurückgebliebenen Internierten in Vittel dringlichst gebeten
b) um Bekanntgabe des gegen wörtigen Aufenthaltsorten der im April deportierten Personen ersucht
c) die Rückschaffung nach Vittel der am 16. Mai d.J. abgefuhrten Deportierten verlangt

Zur Nachschrift (Seite 3) einer unserer Delegierten erhielt sehr schmerzlich einmal Erlaubnis, das Judenlager Drancy in Frankreich kurz zu besuchen, aber er durfte sich dort nur mit Angelegenheiten von einwandfreien Engländern, Nordamerikanern usw. befasen.

Was das Lager Bergen-Belsen anbetrifft, so stellt sich das auswärtige Amt auf den Standpunkt, dass sich darin keine einwandfreie Angehörige amerikanischer Streitkräfte befinden, so dass die Gesellschaft keine Möglichkeit einräumst, mit diesen von der SS überwachten Lagern in Verbindung zu treten.

Was das Lager Bergen bei Dresden angeht, so wird vom auswärtigen Amt und von OKW offiziell bestritten, dass ein solches überhaupt besteht.

Großwudecke, den 22. August 1944.
Bemerkungen zur Notiz der Schweizer Gesandtschaft Berlin vom 29. August 1944

ad 1. Hier liegt ein Irrtum vor. Die chilenische Gesandtschaft in Bern hat das Abteilung für fremde Interessen in Bern bekannt, dass der anerkannter in Vittel gewesenen chilenischen Staatsbürger Kenntnis gegeben und entscheidenen Auftrag zur Interessenvertretung gegeben, nach den MÜNN 
Auch die amerikanische Gesandtschaft in Bern hat das gleich generell für alle iberoamerikanischen Bürger getan.

Auf Grund dieser Erklärungen sollte sich die Schweizer Gesandtschaft in Berlin schon Ende April dieser Internierten angenommen resp. laut Berichten aus Berlin beim Aussenamt vorgeschlagen haben.

Man kann somit nicht sagen, dass die 14 (nach unserer Liste sind es 28) in Vittel verbliebenen Juden von den betreffenden Regierungen nicht anerkannt sind.

ad 2. Es ist unverständlich, dass der Vertreter der Schweizer Gesandtschaft diese Personen in Vittel anlässlich seines dortigen Aufenthaltes nicht offiziell bestätigen hat. Die Gesandtschaft ist dringend darum zu ersuchen, dies nachzuholen und zwar nicht — laut Absatz a) in Form einer Bitte, sondern als Schutzmaßnahme-Vertreterin dieser Internierten in Form einer dringenden Forderung.

ad b) darf hieraus geschlossen werden, dass der Aufenthaltsort dieser 2. Gruppe mit 51 Personen bekannt ist? Sollte diese Gruppe wirklich in Bergen-Belsen sein, muss der Schweizer Gesandtschaft seitens des Aussenamtes erlaubt werden, sich ihrer anzunehmen und fest von ihnen zu vermitteln.

Es geht aus den Antwortschreiben der Schweizer Gesandtschaft hervor, dass sie sich noch nicht berechtigt und verpflichtet fühlt, für diese Internierten einzureten, deshalb auch nicht die Form einer Bitte, statt einer Forderung. Das mag auch die Ursache sein, dass das Aussenamt diese Internierten als Juden der besetzten Gebiete betrachtet und nicht eine Einnischung verhindert, wenn das Aussenamt richtig und entschieden erklärt wird, dass diese Internierten als einwandfreie iberoamerikanische Bürger zu betrachten sind, dann ist es auch der Schweizer und Amerikanischen Regierung Hochachtung schuldig.

Dasselbe betrifft auch das Lager Bergen-Belsen, so weit es sich um inhaber sudamerikanischer Papiere handelt. Es sind um eine Reine von Namen dortiger Internierter bekannt. Die Schweizer Gesandtschaft in Berlin ist deshalb zu bitten, dass sie sich energisch dafür einsetzt, um Einstieg zu diesen Internierten in BS zu erhalten.

11.9.1944
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir erhielten Ihr Schreiben vom 6. ds. und danken verbindlichst für die uns eingesandte Liste.

Wir gestatten uns nur der Ordnung halber, Sie darauf aufmerksam zu machen, dass hierbei ein kleiner Fehler unterlaufen ist, als die unter No. 32 angeführte Person nicht Leja Weingort, sondern Leja Weinstein heißt.


Wir wären Ihnen deshalb sehr verbunden, wenn auch Sie Ihren ganzen Einfluss geltend machen würden, dass dieser Austausch so rasch als nur irgendwie möglich stattfinden kann, denn die Auskunftsverweigerung des Aussenamtes beweist ja zur Genüge, wie sehr diese Menschen in Gefahr sind. Hierbei sollten die in Vittel zurückgebliebenen Internierten natürlich nicht vergessen werden.

Wir begrüßen Sie

mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

[Unterschrift]

Schweiz. Hilfsverein für jüd. Flüchtlinge im Ausland (HJEF)
Telefon 63056 und 64399
Postcheck-Konto BL 2107 Vevey
Telegramm-Adresse: HJEF Montreux

Montreux, 11. September 1944
Les Colonettes
Reference is made to the Legation's 5091 of August 7th.

A note dated September 11 from the Swiss indicates that the Swiss Government has received a telegram dated August 14 from the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua. The telegram contains statements quoted in the Department's airgram 395 of August 26. On August 25 the German Government was notified of the Nicaraguan declaration. On September 11 the Swiss Foreign Office acknowledged the telegram from the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua.

HARRISON

TJH:ih:inf
Copies to AI and RDM
Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

I acknowledge receipt of your letters of September 11th regarding the persons transferred from Vittel. I have closely studied the letter of the Swiss Legation at Berlin (which had previously been communicated to me) as well as your memorandum based on it. One of the underlying difficulties with regard to this whole unfortunate situation has been the fact that a number of Central and South American countries concerned have been exceedingly slow and very unenthusiastic in individually and specifically requesting the Swiss Government to protect these ad hoc citizens. On the other hand, the Swiss authorities themselves, despite the humanitarian considerations involved, have often been somewhat reluctant to undertake energetic steps on behalf of persons holding false documents and who in most cases were under, at least indirectly, control of the Gestapo or SS.

I shall, however, discuss the various points raised in your letters, as well as the exchange question, with our American Interests Section, to determine what steps can best be undertaken with the Swiss authorities in view of bringing all possible aid to these people.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. I. Sternbuch,
Les Colomballes,
Montreux.

RIM/aJb
To: Department

Date: September 14, 9 a.m., 1944.

No: 6047

Following on Honduran interests in Germany.

In a note dated September 9 from the Swiss Foreign Office there is enclosed a note of August 8 from the German Foreign Office which states that investigation revealed Pfliefferling does not (repeat not) possess Honduran citizenship and that according to Pfliefferling he and his family claim German nationality only.

Refer to the Legation's airmail 8103 of May 6 and the Department's 2173 of June 26.

HARRISON

In duplicate to AI
Copies to AC, RDM
Paraphrase

WRB cable no. 164 for McClendon follows.

Reference is made to the Legation's 5689 of August 31.

When replying to the Swiss notice of August 26, you are requested to ask the Swiss Political Department to emphasize that this Government, notwithstanding the German arguments, cannot recognize any right of the German authorities to pass upon the validity of documents which other sovereign Governments have issued in their names. Also, in justice to their own interests, none of the American Republics upon whose documents this German procedure is being practiced can permit that practice to pass unquestioned. Therefore, this Government reiterates the stand it took in paragraph 2 of the Department's 2490 of July 21 and rejects as irrelevant any attempts by German officials to question the validity of Latin American documents on the basis of the type of identity papers, the basis of antecedents of the Jews involved, or any other basis.

It should be emphasized in this connection that at first the German attitude was to doubt the eligibility of persons involved for exchange and the acceptance of the documents involved by the issuing government. Since the eligibility for exchange has been confirmed and the validity of documents notified to German through the Protecting Powers by the several issuing governments, the German officials are now introducing new excuses for their failure to comply. This Government definitely rejects all these excuses and requests that the attention of such German officials be brought to the serious consequences of their attitude.

In this connection kindly advise if the message contained

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Center, 1-31-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 22, 1972
contained in the Department's 2490, July 21, paragraph 3, has been conveyed to the proper quarters. It is believed, that it may be possible, in the light of the military situation, to sway German officials by confronting them with a sufficiently emphatic statement of this Government's position.

As regards the suggestion in the last paragraph of the Legation's 5689, concerning lists of bearers of Latin American documents, the disturbed war conditions have interfered with communications between the Governments of Latin America and their Missions in Europe, which has resulted in difficulty in the compilation of such lists, owing to incomplete records. So as to assist the Swiss in this matter, it is believed, however, you should endeavor to procure, in cooperation with the local representatives of organizations having records on the subject, lists that are as complete as possible, with a view to submitting them to the Swiss officials. The Department will suggest to the various Governments of Latin America the urgency of confirming to the Swiss authorities the authenticity of such lists. It is hoped, however, that the Swiss officials will agree to transmit the lists to Germany even without such confirmation, in view of the humanitarian considerations involved and in view of the status of this country as the power handling the exchange of persons whose eligibility would be establishment by placement on the list. There may be included in such lists the persons envisaged in the Department's 2407, July 13, paragraph no. 6.

The aforementioned lists cannot (repeat not) be considered complete. Kindly inform the Swiss and German authorities in this sense. Should the Germans inquire of the Swiss Legation or Government whether any particular individual not (repeat not) appearing on such lists is protected by Switzerland, it is suggested that an answer along the following lines would be both calculated to save human lives and substantially correct:

Swiss records regarding citizens of countries under Swiss protection are incomplete owing to war-time conditions and the records of the several Latin American Legations in Bern are also incomplete; if Germany informs Switzerland of the claimed nationality of any person, inquiry will be made of the Government of the country concerned; and the Swiss will consider it understood that such person will be treated as a citizen of the country whose nationality is claimed and accorded all the rights and privileges of a citizen thereof, pending receipt of
of a reply to such an inquiry.

2. The following information has been forwarded by our Embassy in various countries. It is transmitted for your information and guidance in connection with representation in Hungary, shelters for Jewish children from Hungary and protection of victims of enemy persecution:

The Portuguese Government has agreed, in principle, to the admission for temporary refuge of Hungarian Jewish refugees, preferably in lots of 3 to 4 hundred. The Portuguese Government has already informed the Hungarian Government of its interest in such people. The Hungarian Government has been persuaded to issue exit visas and a number of them have been granted Portuguese visas but the Germans still refuse permission to depart. The Portuguese Legation in Budapest is at present giving asylum to some of these persons. The Hungarian Government, therefore, knows well the interest of the Portuguese in this problem.

The Legation of Venezuela in Lisbon has been given authorization to visé the passports of Jewish refugees, children especially, who are traveling to the American continent, even though they may not be proceeding to Venezuela. The Swiss Political Department has also been requested to extend its protection of the interests of Venezuela to Hungarian territory and to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe for the purpose of aiding persons in those regions who bear Venezuelan passports.

Provided the expense of transportation to Brazil, and maintenance in latter country, will not be incurred by the Brazilian Government, the President of Brazil has approved a plan to bring 500 refugee children to that country. He has accordingly charged General Ivo Soares, Chairman of the Brazilian Red Cross, with making suitable arrangements for the care of such children with the appropriate Jewish welfare agencies in Brazil. An official announcement will soon be issued.

The Government of Uruguay has agreed to the admission of 500 refugee children.

3. Referring to the Department's 2485 of July 21, the Legation of Haiti in Bern was instructed on July 31 to request the Swiss to present to the German Government a declaration of the Haitian Government. This declaration was substantially as follows:

"Since
"Since certain individuals of the Jewish race, in pursuance of the decree-law of May 29, 1939, naturalized as Haitians abroad, were living in German and Italian-controlled territories and since, by reasons of force majeure, they have been detained there continuously from the declaration of war by Haiti until this date, the Government of Haiti declares that compliance with the decree-law of February 4, 1942, enjoining under penalty of the loss of Haitian nationality all those who had acquired Haitian naturalization abroad to return to Haiti before August 5, 1942 was impossible for persons in the category aforementioned. Therefore, it is hereby made known to whom it may concern that such persons are not affected by the decree-law of February 4, 1942."

In this connection the attention of the Board has been called to the test case of Mrs. Zelman and Miss Sephora Solowiejczyk, aged 42 and 7, respectively, who are the wife and daughter of Zelman Solowiejczyk now resident in New York City and whose last known address was Jacob Jacobs Street 37, Antwerp, Belgium. Under the foregoing declaration these women retain their Haitian nationality. Their Haitian naturalization is said to have been promulgated in the Moniteur of Haiti on December 23, 1939. If these women are still in German hands, please take all appropriate action to insure their treatment as nationals of Haiti.

Please consult with the Minister of Haiti if you deem it advisable.

Instructions have been issued to the Haitian Legation not to question at present the validity of Haitian passports held by persons now in occupied territories and who could be the objects of persecution by the enemy until they arrive in a safe place.

HULL

In quadruplicate
To 1940, you're in the framework to lead. General. Machine vote.

However, some determined to prevent the framework from expanding in the national interest. Governments, Congress...
Reference is made to the Department's no. 3074 of September 6th. For the strictly confidential information of the WAB only.

I have discussed with Intercross the question of Theresienstadt and, in particular, that of the visit of their delegate to this ghetto in June last.

It is quite true that, in the main, Theresienstadt can be termed a "privileged camp," in that the majority of the internes there are Jews who served with distinction in the German army during the World War, and the families of such Jews; or, Jews who possess personal connections with influential German circles such that the Nazis were reluctant to exterminate them. In addition to having a more or less stable permanent population of about 35,000 persons, Theresienstadt has constantly served as a transit camp for other less "privileged" Jews. In the main, it has been Jews of this category who have been deported to the extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau (see our 4295 of July 6 in this connection).

The IORC has expressly refrained from giving any publicity whatever to the June visit and observations of its delegate because it did not wish to gratuitously furnish material for German propaganda purposes (see our 4907 of July 31) and because it was aware that the Germans quite possibly allowed Intercross to visit Theresienstadt in the hope that any Intercross report could be used to whitewash their treatment of the Jews in general. Intercross feels that since the German authorities have never permitted them to visit any of the other, and far worse, Jewish camps (excepting for a single, very limited visit to Drancy), it would be exceedingly onerous to release their impressions of Theresienstadt.
According to Intercross, it exercises no activities respecting Jewish camps at Theresienstadt or elsewhere which could be interpreted as "protective" and it has absolutely no authority to handle matters such as the distribution of documents and the like, which are within the competence of a Protecting Power alone. However, Intercross does not intend in the least to relax its efforts to continue the flow of relief goods to Theresienstadt or to other camps which contain Jewish deportees through whatever channels are available to it or which might be opened up. Intercross shares the concern of WRB for the precarious situation of such Jews and has not lost sight of it.

Foregoing is from McClelland for WRB.

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

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegrams No. 2490 (WRB. No. 78) of July 21, 1944 - 11 p.m., No. 2757 (WRB. No. 112) of August 9 - 6 p.m., and No. 2888 (WRB. No. 127) of August 22 - 8 p.m., concerning the treatment accorded by the German authorities to certain bearers of Latin American documentation in Germany and German-controlled territory, and related matters.

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

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

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

George Tait
First Secretary

Enclosures
Enclosures:

No. 1 - Copy of note dated September 5, 1944, from Swiss Foreign Office;

No. 2 - Copy of Notice from Swiss Foreign Office;

No. 3 - Copy of report concerning deportation of Jews from the internment camp at Vittel;

No. 4 - Copy of report prepared by British subject, Miss Sophie Skipwith;

No. 5 - Copy of list of 14 persons at Vittel;

No. 6 - Copy of notice dated July 12, 1944, concerning transit camps for "non-Aryans" in Germany;

No. 7 - Copy of memorandum dated August 12, 1944, from Swiss Consulate at Paris;

No. 8 - Copy of note dated August 4, 1944, addressed to the Swiss Consulate at Paris by the German Embassy at that city;

No. 9 - Translation of enclosure No. 1;

No. 10 - Translation of enclosure No. 2;

No. 11 - Translation of enclosure No. 3;

No. 12 - Translation of enclosure No. 5;

No. 13 - Translation of enclosure No. 6;

No. 14 - Translation of enclosure No. 7;

No. 15 - Translation of enclosure No. 8.

Enclosures Nos. 1 through 9 attached to original of despatch only.

File No. 840.1
TJH/hs
In quintuplicate to Department.
The list arrived in the camp May 1941. They are all Jews from the various South American States issued by the consulates of the respective States, mainly from Brazil.

These certificates were generally given to cover an entire family, without even the detail of names.

In December 1940 all Jews in the Camp of Vittel had to give up their identity papers, which were never returned to them. All others British and American Internes remained in possession of their papers.

From January 1944 certain families received certificates from a Zionist Organization in Geneva saying that they were on list or 2nd registration list for Palestine. But as these had not been ratified by London, they were considered worthless by the German authorities.

In March nearly all these people were moved at 24 hours notice to an hotel outside the grounds of the camp and deprived of all communication with the camp for a week, until a passage had been arranged. The Commandant assured the Camp Committee that this was purely an internal measure, had failed that their papers were recognized within a short time, these people would all be considered so "Staatliche" and sent back to Switzerland and also to London to acquaint the powers of the situation.

Mrs. Bauer Schorr was guaranteed of their safety by the Commandant so it was on her word that they agreed to move. It was as a result of the broken promise that Mrs. Schorr finally committed suicide.

Four weeks later the gate was re-entered the hotel with the camp was opened and the people told that they were being sent to Brancy, a Jewish sorting camp near Paris - from which regular deportations of French and other Jews were made to Poland. There were 17 attempts at suicide, of which 5 were fatal officially. Mrs. Thompson, head of the British Nursing Service, informed us there were 4 others, but names unknown, the others being transported to hospital. The scenes of panic and despair are indescribable as also the consequent impression of the camp.

The first transport for Brancy took place on the 18th April and comprised 153 men, women and children including infants in arms. They left in a train with windows boarded. It was subsequently learned that they left Brancy on the 29th April for an unknown destination.

Recognition had meanwhile arrived from Chile, but as yet no news has been received of the subjects.

Four weeks later, on 16th May, the second transport took place, when all except 2 or 3 families and the absolutely untransportable cases in hospital, of which there were 16, were taken. Thus for example one person, whose legs were paralyzed in consequence of attempted poisoning, was removed on stretchers etc.

A fortnight after this 2nd transport, on the 6th June the Commandant informed the Committee that a collective list for registration to Palestine had arrived for the whole group and had been accepted by Berlin, which was now only waiting for the ratification from London. The No. of this collective certificate is 438. Up to the moment of our departure from Vittel no such ratification had been received from London. Shortly after came further news that each South American State had accepted all these papers as bona fides, thus placing their holders in an equal status with any other American Internes. In spite of this, the Commandant said that he had no order from Berlin to deport those yet remaining in camp, which I believe to have been done about the 15th of July. The Commandant also informed the Committee that they had been sent to Berga-Wellin, a camp to which some 2000 similar cases had been sent in May 1943, but this was proved to be untrue as a transport arrived from there and had never been there.
The people of the following list arrived in the camp of Vittel, part in January 1943 and the rest in May 1943. They are all Jews of Polish origin possessing certificates of citizenship of the various South American States issued by the consulates of the respective States, mainly from Chile.

These certificates were generally given to cover an entire family, without even the detail of names.

In December 1943 all Jews in the camp of Vittel had to give up their identity papers, which were never returned to them. All others British and American Interned remained in possession of their papers.

From January 1944 certain families received certificates from a Zionist Organization in Geneva saying that they were on the 1st or 2nd repatriation list for Palestine. But as these had not been ratified by London, they were considered worthless by the German Authorities.

In March nearly all these people were moved at 24 hours notice to an hotel outside the precincts of the camp and deprived of all communication with the camp for a week, until a passage had been constructed. The Commandant assured the Camp Committee that this was purely an internal measure, but added that unless their papers were recognized within a short time, these people could all be considered as "Staatlose" and sent back to Switzerland and then to London to acquaint the powers of the situation.

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The first transport for Drancy took place on the 13th April and comprised 163 men, women and children including infants in arms. They left in a train with windows boarded. It was subsequently learned that they left Drancy on the 25th April for an unknown destination.

Recognition had meanwhile arrived from Chile, but as yet no news has been received of the subjects.

Four weeks later, on 16th May, the second transport took place, when all except 2 or 3 families and the absolutely untransportable cases in hospital, of which there were 10, were taken. Thus for example one person, whose both legs were paralysed in consequence of attempted poisoning, was removed on stretchers etc., etc., etc.

A fortnight after this 2nd transport, on the 6th June the Commandant informed the Committee that a collective list for repatriation to Palestine had arrived for the whole group and had been accepted by Berlin, which was now only waiting for the ratification from London. The No. of this collective certificate is 438. Up to the present our departure from Vittel no such affirmation has been received from London, shortly after came further news that each South American State had accepted all these papers as bona fide, thus placing their holders in an equal status with any other American Interned. In spite of this, the Commandant said that he had an order from Berlin to deport those yet remaining in Camp, which I believe to have been done about the 15th of July. The Commandant also informed the Committee that they had been sent to Bergen-Belsen, a camp to which some 2000 similar cases had been sent in May 1943. But this was proved to be untrue as a transport arrives from there and had never been there.
The Comandant also said that neither the recognition of the papers nor the certificate for exchange to Palestine would have any validity in the eyes of the German authorities unless an exchange either to Palestine or to South America actually took place. It is the most essential and most urgent now to find these people, who are probably in some Jewish camp in Upper Silisia (such as Brezowa, Auschwitz, Osnowitz, Kattowitz, Poron, Lublin, Treblinka, Belzec, Treblinka, Monowitz) and to afford them the full protection of the Red Cross and the protecting powers. Also to demand by means for an exchange against Germans. This is the only way of saving even this handful of lives. The gravity of the situation cannot be exaggerated neither the urgent need for immediate action.

The undersigned have been eye witnesses of the above events

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

TRANSLATION

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
Division of Foreign Interests
B.24.2.A.3 - CL/Gk

44062

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

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

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

Furthermore

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

The Legation may observe that these documents constitute a partial reply to the kind above-cited notes of August 7, 12 and 24, 1944, and their enclosures. The Political Department may revert to the several points raised in these notes at a later date.

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

Bern, September 5, 1944.

Enclosures:

1 notice;

1 report.

HS
TRANSLATION

NOTICE

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

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

1) The Jews bearing passports issued in the name of Latin-American republics had been put in security by the German authorities in civilian internment camps with a view to inclusion in possible exchange operations. However, in various cases, the countries whose nationality these persons claimed, refused their inclusion in repatriation movements and often they even declared that the documents in the possession of certain of these Jews were not valid.

2) The fact that a considerable number of Jews thus placed in safe places with a view to their participation in repatriation movements were not considered as exchange material by the countries whose nationality they claimed, finally attracted the attention of the German authorities charged with the policing of foreigners.

3) This observation was in addition to the fact that the German authorities have knowledge of the activity, in neutral countries, of notorious centers (offices) for the issuance of passports, and that a large part of the Jews in question were bearers of identity papers issued by these centers.
4) Furthermore the Jews in question have appeared for many years — often from the day of their birth — in the official registers of the localities where they reside in the capacity of, for instance, German or Polish citizens, but they have never, up to the beginning of the present war, claimed another nationality.

5) Moreover, the declarations made by the Latin-American republics on the subject of the validity of passports issued in their name, and communicated to the German Government through the Swiss Legation at Berlin, are sometimes worded in such a way as to leave doubt concerning the real nationality of the bearers of these documents.

6) If a Jew has always resided in a given place without ever claiming a nationality other than that of which mention is made in the registers of the respective locality and if suddenly he produces an identity document signed by a well-known passport manufacturer, the German authorities refuse to recognize this document and continue to consider him as national of the territory where he has lived.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grosswudicke, August 8, 1944.

DMH/hs
LIST OF PERSONS AT VITTEL

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

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

HS
Notice concerning transit camp for non-aryans in Germany

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

1) Non-aryans whose citizenship is not clarified but who in the opinion of the German authorities would be considered eligible for exchange were transferred to Bergen-Belsen. The internees of Bergen-Belsen may, to a certain degree, be considered as protected non-aryans;

2) Older people, as well as persons who earned merits in Germany in any field (for instance scholars) were transferred to Theresienstadt, known as the model camp.

3) The other non-aryans were transferred for the most part to Auschwitz which must indeed be considered as a concentration camp.

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

a) Persons with dual nationality who also possess British citizenship - about 350 -.

b) Persons with dual nationality who also possess United States citizenship - about 200 -.

c) Non-aryan Netherlands with Palestine Certificates - about 1,200 -.
d) Non-aryans who claim Latin-American citizenship - about 350.

e) Non-aryans whose exchange, apparently because of certain ties with a foreign country, might be taken into consideration - about 600.

f) Netherlands diamond merchants - about 200 (total about 3,100).
Enclosure No. 14 to Despatch No. 9250 dated September 15, 1944, from American Legation, Bern.

TRANSLATION

MEMORANDUM

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

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

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

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

Paris, August 12, 1944.
German Embassy
París

NOTE

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

Kahn, Klara and sister Modiane, Ida - stateless, not at Drancy
Rapoport, Angelo Semida Salomon
Rapoport, Massia
Rapoport, José Leonhard
Springer, Adolphe
Balford, Hélène
Kalechman, Feiga
Afif, Benoit -
Afif, Léon Lucien -
Abūaf, Josef -
Algasne y Razon, Moise -
Malcosky, Saul -
Malcosky, née Belenky, Sara -
Malcosky, Maurice -
Weinsoff, Levi
Amrany, Esther -

To the Swiss Consulate, Paris.

Resa
Resa, Jaffa -
Resa, Elias -
Resa, Eskander -

Salem, Raymond -

Dubensky, Mordechay -
Dubensky, wife -
Dubensky, 2 children -

Eskensay, Halm -

currently still at Drancy for investigation

escaped at the end of June, 1944.

stateless, not at Drancy

not at the Drancy camp.

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

Paris, August 4, 1944.
For WRB from McClelland.

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

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

HARRISON

RDM:nf
Copy to RDM

Jews in Hungary
The following, with reference to Department's No. 3180 September 14, is a portion of a letter dated September 11 from Berle to Pehle, transmitted to you for your information.

You have called my attention to reports which indicate the desirability of presenting to the Germans lists of the bearers of Latin American passports who are eligible for exchange against nationals of Germany at the earliest possible date.

I approve of your suggestion and am pleased to advise you that instructions to our Legation in Bern, which the Department drafted some time ago, requesting that lists of persons who are entitled to inclusion in the exchanges, broken down into various principal categories, be formulated by the Swiss, constitute a step envisaging such action. In these instructions to the Legation, it is suggested that with regard to the categories into which the numerous persons at Bergen Belsen holding Latin American passports would normally fall, since the identity of these persons is probably not known to the governments whose passports they may hold, it might be possible to compile the requested lists through the cooperation of McClelland with the various philanthropic bodies in Switzerland in whose possession the needed data may be found.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. McClelland
From: Mr. Tait

September 19, 1944.

Congratulations of the United States

Of America

Dear Mr. McClelland:

In accordance with your telephone request on Friday last, I am returning to you three copies which have been made of your report entitled "GHETTO THERESIENSTADT". I should be glad to know what disposition you make of this report.

Enclosures:

4 copies of report - as stated.
To: Department
Date: September 18, 3 p.m., 1944
No: 6158
Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Department's 3170 September 14.

Telegram under reference might, should the Department so desire, be discussed by the Legation with officials of the Swiss Foreign Office, with the request that they inform Feldscher informally of its contents, to be passed on in the vein of a rumor to Sethe or to other appropriate official in the German Foreign Office.

HARRISON

In quadruplicate

GT/re 3 60 AI
  1 60 F.A

+A.I. Telegram

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By H. H. Parks Date SEP 22 1972
Several thousand Jews are reported to be held in the region of the East Prussian-Lithuanian frontier in camp Krotingen. Deportation of 7500 Jews from Kaunas to East Prussia is also reported. Please make inquiry about camp Krotingen and any camps in East Prussia similar to those mentioned in paragraph 1 of Department’s No. 1921 June 6, and ask ICRC, principally with a view to preserving the inmates of such camps from death, to take steps to include them in its program.

Refugees arrived from Bergen Belsen (Legation’s 5517 August 23) have reported having observed along the railroad route through Austria several camps of Jewish detainees. Kindly procure details regarding such camps and communicate information obtained to Intercessors, urging it to extend its activities to these camps.

HULL

In duplicate

re Copy in FA
Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, September 20, 1944.

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

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to enclosure No. 1 of the Legation's airmail despatch No. 9259 of September 15, 1944, which was a copy of a note dated September 9, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office regarding Jews detained at the civilian internment camp at Vittel, France.

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

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

Enclosure:

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

File No. 840.1
GEM/exp
In quintuplicate to the Department.
With reference to its note B.242.A. GL/Gk (44062) of September 5, 1944, concerning the situation of Jews claiming Latin American nationality, the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that it recently asked the Swiss Legation at Berlin to endeavor to ascertain what had become of the Jews who were detained at the camps at Clermont, Compiègne, Drancy, and Vittel when the German troops retreated from France.

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

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

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

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

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

Bern, September 16, 1944.
Department

September 22, 1944

En Clair - PRESS

SUBJECT: German Propaganda regarding Warsaw Refugee Camp.

Sequence Legation's 5779 September second.

Berlin DNB 21st makes following propaganda statement regarding alleged conditions at Poczakow camp for Warsaw refugees: Contrary reports spread by Anglo-Americans, Polish Relief Committee states no difficulties are encountered in extending medical and spiritual assistance to inmates Poczakow camp where 250,000 Polish men, women and children have been housed since beginning revolt in Warsaw. Camp was visited September 17 - 18 by International Red Cross representative Wyss who was acquainted by Chief Polish Relief Committee and doctors, nurses and auxiliary personnel with feeding and medical arrangements and inspected kitchen, lodging and welfare installations. Wyss likewise investigated individual refugee cases. Statement appears designed to forestall possible Wyss report.

LHR/tog

HARRISON

Copies to LHR and WHB - Mr. McClelland.

> no copy in CA files
Reference is made to the Department's 3235 of September 19.

From McClelland for WRB.

In collaboration with Intercross I will endeavor to secure more exact information concerning the Krotingen camp and other recent concentrations of Baltic Jews in East Prussia. It is respectfully pointed out in the meantime that, unfortunately, Intercross has no "program" which could be considered capable of preserving inmates of such camps from death, particularly if they are under the control of the SS, which is likely. Attention is also drawn to the fact that East Prussia is now the scene of very active military operations which will render doubly difficult effective intervention on behalf of inmates of Jewish camps.

All possible steps are being undertaken to obtain information on camps, Jewish and otherwise, in Austria. In latter connection please see our 8285 of September 21, 5 p.m.

HARRISON

RDM:mf
Copy to RDM

Copy in F.A.
A. I. No. 9617

NOTICE

The American Legation, communicated to the Depart- ment of State at Washington the substance of A.I. No. 9171 of August 3, 1944, and renews the Division’s letter No. 42585 — 8.24.2.A — an irrelavant any attempt by German officials to question the validity of Latin American documents in Germany, and has now received a notice in reply a telegram dated September 14, 1944, which conveys the observations and requests of the Department of State and the War Refugees Board set forth below:

1) The Legation is under instructions to request the Division to be so good as to have the Swiss Legation at Berlin emphasize to the German authorities that the United States Government, notwithstanding the German arguments involved by the issuing governments, can not recognize any right of the German authorities to pass upon the validity of documents which other sovereign Governments have issued in their names. Also, in justice to their own interests, none of the American Republics upon whose documents this German procedure is being practised can permit that practice.

To the Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BHR.
practice to be unquestioned. Therefore, all those excuses and requests that the
United States Government reiterates
the stand it has taken, as expressed in the
paragraph of the notice transmitted
their attitude,
to the Division with the Legation's note
5) As regards the suggestion contained in the
A.I. No. 9173 of August 3, 1944, and rejects
ultimate paragraph of the Division's notice
as irrelevant any attempts by German officials
under reference concerning lists of bearer
to question the validity of Latin American
of Latin American documents, it is observed
documents on the basis of the type of identity
in the telegrams dated September 15 from newspapers,
the basis of antecedents of the Jewish
that the disturbed war conditions have
involved, or any other basis.

2) It would also be appreciated if the Swiss
agents of Latin America and their Missions in
Legation at Berlin might emphasize to the
with the
the compilation of such lists, owing to incomplete
foregoing that at first the German attitude
requests. Should the German authorities inquire
was to doubt the eligibility of the persons
of the Swiss Government or of the Swiss Legations
involved for exchange and the acceptance of
that at Berlin whether any particular individual
the documents involved by the issuing govern-
not appearing on lists available to Swiss official.
Since the eligibility for exchange has
officials is protected by neutrality, it is now
been confirmed and the validity of documents
posed that an error along the following lines
notified to Germany through the Protecting
would be both calculated to save human lives
Powers by the several issuing governments,
and substantially correct.
the German officials are now introducing
new records regarding citizens of
new excuses for their failure to comply. The
incomplete lists owing to war-time conditions
United States Government definitely rejects
American Legations in each are also in-
complete; if Germany authorizes=all
of the claimed nationality of any person,
all these excuses and requests that the best of the country concerned, nor the dates of appearance of such German officials have provided that such person will be treated as a brought to the serious consequence of the receipt of a reply to such an inquiry. As regards the suggestion contained in the ultimate paragraph of the Division's notice under reference concerning lists of bearers of Latin American documents, it is observed in the telegram dated September 14 from Washington that the disturbed war conditions have interfered with communications between the Governments of Latin America and their missions in Europe, which has resulted in difficulty in the compilation of such lists, owing to incomplete records. Should the German authorities inquire of the Swiss Government or of the Swiss Embassy at Berlin whether any particular individual not appearing on lists available to Swiss officials is protected by Switzerland, it is suggested that an answer along the following lines would be both calculated to save human lives and substantially correct:

Swiss records regarding citizens of countries under Swiss protection are incomplete owing to war-time conditions and the records of the several Latin American Legations in Bern are also incomplete. If Germany infers Switzerland of the claimed nationality of any person,
inquiry will be made of the Government of the country concerned; and the Swiss authorities will consider it understood that such person will be treated as a citizen of the country whose nationality is claimed and accorded all the rights and privileges of a citizen thereof, pending receipt of a reply to such an inquiry.

Bern, September 23, 1944.

visits and assistance in rescuing from inhuman treatment in Germany the Chilean families Berlin and Franklin and the Venezuelan family M drawbacks.

A telegram has now been received from the Department of State at Washington which conveys the information that the attention of the War Refugee Board has been called to the case of Mrs. Salama Soloniajczyk and Miss Sephora Soloniajczyk, aged 42 and 7, respectively who are the wife and daughter of an officer of the Navy who has become a resident in New York City 11th Avenue, and whose last known address was Jacob Jacobs Street 37, Antwerp, Belgium.

The telegram from Washington observes that the foregoing is a test case under the declaration which the Haitian Legation in Switzerland is said to have been requested on July 31 to transmit to the Division for presentation to the German Government in the following sense:

"Since certain individuals of the Jewish race in pursuance of the Secures-law of May 29, 1939, have been naturalized to the Division of Foreign Interests, Federal Political Department, WASH."
naturalised as "aliens abroad," were living
in German and Italian-controlled territories
and areas, by reasons of force majeure, they
have been detained there continuously from
the declaration of war by Haiti until this
date. They desire to return to Haiti.

The American Legation desires to refer to its
ADR: No. 9179 of August 5, 1944, with which
there was transmitted a notice requesting the Di-
vision's kind assistance in rescuing from inhumane
it any concern that such persons are not etc.
treatment in Germany the Chilean families Berlin
and Frankfurt and the Venezuelan family Malkowsky.

A telegram has now been received from the De-
partment of State at Washington which conveys the
is said to have been procured at the request
information that the attention of the War Refugee
Board has been called to the case of Mrs. Zelman
It would be appreciated if the Division would
Solowiejszczyk and Miss Sephora Solowiejszczyk, aged
so good as to transmit the foregoing information
42 and 7, respectively, who are the wife and daughter
to the American Legation at Berlin with the request
of Zelman Solowiejszczyk now resident in New York City
that, if Mrs. Solowiejszczyk and her daughter are still
and whose last known address was Jacob Jacobs Street
in German hands, it take all possible steps to insure
35, Antwerp, Belgium.

The telegram from Washington observes that the
foregoing is a test case under the declaration which
the Haitian Legation in Switzerland is said to have
been requested on July 31 to transmit to the Division
for presentation to the German Government in the fol-
lowing sense:

"Since certain individuals of the Jewish race
in pursuance of the decree-law of May 29, 1939
naturalised

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN,

A true copy of the original.
naturalized as "Haitians abroad, were living in German and Italian-controlled territories and since, by reasons of force majeure, they have been detained there continuously from the declaration of war by Haiti until this date, the Government of Haiti declares that compliance with the decree-law of February 4, 1942, enjoining under penalty of the loss of Haitian nationality all those who had acquired Haitian naturalization abroad to return to Haiti before August 5, 1942, was impossible for persons in the category afore-mentioned. Therefore, it is hereby made known to whom it may concern that such persons are not affected by the decree-law of February 4, 1942."

The War Refugee Board observes that under this declaration the two above-named women retain their Haitian nationality. Their Haitian naturalization is said to have been proscribed in the Moniteur of Haiti on December 23, 1939.

It would be appreciated if the Division would be so good as to transmit the foregoing information to the Swiss Legation at Berlin with the request that, if Mrs. Solojezyk and her daughter are still in German hands, it take all possible steps to assure their treatment as nationals of Haiti.

Bern, September 23, 1944.

TJH/hs
Referring to Legation's 6112 September 18, your attention is drawn again to the general Salvadoran declaration which was reported in Legation's 3871 of June 17, paragraph 5, and to explanations made in Department's 2173 June 25, paragraph 2, 2407 July 13, paragraph 6, 3180 September 14, first paragraph, and fourth paragraph of its 3255 September 21.

The confirmation by the Salvadoran Government of documents of specific persons whose names were submitted to it does not (repeat not), accordingly, imply either the need for or desirability of forwarding to that government further specific names. You are therefore requested to proceed along the lines of Department's telegram 3255 September 21 and previous communications to which reference is made in the present telegram.

The same considerations should guide you also in dealing with documents of other American republics which have notified the Swiss Government that persons in enemy territory who are subject to persecution and to whom documents in their names have been issued must receive treatment as nationals of such republics from the enemy. In this connection, your attention is drawn to Department's No. 2490 July 21, sixth paragraph, in which there is set forth the desirability of placing the most liberal possible construction on any communications from any American republic with respect to the protection of persons from cruelty and persecution, and in which it is stated that slowness in action rising from unwavering attachment to technicalities, which would be proper enough under ordinary circumstances, merely results in these abnormal times in ruthless killing of further numbers of innocent people. Even though this passage was intended primarily as a suggestion for Swiss officials, it is suggested that the attitude you adopt be governed by it.

HULL
For WRB from McClelland

Your 3160 September 14 - 10 p.m. and 3207 September 15

As indicated second paragraph Legation's 5235 August 12, noon, it is our considered opinion that the practical use, in endeavoring to protect the lives of holders of Latin American documents through the compilation of lists in consultation with certain private Jewish individuals and organizations, is singularly limited.

We might consider it more advisable to continue to employ this technique of questionable efficacy if these documents had been previously issued for understandable humanitarian motives with the prior knowledge of the governments in whose name they were delivered rather than sold by unscrupulous officials for personal profit. Furthermore those persons who have been mainly active and served as intermediaries in procuring these documents are neither reliable nor generally members of trustworthy relief organizations. I believe, should it become known that the Legation was attempting to assemble lists of such document holders,

SECSTATE
WASHINGTON

DECLARATION
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-12
By H. H. Parks Date SEP 2 2 1972
this opportunity would be used as a source of private gain.

The Legation has a list containing several thousand names of Hungarian Jews and their families most previously residing in Hungarian provinces for whom El Salvador nationality certificates were issued. According all reliable information the majority have been deported and no practical channel exists either to private persons, organizations or Swiss authorities through which present whereabouts these deportees can be ascertained. It is furthermore impossible to ascertain how many persons ever received these documents, which were largely forwarded by clandestine and uncertain channels, or how many of the receivers attempted to make use of this documentation.

Should lists be called for Legation would rapidly accumulate from a dozen more or less unreliable sources names of many thousands of Jews for whom it would be claimed Paraguayan, Honduran, Costa Rican, etc. passports had been issued. In most cases present whereabouts holder would be unknown, last known address would be from one to several years old (an internment camp in France for instance) or, only indication given would be that person had been deported from Drancy, Frankfort or Cracow at some distantly previous
previous date. Material thus assembled for submission to
Swiss Foreign Office would not only be voluminous and
inaccurate but essentially unworkable and therefore of
questionable service to the endangered Jews themselves
and possibly of serious disservice to the protective
activities being exercised by Swiss authorities on
behalf of bonafide citizens.

In the light of increasingly objective information
received from the Swiss it is not possible to feel that
the compilation of such lists could be translated into
effective protection. It has unfortunately become pro-
gressively clearer that the German authorities, that is,
the SS special section charged with Jewish affairs
rather than the Foreign Office (the only authority through
which the Swiss can function) will treat these Jews,
in the last analysis, exactly as they please. As amply
demonstrated by the Vittel situation (see Legation's
despatch 9250 September 15), possession of false Latin
American passports scarcely acts as a deterrent to Germans
who have pursued active extermination policy for years.

By continuing present attitude toward false passports as
a rescue means we become increasingly victims of a pure
fiction. As a means toward an end it is totally inadequate.

While
While Legation believes concrete and convincing threats of reprisals against for instance all SS troops and Gestapo personnel now Allied hands is only language Nazis really understand, it nevertheless feels that arranging an immediate exchange of even 100 such false document bearers, should this be possible, would do far more toward protecting balance of such "ad hoc" nationals who in final analysis are all known to the Germans, than assembling lists of questionable veracity and accuracy in Switzerland.

HARRISON

September 23, 1944.
Bern, September 27, 1944.

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
"HIEPS",
Les Colondalles,
Montreux.

Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

In reply to your letter of September 25th it is my belief that the information contained in the British Legation's letter of September 21st to you concerning Vittel internees who remained in France is based on a recent note from the Swiss Federal Political Department, Division of Foreign Interests, of which our Legation received a copy. According to this note an official of the German Foreign Office stated that he had received information dated September 16th revealing that persons who were detained at the camps at Clermont, Compiègne and Drancy were liberated by Allied troops. Those who were at Vittel were taken by the Allied forces when an attempt was being made to transfer them to Germany. Among those persons were the 14 Jews whose deportation had been ordered by the Gestapo in June, 1944, and who had been left at Vittel in view of their poor health.

With regard to the groups of Jews who were deported from Vittel in April and May, 1944, an official of the German Foreign Office further stated that according to information he had received no Jews were transferred from Vittel to Bergen-Belsen. These Jews were without doubt first removed to Drancy and Compiègne. The same official of the German Foreign Office is personally convinced that they never left France. A more detailed report is expected soon regarding this whole matter from the Swiss Legation in Berlin and I hope that at such time we will receive
receive additional light on this question. I have heard from Dr. Riegner of the World Jewish Congress that 1600 Jewish internees were liberated from Drancy. The news came from Mr. Jarblum who is at present in Paris and who plans to send further news regarding such questions shortly, particularly a list of the persons who were found in Drancy. I therefore think it would be far simpler for you to communicate your request for specific information to Mr. Jarblum via Dr. Riegner rather than undertaking to send a personal representative to France. Jews remaining in France are after all no longer in danger and exact information concerning them will doubtless be forthcoming shortly from competent Jewish organizations in Paris. You might, however, consult Dr. Weil about this whole question.

I unfortunately have instructions from the War Refugee Board to occupy myself no longer with France which happily is not now occupied territory and our Military Attaché has received orders to issue "laissez-passer" only to persons going to France in direct connection with military operations (France being still a military zone) which would not be the case of your brother. I therefore regret that I cannot be of assistance to you in this matter as much as I personally understand your desire to receive accurate news of the welfare of these persons.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
In line with the effort of WRB to find some means by which the lives of the hundreds of thousands of innocent victims of Nazi oppression, including both Jews and non-Jewish political prisoners still in German hands, could be more adequately protected against all too possible excesses when Germany's military situation further deteriorates, suggestion most frequently advanced by many serious refugee agencies here in Switzerland, Jewish and non-Jewish, is that of concrete and convincing threats of reprisals against, for instance, SS troops and Gestapo personnel now in Allied hands. This is felt to be the only language, in the last analysis, Nazis would really understand and which might have some chance of acting as a deterrent. In view of the unprecedented and increasingly endangered situation of this great number of helpless men and women under Nazi control I should welcome your considered opinion regarding the feasibility of such a suggestion.

RDMcC.
28, 1944.

In order to have a complete list of nationals or refugees who have been issued identity cards in the past and are still in the present possession of their cards, the War Refugee Board is turning to you for your kind cooperation in the hope that you will be able to supply such information at least for a certain number of cases known to you.

We, Dr. M. K.,
The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva.
Bern, September 28, 1944.

We are especially interested in the above-mentioned information concerning persons believed to be at present in the internment camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, near Hanover, Germany.

It will be appreciated by the War Refugee Board if you will forward to me (c/o American Legation, Alpenstrasse 5, Bern) in the near future.

Dear Dr. Kahany:

The War Refugee Board desires to instigate an inquiry with a view to obtaining as complete lists as possible of all endangered Jews at present in Germany or German-occupied territory, whether they are in internment camps for American nationals or not, in whose names "ad hoc" nationality documents of various Latin American countries have been issued. The War Refugee Board is particularly interested in receiving the names and present or last known addresses of persons for whom documents were issued in the past but who are believed not to be in physical possession of these papers.

In compiling such lists the date of birth of the document holder (in case only the head of a family possesses the nationality certificate, his date of birth only need be given), his or her present or last known address, the date and place of issuance of the document, the consular office responsible, and, naturally, the name of the country in which the nationality document was issued should all be included, whenever possible, on such lists. Please establish your lists in 7 copies (seven) on thin paper.

In the interest of assembling these lists as rapidly as possible, the War Refugee Board is turning to you for your kind cooperation in the hope that you will be able to supply such information at least for a certain number of cases known to you.

We

Dr. M. K.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine,
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

We
We are especially interested in the abovementioned information concerning persons believed to be at present in the internment camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, near Hanover, Germany.

It will be appreciated by the War Refugee Board if such lists could be forwarded to me (c/o American Legation, Elfenstrasse 6, Bern) in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to
the American Minister.
Reference is made to Ecuadorian interests in Germany and Hungary.

The Swiss state that the Ecuadorian Consulate in Geneva forwarded on May 12 to the Federal Political Department a note concerning the protection of persons in Germany who claim Ecuadorian nationality. The note contained contradictions of such a nature that the Swiss found it difficult to understand its meaning. The Ecuadorian Consulate was unable to furnish an interpretative explanation of its communication and agreed with the Swiss that the latter should disregard the May 12 note in order to avoid a misunderstanding. Meanwhile the Federal Political Department transmitted the contents of the note to the Swiss Legation in Berlin for the purpose of information, while awaiting clarification which the Ecuadorian Consulate decided to request of its Government in Ecuador.

The Swiss are in receipt of a letter dated August 30th from the Ecuadorian Consulate which transmits the Ecuadorian Government's request Switzerland protect bearer in Hungary of Ecuadorian documents. In reply the Swiss stated that since Switzerland does not protect Ecuadorian interests in Hungary, this request could not be considered.

"Please see our 5894 of September 4, numbered paragraph 5 in connection with above.

HARRISON

TWH:hsm:mf
In duplicate to AI
Copy to RDM
September 29, 1944, 10 a.m.

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

In lists already received accurate information regarding present whereabouts many document holders is lacking, last known address often being several years old (an internment camp in France, for instance). Only indication given is frequently that individuals in question were deported from Drancy, Frankfort, Cracow, etc. at some previous date.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department  
Date: September 29, 1944, 10 am  
No: 6472  
Charged to:

For WRB from McClelland.  
Department's 3180, September 14, 10 p.m., and 3207 September 16.

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

In lists already received accurate information regarding present whereabouts many document holders is lacking, last known address often being several years old (an internment camp in France, for instance). Only indication given is frequently that individuals in question were deported from Drancy, Frankfort, Cracow, etc. at some previous date.
In the interest of translating such lists into more effective protection it is strongly recommended that an exchange of even 100 document holders be arranged as soon as possible in order that German interest in these people as exchangeable may be kept alive.

HARRISON

HDM/mjb
In quadruplicate

COPY TO AI

IN FA

Sep. 29, 1944
To: Department  
Date: September 29, 10 a.m., 1944.

Paraphrase

Reference is made to our 6195 of September 19 and our airmail despatch no. 9250 of September 15.

A Swiss note dated September 27 states that according to a report from the Swiss Legation in Berlin, Sethe of the German Foreign Office declared on September 15 that the deportation of Vittel internees, which occurred in spite of his May 11 assurances, were undoubtedly due to the action of subordinate officials on their own initiative. Sethe sent a representative of the German security office to Bergen-Belsen, where it was ascertained that the Jews in question had never arrived at that camp. Sethe further instructed another representative of the German security office to undertake inquiry at the German Embassy in Paris with regard to the fate of the deportees. This representative, however, was unable to conduct an investigation effectively owing to recent developments in France. He only established that all the Jews deported from Vittel had been transferred either to Compiègne or Drancy and is convinced, on the basis of Gestapo information, that these Jews never left France. Accordingly, Sethe assumes that the persons concerned were liberated by the Allies at the same time as the other detainees of Drancy and Compiègne.

The Swiss ask if the Allied authorities in France have any trace of the Jews concerned and if it is possible to obtain through such authorities information regarding the fate of the deportees of Vittel.

The Legation and the WIB representative would likewise
likewise be grateful for any information the Department may be able to obtain regarding the identity of persons freed from camps in France, persons claiming Latin American nationality included.

HARRISON

TJH:hs:mf
In duplicate to AI ✓
Copy to RDW

FA
A.I. No. 9646

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 notice No. 42565 - B.24.2.A 3 Cl/jp of August 25, 1944, concerning the protection of certain persons in Germany and German-controlled territory who are the bearers of Latin American documentation.

The Legation is under instructions from the Department of State at Washington to convey to the Division on its behalf and that of the War Refugee Board an expression of thanks for the information contained in the Division's notice under reference.

The Legation is also under instructions to state that the Department of State and the War Refugee Board would be most appreciative if the Division would be so good as to request the Swiss Legation at Berlin to continue to press the German authorities on the basis of the notice which was transmitted to the Division with the Legation's note A.I. No. 9173 of August 3, 1944, and the Legation's notice No. 9517 of September 23, 1944.

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

To the Division of Foreign Interests, Bern, September 29, 1944.

TJH/ha Federal Political Department, BERN.
A. I. No. 9647

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 Legation's note A.I. No. 9395 of September 5, 1944, concerning the citizenship of Henry K. Wilner (not Chil-Henry K. Wilner) who is a minor detained at Bergen-Belsen, Germany.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated September 21, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which states that the United States Government is investigating Henry K. Wilner's claim to American citizenship based on his father's American citizenship, and that he must be presumed to be a national of the United States, in accordance with the second paragraph of the Legation's note A.I. No. 8174 of April 19, 1944, until the Department of State, through the Legation, specifically advises the Division to the contrary.

It would be greatly appreciated if the Division would be so good as to transmit the foregoing to the Swiss Legation at Berlin and request the latter, should such action be necessary in order to protect

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN.

Wilner
Wilmer, to inform the German Government of the substance thereof. The Department of State observes that such action would be consistent with the protection of other claimants to citizenship of any American republic.

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

Bern, September 29, 1944.

TJE/hs
Jews in Europe. October 1944.
On September 22 the Government of Paraguay, our Embassy at Asuncion reports, telegraphed the Spanish Government that the United States Government was empowered to negotiate an exchange of Paraguayan and German nationals.

The Swiss Government should be informed of the foregoing, with the request that every possible action be taken by them, in the light of the observations in Department's 3170 of September 14, to begin negotiations for an exchange of German nationals against persons claiming Paraguayan nationality. It should, however, be pointed out that the Spanish Minister in Asuncion, because of the absence of instructions, has thus far deferred listing German candidates for repatriation. This has been brought by the Department to the attention of the Spanish Government. This possible cause of delay should be brought to the attention of the German Government if and when it expresses an interest in the proposal.

Action taken should be reported to Department.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re 2 44 41
1 23 FA
Bern, October 2, 1944.

Sir:

I received on September 19, 1944, your kind letter of August 3, together with its enclosures, concerning the deportation from the civilian internment camp at Vittel, France, of certain persons who claim the nationality of the several American Republics.

The information which you have so kindly supplied has been checked against the Legation's records. This discloses that the Department of State, in its telegram No. 2737 of August 9 to the Legation, which appears to have been based primarily on your telegram No. 2345 of July 28 to Washington, instructed the Legation to have the Swiss Government as Protecting Power verify at Berlin reports that bearers of Latin American passports had been deported from Vittel subsequent to May 11, 1944, and, if found correct, to direct the attention of the German Government thereto, in view of assurances given by that Government that no deportation of persons claiming Latin American nationality would occur after that date. The Swiss Government was further requested, in case the persons concerned were in fact deported after May 11, to seek the assurance of the German Government that they would be returned to regular civilian internment camps.

It may be of interest to you to know that the Swiss Foreign Office informally made available to the Legation a copy of Miss Skipwith's report, a copy of which was likewise forwarded with your letter under reference.

The Honorable
R. Henry Norweb,
American Ambassador,
Lisbon.
The Swiss Legation at Berlin has made numerous representations to the German Government over an extended period regarding the deportation of persons claiming Latin American citizenship. Most of these have been undertaken on the basis of instructions from the Department and the War Refugee Board. The German attitude has been almost completely negative but there is a possibility that at least a number of the persons whose names appear on the list which you have transmitted may be safe. This is because, according to certain information supplied by Gestapo sources, the Vittel deportees never left France and were allegedly either at the Drancy or Compiègne camps when the Allied armies entered these places.

The Department has been requested, in a telegram dated September 29, to endeavor to obtain from the Allied military authorities in France a list of persons who have been set free from camps in France. This list, when received, should enable the Legation to determine the number and identity of persons who have in fact been saved.

Please accept my grateful thanks for your interest in this matter.

With cordial good wishes, please believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

LELAND HARRISON

TJH/hs
Am den Sonderdelegierten der Flüchtlingsfrage bei der am Flüchtlingschaft
Seine Excellenz Roswell Mc Clelland
Bern

Excellenz,

Ich danke Ihnen für die Information die Sie mir über die Lage, der in Bergen- Belsen internierten Süd-amerikanischen Par- Konsular, gegeben haben.
Besonders interessant aus Ihrer Schreiben vom 11/8 erlaubte ich mir nach eingehender Voruntersuchung bei den verschiedenen Taxis, von Ihnen Folgendes mitzuteilen:


Die Deutschen stellen sich auf dem Standpunkt dass es sich bei den Pässen, die im B- Belsen Internierten nicht um "Vollgültige Reisepässe" [offizielle deutsche Bezeichnung] sondern lediglich um sogenannte "Einfälsichteplain" handelt.
Und diese Tatsache, das Hindemith lehnt das als Passbesitzer nicht anwenden können, was in sich einleuchtet das durch hingegen nahmen diese Einwirkung auf die die Deutschen nicht vorsätzlich genommen sein können, sondern die die betreffende Staat geschehen haben müssen, die in grosser Gefahr, in Benzin-Behäl-ter sehnen die Intimen, gedacht werden können.

Also wäre zur Retdition der Unglücklichen, in Benzin-Behälter es ist bei- dingt wichtig, direkt alle zu Verfügung stehenden Wege und Mittel zu er- guk, um zu erreichen, dass die Deutschen so schnell möglich offiziell mitgeteilt wird, dass die betreffenden Südamerikanischen Staaten die Pässe als "vollwertig" ohne irgend welche Einwirkung - annehmen. Und die Passbesitzer so behandelt, so wollen wie es Bürger ihres Staats laut dem internationalen Recht in kommt.

Ich bin mir bewusst, dass es schwierigkeiten kosten wird den Südamerikanischen Staaten eine solche Erklärung und mit denselben hoffentlich in Kürze zu erzielen, aber glaube ich, dass es doch sinnvoll hundert von Menschen geredet werden könne es sind um jede Mühe lohnt.

Da ist mir bewusst, dass, bis es das nötige Verständnis bei die Verhältnis zwischen Unglückliche besitzen, bis der sich das, bei all den Menschenmögliche und, kam, dass diese Lage umgedreht wurde.

Mit den Ausdruck tiefer Dankeswert für Ihre Arbeit zu Gunsten meines so geplagten Bruders, zeichne ich angebracht.

Bernhard Becker.
Situationsbericht über die Lagerverhältnisse in Bergen-Belsen

Lage: Auf einem Plateau, in der Nähe von Hanover (Kreis: Celle)

Klima: Extreme Witterung, sehr feucht. Wärme in Juli bei Tag 30-40 Grad in der Nacht 2-3 Grad


Hygienische Einrichtungen: Für die 50 Holzbaracken eine Badeanstalt mit 20 Duschen. In jedem Block ein Nachraum für je 50 Personen, im selben Raum werden aber auch die Geschirre und wasche Wäsche gewaschen.


TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
No: 3403
Received: October 4, 3 p.m.

Date: October 3, 9 p.m., 1944

Code: D [Censored]

PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 196. For Harrison and McClelland.

Department's 2046 June 14 and 2490 July 21, paragraphs 1 and 4.

Polish Legation Santiago Chile reports the presence at Bergen Belsen of Eugenia Gorlin and Anna and Rose Frumkin. You are requested to endeavor to obtain confirmation of this report.

HULL

In quadruplicate

re Country in E. A.
Dear Mr. McClelland,

With reference to your letter of September 28th, 1944, I beg to inform you that all the names of the relevant Jews which I know have been communicated to me either by Dr. A. Silberschein or by Dr. S. Weingort.

I understood from these two gentlemen that they have received your similar query and have (or will do so shortly) supplied you already with the complete lists in their possession.

Under these circumstances it would be superfluous to let you have the lists in my possession coming from the same source.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. W. Kahany

Dr. Fritz Ullmann

Roswell D. McClelland Esq.,
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America
Berne

Geneva, October 5th, 1944.
37, quai Wilson, Geneva (Swiss)
"THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE GENÈVE OFFICE"

Dear Mr. McClelland:

In reply to your kind letter dated September 28, I beg to inform you, that I never dealt with procuring of passports of South-American countries. I am therefore unable to submit you any particulars concerned.

Nevertheless I shall inquire at my acquaintances, whose relatives are in Bergen-Belsen and who possess such passports and then refer again to your above letter.

Yours very sincerely

Dr. Fritz Ullmann

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
E.S.C.O.
Elfenstr. 6.
THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE ZIONIST ORGANISATION / THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
GENEVA OFFICE

Dear Mr. McClelland,

With reference to your letter of September 28th, 1944, I beg to inform you that all the names of the relevant Jews which I know have been communicated to me either by Dr. A. Silberschein or by Dr. S. Weingort.

I understood from these two gentlemen that they have received your similar query and have (or will do so shortly) supplied you already with the complete lists in their possession.

Under these circumstances it would be superfluous to let you have the lists in my possession coming from the same source.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. M. Kahany

Dr. Fritz Ullmann

Geneva, October 5th, 1944.

Special Assistant to the American Minister
Legation of the United States of America

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister,
E.S.I.D.O.
Elfenstr. 6.
The Department of State at Washington, in a telegram dated October 7, 1944, has informed the American Legation that it has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps which are under German control, namely Oświęcim, Birkenau and Natzweiler, probably involving some 65,000 Jews.

The Legation is under instructions to seek means through which the German representatives at Bern might be informed that the United States Government has the foregoing information and that it further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler to be carried out by certain other officials.

The telegram from Washington adds that direct responsibility for this crime is thus fixed and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government and will attach to all participants.

It would be appreciated, in the event that the Division finds it possible so to act, if it would be so

To the
Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN.
so good as informally or officially to inform the German representatives at Bern in the foregoing sense.

Bern, October 10, 1944.

TJH/hs
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From Department

Date: October 7, 1944

No: 3461

Received: October 8, 1944

Code: Clear

The Department has received information indicating that orders have been given to exterminate the Jews in three concentration camps, namely Oswiecim, Birkenau and Nauen, probably some 65,000 Jews are involved. You are requested through any channels available to you to convey to the German representatives at Bern that the United States has this information and further understands that the death order has been personally authorized by Himmler to be carried out by certain other officials. Direct responsibility for this crime is thus fixed and if it is carried out appropriate consequences will follow in accordance with the declared policy of the United States Government and will attach to all participants.

Kindly report any developments in the situation as soon as they become known to you.

HULL


/nrm
in triplicate to files
On manda de Pologne que les Allemands ont l'intention de liquider tous les camps de concentration par un massacre en masse de tous les internés et de détruire les bâtiments et toutes les installations afin d'effacer toute trace de crime. En premier lieu doivent être liquidés les camps d'Auschwitz (Oswiecim), Buchenwald et Birkenau. Le commandant du camp d'Auschwitz, Hess, un ami de Himmler, a accepté, en principe, le plan qui lui a été présenté par le commandant du camp de Birkenau - Mil. Ce plan prévoit l'utilisation d'une division motorisée des SS et de l'artillerie afin d'incendier les bâtiments, ainsi que 16 avions pour bombarder les camps et, finalement, plusieurs hommes seraient astreints aux travaux de nivellement et d'ajustement de terrains, sur lesquels se trouveraient les camps. Actuellement on y attend des instructions de Berlin. Les malheureux détenus s'adressent à la conscience du monde pour demander de l'aide. A Birkenau se trouvent 16.727 hommes et 39.125 femmes. Dans le camp de concentration de Plaszow près de Cracovie les Allemands exécutent en masse les Polonais y internés.

From Schlesien - Oct. 7th 1944.

Unconfirmed.
Je suis rentré hier de Paris et de Vittel, d'où j'ai emmené ma belle-sœur ainsi qu'une amie des soeurs Tamar, Felicja Kon, la fille du Professeur Schorr, et ses trois enfants.

Comme vous le savez déjà, les Allemands ont déporté toute ma famille à Drancy et de la plus loin à Auschwitz (Oswiecim - Pologne). Je veux vous avouer que le camp d'Auschwitz est connu par les actes barbares commis par les Allemands.

Je me permettrai de vous donner une image complète de cette déportation, image que je peindrai à la base des informations que j'ai pu recueillir à Drancy, Paris et Vittel.

Au mois de février 1944 a eu lieu à Vittel un contrôle des passeports, organisé par la Schutzpolizei. À la suite de ce contrôle, tous les Juifs titulaires des passeports de l'Equateur, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Chili, Vénézuela, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivie et Malti, ont été séparés des autres internés et furent transportés à l'hôtel "Beau-Site", où ils restèrent enfermés pendant une semaine.

Le 17 avril l'hôtel fut encerclé par la Gestapo, qui annonçait aux internés qu'ils seraient déportés (comme j'ai pu constater ils furent transportés au camp de Drancy près de Paris). Plusieurs personnes se suicidèrent ce jour (Madame Prof. Schorr, Mr. et Mme Bauminger se sont empoisonnées, certains se jetèrent par les fenêtres du 4e et 5e étages, entre autres Mme Felicja Kon, la fille du Prof. Schorr qui a été sauvée miraculeusement en tombant sur les branches d'un arbre). Ces incidents ne changèrent pas la décision du commandant du camp le capitaine Landhauser.

Le départ de Vittel du premier groupe (80 personnes), dont je vous remets, ci-joint, la liste s'est effectué le 18 avril.

Le deuxième groupe est parti le 17 mai et il est arrivé à Drancy le 18 mai d'où il fut transporté, le 30 mai, à Auschwitz. Ma mère et ma plus jeune sœur Noémie se trouvèrent parmi ces derniers, leurs numéros respectifs à Drancy furent 22.102 et 22.103.

Je voudrais vous mentionner ici que, ma mère et ma sœur ainsi que 60 % des personnes déportées du second groupe, furent rassemblées...
à l'hôpital (ma mère avait fin avril tandis que ma sœur le 10 mai). Certains furent transportés même sur des brancards !

Le 17 mai, donc un bon moment avant la déportation, le commandant du camp a été avisé que tous les passeports ont été reconnus par les pays respectifs de l'Amérique du Sud, mais c'est avec intention qu'il n'a pas divulgué ce fait afin de déporter tout de même les internés.

Entre le 25 et le 28 mai des certificats pour la Palestine sont arrivés par voie officielle dans le camp. Après trois semaines ils ont été acceptés par la Sicherheitspolizei, mais malheureusement, à ce moment il n'y avait plus beaucoup de personnes à Vittel (quelques femmes enceintes et un petit groupe d'hommes qui ont échoué dans leurs tentatives de suicide - en tout 22 personnes).

QUESTIONné sur le sort des déportés, le commandant du camp a répondu que les dossiers ont été envoyés à Berlin. Quant à moi je crois fermement que tous les dossiers ont été retenus au camp par le capitaine Landhauser afin de priver les déportés de toute protection.

En juin 1944 est arrivé de Berlin à Vittel une Délégation de la puissance protectrice suisse. Ma sœur comme citoyenne des États-Unis a demandé un entretien avec le Délégué, chose qu'on ne pouvait pas lui refuser. Avant de le faire entrer dans le cabinet du Délégué, ma sœur fut reçue par le premier-lieutenant Serve (de la Gestapo) qui lui a ordonné de ne rien dire au sujet de la déportation des Juifs.

Étant donné ces faits nous sommes obligés de reconnaître que les autorités du camp de Vittel s'efforcèrent à tout prix de liquider le groupe de Juifs qui s'y trouvait. Je crois que l'intervention des personnes qui se sont occupées de ce cas en Suisse est nécessaire et urgent. Je crois que le Docteur Silberschein s'occupera de cette affaire et interviendra énergiquement auprès de la puissance protectrice suisse par l'intermédiaire du Département Fédéral Politique à Berne afin de libérer les déportés de l'enfer d'Auschwitz, car ce camp est un véritable abattoir d'hommes. L'affaire est urgente et chaque jour représente un jour d'enfer pour ces personnes qu'on pourrait encore
sauver.
Comme j'ai pu constater dernièrement les représentants de la puissance protectrice n'interviennent pas toujours assez énergiquement, il faudrait donc tabir compte de ce fait.
Chère Madame, je viens de recevoir à l'instant même votre réponse, il se peut donc que nous nous rencontrions demain.
le 1.X.1944. Je termine cette lettre après notre rencontre. J'espère que vous excuserez ce retard.
Conformément à notre conversation j'aimerais vous demander de bien vouloir me communiquer des nouvelles au sujet de ma mère Melke Maria Wentland ainsi que de ma sœur Noemi. Je serai de retour à Amélie en 6 jours et espère avoir une réponse. Je prie le Docteur Silberschein de bien vouloir me donner des nouvelles concernant les démarches faites, ainsi que des nouvelles du premier groupe des déportés parmi lesquels se trouvent nos deux soeurs Judith Wentland avec sa fille Christiane, ainsi que Fleischler née Wentland et mon frère Adam Wentland.
Si le Docteur Silberschein a quelque chose à arranger en France je vous prie de me donner les instructions nécessaires car, comme membre des F.F.I. j'ai une grande liberté de mouvement.
Je voudrais vous demander encore de faire savoir à Madame Hela que j'ai vue Madame Gooday à Vittel il y a cinq jours, elle devait venir à Chamonix dans 15 jours. Je vous transmets beaucoup de salutations pour Hela. Si elle pouvait m'écrire quelques mots cela me ferait un énorme plaisir.
Je vous remets, sous ce pli, deux lettres en vous priant de les réexpédier, si possible.
Ma belle-soeur demande de faire savoir au Docteur Silberschein que Madame María Spinadel-Kahan se trouve à Vittel et qu'elle demande de sa mettre en rapport avec son mari pour lui communiquer son adresse (Ingénieur Camilo Kahan La Paz, Bolivie, Poste Restante, Calle Gran-Gonzalez 41), elle demande en outre une aide matérielle et un placement éventuel chez des amis.
Je vous salue cordialement (Signature).
NOTICE

The American Legation wishes to take this occasion to refer to its note A.I. No. 9695 of June 15, 1944, concerning the Chilean families Gorlin and Frumkin. Reference is also made to the notice which was transmitted to the Division with the Legation's note A.I. No. 9173 of August 3, 1944, in which the treatment accorded these families by the German authorities is mentioned.

The Legation has now received a telegram from the Department of State at Washington which indicates that it has received a report according to which Eugenia Gorlin and Anna and Rose Frumkin are currently at Bergen-Belsen, Germany.

The Department of State has instructed the Legation to request the Division to be so good as to seek confirmation of the foregoing report through the Swiss Legation at Berlin.

Bern, October 9, 1944.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BERN.

A true copy of the signed original:

TJH/ns
Sehr geehrter Herr Hydor!


Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Postmark]

[Date: Sept. 25/44]
Lieber Freund,


Zu den zwei Hörten wir nun, dass die Gestapo die letzten Wochen alles geschossen waren, und dass auch beinahe alle unsere Jungens nach Drancy geschickt waren. Du kannst betreten, wie froh wir alles waren, denn dies bedeutete, dass sie noch nicht erschossen waren, was bei Einigen keine andere zu erwarten war. Ihr und unser Glück war, dass alles für die Deutschen zu Ende ging und sie deshalb den "Fall" der mit den Franzosen einen Umzug hatten, nicht mehr ganz beenden konnten. Aber trotzdem haben unsere Freunde genug auszustehen müssen: Elbad, 24 Anliegen, Schläge und alles ihre Methoden. Einen unserer französischen Freunde, der einen Code bei sich hatte, aber der nicht 24 Stunden Schlangen noch nicht sagen wollte, schlugen sie zu Tod. Alle haben sie so prima gehalten, fast alle, die das für die Anderen geopfert haben, Tag und Nacht für sie gearbeitet hatten.


Dies ist die Geschichte unserer holländischen Gruppe hier in Frankreich.
Es war alles doch der Mühe wert, denn ohne sie waren alle unsere Freunde nicht in Spanien.


Vorläufig kann ich mich noch nicht von hier losmachen, bevor ich nicht weiß, was mit unseren Freunden geschehen ist. Ich habe mich darauf gedacht, mit der ersten Gelegenheit nach Palästina auszuziehen, aber doch kann ich noch nicht wissen, wie es auch ausgehen wird, ich werde es nie bedauern, wie schwer auch alles war, wir haben alle unsere Opfer nicht umsonst gebracht, wir müssen es nun weiter tun, wenn wir auch manchmal nicht wissen, ob dies hilft.

Meta
Herrn
Roswell D. McClelland
Amerikanische Gesandtschaft
Bern

Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,


Es handelt sich um die Familie

- J.M.M. Klestadt, geb. Gruenthal
- Ruth
- Gert, 12 Jahre
- Peter, 19 Jahre

Die Adresse lautet: Bergen-Belsen, Block 11 D.

Dieselben besitzen sowohl Paraguay-Pässe, ausgestellt im September 1942 (Nr. 80 und 81), als auch Palästina-Zertifikate (Nr. 438/43/E/256).

Ich gebe Ihnen diese Daten gerne bekannt und bitte Sie, der Familie, wenn möglich auch Pakete zukommen zu lassen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung
Ihr ergebener

Dr. F. Ullmann
NOTICE

The American Legation wishes to take this occasion to refer to its note A.I. No. 9870 of October 3, 1944, regarding the proposed negotiation of a civilian exchange between nationals of Paraguay and Germany.

It may be of possible assistance to the Division to learn that the Department of State at Washington has informed the Legation that the American Embassy at Asuncion was informed on September 27, 1944, by the Paraguayan Minister of Foreign Relations, with regard to the serious situation of certain bearers of Paraguayan passports which are due to expire that, since the matter in question was related to the proposed exchange, the American Embassy at Madrid could inform the Government of Spain that Paraguay has authorized the issuance of new passports through the Spanish Embassy at Berlin, replacing those which are about to expire, to those persons, particularly at Bergen-Belsen, to whom Paraguayan protection has been extended.

Bern, October 10, 1944.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

Bern.
Reference is made to the Department's telegram No. 3180 (MBB 164), of September 14, 1944, numbered section 3.

The Legation presented the Soloviejczyk case independently to the Swiss Federal Political Department. In an informal communication dated October 9, the Political Department replied that after examination of this case it envisages the possibility of basing intervention on numbered paragraph 3 of the Department's telegram No. 2918, of August 24. Instructions have accordingly been given to the Swiss Legation in Berlin pursuant thereto. The Swiss observed that the Haitian Legation in Bern has not presented the Soloviejczyk case and that the said Legation has no knowledge of the Haitian Government's declaration mentioned in the first paragraph of numbered section 3 of the Department's No. 3180. The Swiss indicate their consequent inability to base representation on the Haitian citizenship of the persons in question.

HARRISON

TJH/nrm
in triplicate

Copy to Mr. McClelland.
I just mentioned in Sept’s 2407 (Jews in Europe)

July 13th/44: H 6

The WRB should be notified when such a list is formulated. The presence of informal opinions or some authorities are requested with regard to the advisability of making such a list available to the German Gov. in an effort to protect such persons.

II answered in part in Degateon’s 5233, Aug. 12th (Jews in Hungary) at time of compilation such lists was not recommended grounds why was to limit rep for Montello

II Degateon’s 5394, Sept 7 (Jews in Europe)

II 4 last part (see) Jews in Europe

IV Dept’s 3180, Sept 14th/44 H 4

“I is hoped the Swiss will agree to transmit these lists to Germans without confirmation by date of countries in whose names dates were named as to authenticity of such lists, in view
of humanitarian considerations involved and in view of the status of this country being handled, the exchange of persons whose eligibility would be established by placement on this list. (See IJ note no. 9617 of Sept. 23/44).
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Tait
From: Mr. McClelland

October 12th., 1944.

Subject: Compilation and use of lists of Latin American document holders in Germany and German occupied territory.

Dear Mr. Tait:

I have the dubious pleasure to enclose the lists (6 copies) of Latin American document holders which I received recently from a Dutch Jewish organization in Geneva. In going over them I note that the present address of the document holder is almost universally lacking, with the exception of a certain number. These are marked with various indications of which the principal are: B.-B. - the camp of Bergen-Belsen, Kreis Celle, near Hannover, Germany; Th: a Thereisenstadt in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia; A.W. - Auschwitz or Oswiecim, a combination concentration and extermination camp in Upper Silesia, west of Krakau; West. - Westerbork, a concentration camp for Jews in Holland which has been pretty well emptied now, most of the internees there possessing Latin American documents having been sent to Bergen-Belsen. The original nationality of the bearers of these documents is given and seems to be mostly Dutch, Polish or German (abbreviated as Ge - German, Po - Polish, Du or Ne - Dutch).

The lists attached hereto cover exclusively Jews who received Latin American documents while in Holland and were subsequently deported from there. A great many of them, of course, went to Auschwitz, and it will in all probability be impossible for the Swiss or anyone else to secure any reliable information whatever regarding their fate.

In checking over my files I find that the "référence de fonds" so to speak, for this whole business is the Department's 2407 of July 13th./44 in which the WRB suggests for the first time that an attempt to compile such lists be made in cooperation with private individuals and relief agencies here in Switzerland. They also bring up the question of securing the names of persons "who are thought not to be in physical possession of such documents." See particularly paragraph 6. In my files this wire is in Jews in Europe. Having asked us for our views, when such a list was formulated, as well as for the opinion of the Swiss authorities, I answered in part in the first paragraph of Legation's 5233, August 13th. (Jews in Hungary). I gave an adverse recommendation to the compilation of such lists. The subject then woke up once more, with a vengeance, in the Department's 3180, September 14th. This appears to have been
based on paragraph No. 4 of Legation's 5894 of September 7th, in which you relayed to the Department various observations of the Swiss. Toward the end are the sentences: "The best method to protect a person who was not in a camp on May 11th, and accordingly is not covered by assurances given, would be to notify the Germans as soon as possible of his personal status and deliver a declaration from the interested government that it recognizes the right of the person concerned to effective citizenship. It is feared by the Swiss Legation that it has knowledge of only a very small fraction of cases in this category. The Swiss Legation is generally aware only of the cases communicated to it because the persons concerned were detained in an internment camp which is known."

In the Department's 3180 previously mentioned the WRB points out at considerable length (as previously) that it is impractical and well-nigh impossible for the "interested" countries due to the state of wartime communications to individually (that is, by countries) recognize the right of these documents. The WRB therefore hopes that it will be possible and that the Swiss will agree to transmit these lists to the Germans without such confirmation as to the authenticity of the lists, "in view of the humanitarian considerations involved and in view of the status of this country (the USA) as the power handling the exchange of persons whose eligibility would be established by placement on this list. Then followed suggestions as to the answer the Swiss should give if the Germans inquire whether any particular individual not appearing on such lists is protected by Switzerland. You made this the subject of AI Note No. 9617 of September 25.

If it is practically and technically possible for the Swiss to do so, there might be some value in having them forward such lists to the German Foreign Office accompanied by various requests as to the whereabouts of these persons for whom they are the Protecting Power in view of a possible exchange, etc. This would or might at least have the effect of leading up the Germans with a lot of embarrassing documentation which they could in turn unload on to the "Inner Police Section," with requests that the Germans check on all these people since the countries whose nationals they are would like to exchange them against German nationals and the like. Naturally, as we concluded some weeks ago, the Swiss undertaking to do this might jeopardize their protection of bona fide American citizens. The first thing to do would be therefore to secure the Swiss reaction to the presentation of such lists. Let me know what progress you can make and if I can be of any help since it is not to my liking to have to unload this mess onto you folks at AI.

R.D. McC.
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: October 12, 1944

No.: 6818

Code: En-Clair Press

Charged to:...

SUBJECT: German Denial of Mass Executions in Poland.

Berlin DI despatch eleventh states official circles there declare reports circulated by Polish Government at London that Germans had carried out mass executions at Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps were devoid of any foundation as were similar reports circulated recently regarding Pruszkow camp.

HAMILTON

LMH/mes

Copies to LMH and WRB Mr. McClelland.
Monsieur McClelland
Légalion des Etats-Unis
29, Alpenstrasse
BERNE

Monsieur,

Nous avons l'honneur de vous envoyer, ci-joint,
la copie d'un extrait du " JEWISH STANDARD ", que nous
pensons de nature à vous intéresser.

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

Pour le Comité International
de la Croix-Rouge

Directeur de la Division
d'Assistance Spéciale

Annexe : copie d'un extrait de presse.
EXTRAIT DU "JEWISH STANDARD"

1 septembre 1944.

CONFLICT OVER DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

Issued according to party affiliations

(By our political correspondent)

Last week without any apparent reason there were issued statements respectively by the Office of the Joint Distribution Committee in London and the Jewish Agency declaring that there have been no quarrels or disputes between them, and that in any case steps have been taken to overcome any friction by sending to Istanbul a certain Mr. Charles Passaman who, it was hoped, would secure harmony between the two bodies.

ALIGNED AGAINST AGENCY

Behind these statements lies the story of a conflict that has broken out at Istanbul in which the N.Z.O., the Aguda and the Joint Distribution Committee have found themselves aligned against the Jewish Agency. A cable received last week in London bearing signatures of representatives of the N.Z.O. and the Aguda at Istanbul disclosed that both organisations were putting up a fight against the Agency's tendency to issue certificates to refugees, not in accordance with the urgency of their cases, but according to party affiliation. It thus happened that many individuals who were specially exposed to Gestapo vengeance in South Eastern Europe were unable to leave for the Turks are still refusing to issue transit visas to those who hold no proof of final destination. It is understood that Mr. Ira Hirschman, too, intervened in the dispute, and in many cases secured departure of Jews from Europe and their entry into Turkey by issuing the necessary guarantee on behalf of the American War Refugee Board.

Subsequently, as a result of publicity given to the whole affair in America, the statement referred to above was published, and efforts are to be made to regularise the situation by ensuring that rescue work will proceed along lines influenced by party politics.

REFUGE FOR CHILDREN

The Swedish Government issued a statement last week declaring readiness to admit an unlimited number of Jewish children from German-occupied areas. Unfortunately, however there is no prospect that the German authorities will permit
transit to such children, or will accord to the International Red Cross the necessary facilities for transporting the children. At present the children who would come into ques-
tion would be such as are at present in Bohemia, Slovakia and parts of Hungary. Slovakia itself is now threatened by Russian invasion, and the whole country was last week taken over by German armed forces. In Hungary there has been a further change of Government for the worse, and there is no ground for anticipating that the new Hungarian Government which has its hands full with most acute problems, and is most likely under constant suspicion from the Germans would hazard disagreement with the Nazis on Jewish account. There remains only the possibility of occasional escapes either by way of Finland of such refugees and their children as have managed to find refuge in that country.

Criticism is beginning to be directed against the new organisation and fund for the rehabilitation of European Jewry, headed by Dr. Wiesmann and a number of Jewish assimil-
ants, reported in the Jewish Standard some time ago. In some quarters it is regarded as an attempt to provide funds and machinery - under a new title - for doing in Europe work which falls in with the political programme of the Jewish Agency, and which it would not dare to pursue under that title. Indeed it is already said that even the machinery and the personnel of the new fund will be almost identical with that of the United Palestine Appeal.
An den
Sonderdelegierten für Flüchtlingsfragen
b. d. Amerikanischen Gesandtschaft
Herrn Roswell MC. Cheadle
Bern,

Excellenz,


Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

[Unterschrift]

B. Becker, Flüchtlingslagerei Morgins.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,


Wir begrüssen Sie

hochachtungsvoll

[Unterschriften]

[Anmerkungen an der Seite]
Im Oktober 1943, von Bergen Beleg entfernt, angeblich nach Bergen bei Dresden.
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<td>Rabbiner Stern, Abraham und Familie</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Bern 1942.</td>
<td>Brackajvar</td>
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<td>50.</td>
<td>Oberrabbiner Strasser, Salomon und Fam.</td>
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<td>Bergen Belsen</td>
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<td>51.</td>
<td>Rabbiner Strasser und Familie</td>
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<td>52.</td>
<td>Oberrabbiner Teitelbaum, J. Juda und Fam.</td>
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<td>Oberrabbiner Weinberger, Hillel und Fam.</td>
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<td>Rosenberg, Ignatz und Familie</td>
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<td>Fried, Leon und Familie</td>
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<td>Wilhelm mit Frau und 2 Kinder</td>
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<td>bei Modena (Italien)</td>
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</table>
Reference Department's telegram 3380 of September 30.

There is given below the substance of an informal communication from the Swiss Division of Foreign Interests dated October 11:

The request that the Swiss Legation at Berlin make representations with a view to organizing an exchange of Germans against persons claiming Paraguayan nationality has been given careful consideration. The Division of Foreign Interests, as a result of this examination, questions the utility of submitting to the German Government the question of separate German-Paraguayan exchange at this time. Proposals aiming at the conclusion of a general American-German agreement for civilian repatriation, which would cover all citizens of American Republics have actually already been presented to the German Foreign Office and new representations now regarding a separate German-Paraguayan exchange might risk the creation of confusion and would be understood with difficulty by the government of Germany (the legation’s telegram 6725 of October 9th is referred to in this connection).

The Division of Foreign Interests, in addition, would greatly hesitate to instruct the Swiss Legation at Berlin to negotiate a German-Paraguayan exchange directly with the German authorities since Paraguayan interests in Germany are not represented by Switzerland.

It is not considered by the Division of Foreign Interests, owing to the foregoing circumstances, that it is opportune to communicate the request contained in the Department's telegram under reference, at least in its present form, to the German Government. Therefore, the Division has only informed the Swiss Legation at Berlin for its information.

(In tripl.-copy to RDM)

HARRISON
A. L. No. 9781

of this occasion to refer to the

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 is under instructions from the Department of State at Washington, contained in a communication dated September 7, 1944, to transmit to the Division the enclosed translation of a note dated August 11, 1944, addressed by the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United States Embassy at San José, and to request the Division kindly to forward an appropriate protest, based on this document, to the German Government against its treatment of certain persons who possess Costa Rican documentation.

The Legation is also under instructions to request the Division to be so good as to inform it of the date on which the protest based upon the Costa Rican Foreign Minister's request is communicated to the German Government.

In soliciting the Division's kind cooperation in connection with the foregoing matter, the Legation avails

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

DORR.
avails itself of this occasion to renew to the
Republic of Costa Rica
Division the assurance of its highest consider-
ation.

Born, October 16, 1944.

Enclosure:

Translation of note dated August 11, 1944, addressed by Minister of Foreign
Relations of the Republic of Costa Rica to the United States Embassy at
San José.

The Government of Costa Rica has received,
in the note dated August 11, 1944, the assurance that it will continue
in the latter spirit. The assurance given in the note, which
must be understood in order to obtain
the desired results, is being considered in order to
obtain the desired results. The note, which
must be understood in order to obtain
the desired results, is being considered in order to
obtain the desired results.
Republic of Costa Rica
Ministry of Foreign Relations

No. 156—10
San José, August 11, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's courteous note No. 112 of July 31 last, in which you were pleased to communicate to me that various persons claiming Costa Rican nationality have been removed from the internment camp of Vittel, France, by the German authorities on unknown places; and with respect to this information, the Embassy outlines the measures taken with regard to persons in analogous circumstances as a result of presenting documents of identification which the German officials dispute as having been illegally obtained.

Certainly the Government of Costa Rica has confirmed, in the notes cited by Your Excellency, that it will consider effective and valid all the documents which numerous European individuals have submitted in order to obtain the protection of our flag, since it has no notice that these documents have been denounced as invalid, nor has it received authentic proof of their invalidity, and while such documents and proofs are not produced and qualified by the national authorities, all documents and communications made by our officials must be considered valid and sufficient for the purposes for which issued, consequently as government demands for reasons of passport and documents of identification issued by its authorities all the protection granted upon citizens of a different nation by the well-known rules of international law, in particular, the Convention of Geneva, with respect to prisoners of war.

The Government cannot admit that the government of Germany may assume the qualification of such documents and pass upon them whether or not its possessors obtained them legitimately, or illegitimately, in order to attribute or deny them, as the case may be, Costa Rican nationality and the corresponding humanitarian treatment, recognizing this preceptive would be to leave our nationals exposed to the cruel and arbitrary actions of the agents of the States which hold them as prisoners or internees, on the pretext

that
In declaring the absence of any violation of the laws of war on the part of the German armed forces, and the omission to comply with the terms of the armistice, the following is the procedure of the German government, as seen in the official despatches of the German government:

1. The German government has not complied with the terms of the armistice.
2. The German armed forces have committed violations of the laws of war.
3. The German government has not taken the necessary steps to prevent such violations.

The German government has thus failed to comply with the terms of the armistice. The German armed forces have committed violations of the laws of war, and the German government has failed to take the necessary steps to prevent such violations. The German government is therefore in violation of the terms of the armistice.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Tait - A.I.
From: Mr. McClelland - WRB

October 17, 1944.

Dear Mr. Tait:

Please find enclosed three sets of documents which I have recently received and which may be of interest to your division of the Legation.

1) 6 copies of a list of Jews variously located in Germany and German occupied territory possessing Latin American documentation. As you will note the present whereabouts of most of them is unknown, and it is to be assumed that the majority have been deported. Pages 3, 4, 5 & 6 involve almost exclusively Paraguayan documents issued to persons formerly living in Hungary, mainly in the provinces. It can be taken for certain that most of them have been deported. (List submitted by Sternbuch).

2) An airmail dispatch from the Department (No. 2317, September 12, 1944) enclosing a partial list of persons in enemy occupied Europe to whom U.S. Immigration Visas were issued on or after July 1st, 1941. I felt this list might be of particular interest to Mr. Godley since it principally involves persons for whom visas were issued or authorized by our Consulate at Marseille. It will be an exceedingly difficult problem to determine the present location of all of these people. I plan to check first and see how many are now in Switzerland. Many were undoubtedly deported from internment camps in southern France during the summer of 1942. I shall check their names against our Quaker lists of those deported, for instance, from the Camp of Les Milles where many probably issued visas at Marseille were doubtless interned.

3) An airmail dispatch from the Department (No. 2299, August 30th, 1944) enclosing some documents on the Vittel affair which are already familiar to us. In fact, there are even two sets of the same documents. Perhaps you could return one to me for my Jews in Europe file.

Sincerely yours,

RDMcC.
A.I. No. 9813

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. 49228 of October 9, 1944, (K.I. (1) 18 CL/Jp) concerning Mr. Zelman and Miss Sephora Solowiczcz, who are bearers of Haitian documentation, and regarding the question of the Haitian government's declaration with respect to the protection of persons claiming Haitian citizenship.

The Division is respectfully informed that the Legation has received a telegram dated October 13, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which states that the American Embassy at Port-au-Prince was informed in a note dated August 14, 1944, by the authorities in Port-au-Prince that the Haitian Legation at Bern had been sent on August 11 a note along the following lines:

Referring to cable of July 31, kindly request the Swiss authorities to communicate the following declaration to the Government of Germany:

Bern, October 13, 1944.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BERN.
The Government of Haiti, being informed that Leon and Lili Nussynak and Abraham and Eugenia Berger, holders of Haitian passports, have been removed by the Germans from Vittel to an unknown destination, energetically protests against the treatment inflicted upon these persons. It urgently requests information concerning their health and present address, and expects that they will be immediately transferred to a civilian internment camp where they would be easily available for exchange and, pending such exchange, under the supervision of the protecting power and the International Red Cross Committee. The Government of Haiti further declares that it will not permit the validity of any documents delivered in its name to be placed in doubt, and that it will expect the German Government to accord to holders of these documents the same treatment which it expects to procure for its nationals in the Western Hemisphere. Finally, the Government of Haiti reserves the right to take action against any ill treatment which might be inflicted upon these persons and all others similarly placed.

The foregoing is communicated to the Division in the hope that it may assist the latter in rendering assistance to persons claiming Haitian nationality.

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

Bern, October 18, 1944.

TJH/hs
It would be greatly appreciated, notwithstanding the information transmitted in the Division's cable, dated December 27, 1944, (S. 44.696) concerning the possibility to the Secretary of Latin American Documentation, and has the honor to refer to the Division's kind note No. 59703 of August 10, 1944 (S. 24.11.1 (1) 19 C/42) concerning the removal of three bearers of Latin American documentation from the civilian internment camp at Clermont by the German authorities. It may be recalled that Mr. Julen Ge- lernter, claiming Cuban nationality, is among the persons concerned.

The Legation will repeat this appeal to refer to the Division the assurance of its highest consideration.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated October 13, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which states that the American Embassy at Habana received on September 19, the following note from the Cuban Ministry of State:

"Information on Gelernter is not adequate to make possible a quick search. Nevertheless, since this is a humanitarian matter, the Government of Cuba desires to avail itself of the good offices of the American Government so that all possible protection may be extended to Gelernter through the means which are employed in similar cases.

"The Department of Citizenship and Immigration will continue its investigation for the purpose of verifying the exactness of the information, and the final results of this investigation will be communicated to the American Embassy."

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

Copy for Mr. Macaladay
Oct. 18, 44
Re: Cuban D.P. transferred from Clermont
See Sept. 3476, Oct. 13
(See in Hungary)
It would be greatly appreciated, notwithstanding the information transmitted in the Division's note No. 47293 of September 27, 1944, (B. 24.2 A-3 - CL/Bk) concerning the possibility that bearers of Latin American documentation who were deported from various camps in France never left that country, if the Division would be so good as to transmit the foregoing to the Swiss Legation at Berlin for such action as may be considered possible.

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

Bern, October 16, 1944.

TJH/hs
A.I. No. 981

NOTICE

The American Legation wishes to avail itself of this occasion to refer to the Division's note No. 45821 - B.242.A.3 - CL/6k of September 16, 1944, concerning the protection in Germany and German controlled territory of persons claiming citizenship of the Republic of Ecuador and regarding the representation by Switzerland of Ecuadoran interests in Hungary.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated October 12, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington which conveys the information that it has communicated to the American Embassy at Quito the substance of the Division's note under reference and that, in the meantime, the Embassy has received an aide-memoire dated August 24, 1944, from the Ecuadoran Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the following sense:

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, being informed of the persecution now being carried out in Hungary against persons of a certain race, many of whom are bearers of passports which were issued in the names of American republics, has requested its diplomatic representative in Switzerland to arrange for

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,

Federal Political Department,

BERN.
the Swiss Government, representing the interests of Ecuador in Axis nations or their satellites, to notify the Government of Hungary that Ecuador recognizes the validity of passports or documents issued in its name and that accordingly it expects the rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by Ecuador nationals to be extended likewise to the holders of such papers. It has further been requested that the authorization given the Government of the United States to negotiate the exchange of such persons should be set forth.

The Ecuadorian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in reply to the United States Embassy's aide memoire of August 19, reiterates its intention not to declare illegally granted passports invalid while such documents serve to protect the lives and property of the persons holding them. It is likewise reiterated that the entry into Ecuador of such persons is not authorized thereby.

It would be greatly appreciated, pending further action by the Ecuadorian Government, with respect to the formal representation of its interests in Hungary, if the Division might find it possible to make use of the foregoing to ensure the expeditious defense of the bearers of Ecuadorian documents.

Bern, October 19, 1944.

TJH/ns
Bern, October 19, 1944.

Mr. Bernhard Becker,
Flüchtlingslager,
Morgens.

Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your two letters of October 2nd and 13th, incorporating your suggestions with regard to Latin American passports held by internees in Bergen-Belsen. Information we possess unfortunately does not bear out your contention that it might be possible to extricate these people if they were the bearers of "fully valid travel passports". The whole matter of the detention of these people, or rather their status of not having been deported since they are all Jews, hinges about the question of their being considered nationals of the countries whose documents they hold, rather than as possessors of valid travel papers. The only basis on which these internees could leave Bergen-Belsen would be that of exchange, for which satisfactory proof of nationality is sufficient. In any event, these persons would not be going to countries whose papers they hold, since practically all of the governments in question have refused to admit them. The United States Government, on the other hand, has agreed to find temporary shelter for them in Allied territory.

Very truly yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
Dear Mr. Sternbuch:

I acknowledge your letter of the 11th of October enclosing the message which you recently received from your representative in Bucharest. I have forwarded this interesting information from Mr. Klarmann, particularly the statistical part, to the War Refugee Board, which will doubtless pass it on to the competent Jewish organizations.

I have received your letter of the 13th of October as well, enclosing seven copies of the list of Latin American document holders known to your organization. I hope that on the basis of this list we shall be able to continue our protective efforts on their behalf with greater efficiency.

I should be pleased to receive the complete list of the Hungarian refugees who still remain in Bergen-Belsen, as at present I have only partial information concerning them.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mr. Isaac Sternbuch,
Les Colonnalles,
Montreux.

KDM/mjb
Subject: Lists of Civilian Internes at Vittel, France claiming other American nationality than that of the United States of America.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's un-numbered cable (30-1) of September 28, 10 p.m., to London for Nebre, in which the Department requested complete lists of United States nationals or nationals of any of the other American Republics who may be found in Clemence, Vittel, Campagne and Frenay Internment camps, there are enclosed lists of persons who claimed the nationality of other American Republics and who were personally interviewed at Vittel by officers of this Consular Group attached to SHAPE, 01 PDX.

As will more fully appear from the examination of the lists the following information was obtained from these internes' name; place and date of birth; welfare; funds; destination and/or plans.

From investigation conducted to date it appears that the internes at the camps at Clemence, Campagne and Frenay have been released, and it will not be possible to obtain the lists for these camps, with the exception of Clemence. The list of this camp apparently includes the names of United States citizens, as well as those of the other American Republics. The Clemence list, which was discovered in the possession of the Office of Strategic Service in London by us will be forwarded as soon as it can be typed. There has been delay in submitting our reports to the Department due to lack of stenographic assistance.

During the course of examining the internes at Vittel who had held themselves out to be citizens of the other American Republics, it developed from their own statements that many of the internees had never been in Latin America and that they were holders of documents which they described as "war time" passports. The history of these documents is well known to the Department. The desires of these internes as to their future is set forth in the lists.

The majority of the holders of "war time" passports to whom we spoke...
spoke at Vittel were arrested for internment in parts of Europe other than Poland and Germany. The unfortunate persons deported from Vittel to Drancy in May and April 1944, numbering 307, were people who had been, for the most part, sent to Vittel from locations east of the Rhine river. These deportations from Vittel, including a list of names, will form the subject of another despatch but are mentioned here because it is understood that most, if not all, of them claimed nationality of the other American countries.

Respectfully yours,

A. Dana Hodgdon,
First Secretary and Consul General
In charge of Consular Group
attached to SHAEF, GI PX

Enclosure:

1/ Lists of persons claiming nationality of other American Republics interviewed at Vittel by this Consular Group.

711.5

ADDITION

Photograph and one copy to the Department
One copy to SHAEF, GI PX
One copy to Embassy, Paris
One copy to American Consular Group attached to SHAEF, GI PX
<table>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>PLACE OF BIRTH</th>
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<td>J. H., MARY P.</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
<td>8/4/04</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H., M. S.</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
<td>15/1/12</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H., F. D.</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
<td>23/1/12</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H., DOLPH</td>
<td>B. L. K.</td>
<td>Einfiting, Germany</td>
<td>4/8/41</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H., C. E.</td>
<td>Antwerp, Belgium</td>
<td>20/4/13</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H., M. E.</td>
<td>Antwerp, Belgium</td>
<td>22/1/12</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H., W. I.</td>
<td>Antwerp, Belgium</td>
<td>6/6/12</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. H., W. E.</td>
<td>Antwerp, Belgium</td>
<td>19/5/31</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:
- To Bolivia via Brazil or USA. Plans to continue in Bolivian Consular service.
- Laid to rest at Warsaw, husband-in-law above.
- Thanks to join husband-in-law in Bolivia.
- In Brazil: 41 Calle General B. M., Miami, Bolivia.
- Made to Bolivia.
- Made to Bolivia.
- Plans to return to husband-in-law.
- Thanks to return to husband-in-law.
- Husband arrived in Bolivia.
- Husband in Bolivia.
- Thanks to return to husband-in-law.
- Same as above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PLACE AND DATE OF LI TH</th>
<th>WELFARE</th>
<th>FUNDS</th>
<th>DESTINATION AND/OR PLANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOELFEL</td>
<td>Tarnov, Poland 2/1/14</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>(see husband, wishes to go to Brazil or Palestine.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRESFELD</td>
<td>Tachov, Austria 1/1/14</td>
<td>Weak heart: 4000 in New York.</td>
<td>To join parents in France after they are liberated and then go to Brazil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRENSTON</td>
<td>Tarnov, Poland 2/1/14</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASTELINO</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2/1/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FELLER</td>
<td>Linz, Austria 2/1/27</td>
<td>Aged but in fair health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLACK</td>
<td>Rio Grande, Brazil 1/1/27</td>
<td>Has bad heart.</td>
<td>Valuables in Paris. 0 Sufficient Funds. Return to Paris to stay.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FONSTEN</td>
<td>Brussels, Belg. 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLSTEN</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUSTO, PAULO CURT</td>
<td>Freising, Germany 1/1/27</td>
<td>Nervous disorder. 1100 Francs and property in Poland.</td>
<td>Return to Brazil, but go to Katowice, Poland first.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUSTO, LINA</td>
<td>Freising, Germany 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUSTO, JUAN</td>
<td>Freising, Germany 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEEF, JULIE</td>
<td>Freising, Germany 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEEF, JUERG</td>
<td>Freising, Germany 1/1/27</td>
<td>Good health.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMER, MAURO</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey 1/1/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNSTER, FRANCOIS</td>
<td>Porto Alegre, Brazil 1/1/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds. 000 Francs. 0 funds in Marseille. To return to 41, St. Lucien, Marseille, France.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNSTER, ROSE</td>
<td>Porto Alegre, Brazil 1/1/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNSTER, ANTONIO</td>
<td>Porto Alegre, Brazil 1/1/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>0 Funds. 000 Francs. 0 funds in Marseille. To return to 41, St. Lucien, Marseille, France.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Place and Date of Birth</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Funds</td>
<td>Destination and/or Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuszyński, Gabrielle</td>
<td>Milne, Poland 2/2/32</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Same as husband, Antonio.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuszyński, Isabelle</td>
<td>Milne, Poland 3/10/32</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>To remain with her family.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nout, Helen Castilla</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil 30/3/22</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No funds. To go to friends in Paris to await release of husband, and then to go to Brazil. (has no relatives in Brazil).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volcy, Gabrietta</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil 27/11/07</td>
<td>Heart trouble, but in fair condition.</td>
<td>To work in a Brazilian mission in Europe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>PLANS</td>
<td>DESTINATION AND/OR PLANS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FELICITA</td>
<td>Katowice, Poland 10/1/23</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Desires to join father, Dr. Peilet Horowitz, now in Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAULA</td>
<td>Sosnowitz, Poland 13/3/01</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Desires to join husband, Dr. Peilet Horowitz, now in Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUBEIL</td>
<td>Sosnowitz, Poland 24/2/28</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Desires to join father, Dr. Peilet Horowitz, now in Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEIDT</td>
<td>Valparaiso, Chile 27/2/67</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Desires to join son, Franz Heidt, Santa Maria High School, Casilla 604, Valparaiso, Chile.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Not noted)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>DATE OF RELEASE</th>
<th>HEALTH</th>
<th>FUNDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEL:VAN, RUSSIA</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey 8/7/1976</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>10,000 Francs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGARI, OLGA</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey 10/11/73</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Return to Paris, 56 Alphonse Bertillon, Paris 18, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEGARI, LOUISE</td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey 10/12/70</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Return to Paris with husband.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERNUEL, LOTTIE</td>
<td>Lodz, Poland 27/8/1943</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No Funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISER, LILY</td>
<td>Erfurt, Germany 4/9/36</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No Funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISER, NIK</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 10/6/38</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>In funds in Chase Bank, New York City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEISER, LILKLOTZ</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 22/1/19</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAPU, ROSA</td>
<td>Lodz, Poland 27/8/1943</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOICK, DIANA</td>
<td>Mittel, France 5/8/44</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Go to brother-in-law, Leon Shapu in Laredo, Texas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOICIN, KLAUS</td>
<td>Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia 5/10/14</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Accompany mother, Eleonora Schelme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHUSSLER, CAROL</td>
<td>Chrzanow, Poland 3/9/44</td>
<td>Health is fair.</td>
<td>Plans to go to Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIBIERBAND, PERLA</td>
<td>Gaudenz, Poland 8/8/1944</td>
<td>Health is fair.</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIBIERBAND, TAYHA</td>
<td>Gauthen, Poland 18/8/1947</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIBIERBAND, ALICE</td>
<td>Drohobycz, Poland 8/8/1947</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To go to London, in lend to Dr. Amos Michelin, 54, or to Dr. Doris Planer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUCKER, ELIZA</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria 1/10/11</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To emigrate to United States 0/o Doris Planer, 46, 5th Street, New York City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUCKER, MARGARET</td>
<td>Graz, Poland 16/9/1900</td>
<td>Health not good.</td>
<td>To go to Palestine to brother: Willy Faller, 500 Minehurst Ave., New York City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>SALUTARIES</td>
<td>FUNES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcarrues, Rosa</td>
<td>Cuba, 17/10/24</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jarikowey, Isaac</td>
<td>Havana, Cuba 14/7/26</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belky, Cecilia</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary 1/8/36</td>
<td>Health fairly good.</td>
<td>4000 Francs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Place and Date of Birth</td>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTEN, GAILLA LUCY</td>
<td>Inow, Austria 22/2/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEILL, CORNE</td>
<td>Salonika, Greece 10/1/37</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Health is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(née Abrevenel)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEILL, CORNE</td>
<td>Versailles, France 22/9/23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEILL, GALE</td>
<td>St. Dominica, San Domingo, 11/3/08</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health is good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names</td>
<td>Place and Date of Birth</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Fate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katz, Anita</td>
<td>Frankfurt, Germany 25/10/24</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany father who desires to emigrate to U.S.A. as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katz, Elly</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland 2/2/09</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany husband who desires to emigrate to U.S.A. as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katz, Maria</td>
<td>Frankfurt, Germany 23/3/07</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Desire to emigrate with wife and 2 children to U.S.A. as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katz, Oswald</td>
<td>Frankfurt, Germany 23/1/29</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany father who desires to emigrate to U.S.A. as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild, Henri</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany 4/1/31</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany mother who desires to go to Brussels, thence to Palestine. Same as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild, Eljaz</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany 8/4/33</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Same as above. (Is not son but nephew.) Same as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild, Rosa Joseph</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany 30/11/30</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Same as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild, Hanna Sulima</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany 13/10/28</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Same as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild, Flossa</td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany 8/9/31</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Has some desired to go to Brussels, thence to Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>SITUATION</td>
<td>FUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENSTEIN, ALFRED</td>
<td>Pronheim, Germany 28/1/32</td>
<td>AIDS sufferer</td>
<td>Has sufficient funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENSTEIN, FANNY</td>
<td>Prague, Czechoslovakia 27/7/16</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENSTEIN, JOSEPH</td>
<td>Nice, France 8/11/42</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENSTEIN, MARA</td>
<td>Vittel, France 15/7/44</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KADYSS, ELIZA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 11/4/07</td>
<td>Has kidney trouble.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERML, MAJAKA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 21/9/26</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZAJNBAUM, MAKEN</td>
<td>Szamos, Poland 2/3/17</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZAJNBAUM, JERUSA ZEMATZ</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 26/1/42</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZAJNBAUM, MARA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 8/2/21</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZAJNBAUM, STEFAN</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 16/9/03</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Sufficient funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANNENBAUM, MARGUER</td>
<td>Soldin, Germany 15/1/97</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANNENBAUM, ELISABETH</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 29/1/16</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANNENBAUM, URSULA</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 17/2/22</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TVEITZ, IRENE</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 210/03</td>
<td>Health is good. Husband has funds.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUMBAUM, LEA</td>
<td>Vittel, Poland 50/1/21</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUMBAUM, MICHEL</td>
<td>Vittel, France 17/3/44</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>No funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJALVO, CONSEIL</td>
<td>CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY, 2/11/18</td>
<td>IS IN FAIRLY GOOD HEALTH</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OJALVO, LEA</td>
<td>CONSTANTINOPLE, TURKEY 20/6/33</td>
<td>SAME AS ABOVE 2000</td>
<td>DESIRES TO RETURN WITH DAUGHTER TO PARIS WHERE THEY USED TO LIVE AT 18 RUE SAN SABIN (XI) (HENRY OJALVO, A SON, WHO SERVED WITH THE FRENCH ARMY AND WAS A PRISONER OF WAR, IS AT PRESENT AT MILITARY HOSPITAL VILLEMOINE, PARIS.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WANGENSTEIN, JEANNE</td>
<td>LUTZ, POLAND 2/4/29</td>
<td>ALLEGEDLY IN GOOD HEALTH</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>WELFARE</td>
<td>FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapiro, Bashklaya</td>
<td>Sklovo, Russia, 26/9/20</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Desires to go with husband and children to flat at 8 Rue Quatrefages, Paris (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapiro, Adolphe</td>
<td>Moscow, Russia, 12/2/24</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To go to Paris with father, mother and brother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapiro, Ester</td>
<td>Moscow, Russia, 9/4/21</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To go to Paris with father, mother and brother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapiro, George</td>
<td>Secklow, Russia, 10/12/20</td>
<td>Health is good. Sufficient.</td>
<td>Desires to go with wife and two sons to flat at 8 Rue Quatrefages, Paris (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names</td>
<td>Place and Date of Birth</td>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Medical Information and/or Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luchan, jairy</td>
<td>Leningrad, Russia</td>
<td>11/1/33</td>
<td>Not in good health (Heart trouble and Arthritis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTSZTEIN, BER.</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 27/1/37</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KISZEWSKI, EYJA</td>
<td>Rilow, Poland 28/11/36</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Has</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELSZCZEWSKI, GHA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 10/3/36</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELSZCZEWSKI, GITIA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 22/3/37</td>
<td>Recovering</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOWNAY, TELEMA</td>
<td>Cracow, Poland 3/2/13</td>
<td>Fairly good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILLER, STELLA</td>
<td>Smeck, Poland 16/6/00</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN, FRANKLIN</td>
<td>Vittel, France 21/4/46</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAROTOW, CRISI ITA</td>
<td>Litomeraz, Poland 16/8/13</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No info available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANKOWSKA, JACQUELINE</td>
<td>St. Ele Hospital, France</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KULCZAK, JOSEPH</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 23/4/04</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUJAWSKA, FELICJA</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 15/6/02</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUJAWSKA, TEODOR D</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 15/10/37</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR KUJAWSKA (KAJAWSKA)</td>
<td>Rady Warsaw, Poland</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JASTROW, CHAIM JOSIAH</td>
<td>Suchednove, Poland 13/11/06</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Money in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAGIEL, ANETA MALA</td>
<td>Lissa, Poland 4/5/00</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Return to Brussels with family and then to Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KADDA, ILDA</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 2/12/37</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Return to Brussels with family and then to Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAGIEL, ISRAEL</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany 10/5/36</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Return to Brussels with family and then to Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAGIEL, ISSA SULAIMAH</td>
<td>Vittel, France 11/3/44</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Minor children will remain with parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Place and Date of Birth</td>
<td>Welfare</td>
<td>Funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEHAR, ETHEL</td>
<td>Constantinople, Turkey 9/1/34</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany has and to Paris, where daughter (born in France) has been taking care of parents' apartment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEHAR, VITALI</td>
<td>Constantinople, Turkey 10/6/39</td>
<td>Health is good. 5000 francs</td>
<td>Desires to return with wife (left 100,000 francs with daughter in Paris in 1942, who has been taking care of parents' apartment. Address not given.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAUD, Jacqueline</td>
<td>Paris, France 11/2/27</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>To accompany mother. (see below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAUD, NICUEL</td>
<td>Constantinople, Turkey 7/4/31</td>
<td>His only 1000 francs</td>
<td>Desires first to visit with daughter (now married daughter at Nice), then to go to Paris, where son Jacques Breaud works. Dep. 25, Box 80, Paris, will support her as heretofore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMES</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>WELFARE</td>
<td>FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, BENJAMIN</td>
<td>Paris, France 7/1/38</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, DAVID</td>
<td>Smyrna, Turkey 28/10/36</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, HENRIETTE</td>
<td>Paris, France 15/6/37</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, LOUIS, née Velero</td>
<td>Constantinople, Turkey, 26/4/36</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, MARIE</td>
<td>Smyrna, Turkey 9/7/38</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELO, DAVID</td>
<td>Smyrna, Turkey 7/7/38</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELI, KLYMEN</td>
<td>Salonika, Greece 15/2/34</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELI, JACQUEM VICTOR</td>
<td>Paris, France 10/4/38</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELI, MOISE LEON Vittel</td>
<td>Paris, France 15/3/34</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELI, MOISE LEON Vittel</td>
<td>Paris, France 10/4/38</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELI, MOISE LEON Vittel</td>
<td>Smyrna, Turkey 23/4/32</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHURT, ADA</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland 28/3/41</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHURT, ESTER</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland 16/11/06</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2000 francs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHURT, FEDOR</td>
<td>Ciechanow, Poland 6/9/06</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHURT, TONY</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland 5/2/40</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>4000 francs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAR, ZISA LEVY</td>
<td>Russia 10/5/20</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMES</td>
<td>PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH</td>
<td>WELFARE</td>
<td>FUNDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEING, SARAH FELGA</td>
<td>Lodz, Poland 20/11/07</td>
<td>Health is good.</td>
<td>Desires to accompany husband to Holland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEING, LEON</td>
<td>Siemiatyczka, Poland (?) 5/3/06</td>
<td>Health is good. Has no funds, but claims he left articles of value with Christian friends in Holland.</td>
<td>Desires to return with wife to Holland in order to find son's future. The son is left in hiding with friends in Holland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bern, October 20, 1944.

Dear Dr. de Schwarzenberg:

Many thanks for the excerpt from the JEWISH STANDARD which you kindly sent me on October 12th.

I am sure that many similar "facts" will come to light in due time, concerning what has gone on in the "coulisses" of the Jewish world. It's banal to say it once more, but one does wish that they had more unity among themselves. I know that poor Salo Mayer feels it keenly and for this reason is always most emphatic about the Joint's assistance being for "all," and not for any one faction.

I took the liberty of calling M. Leclerc yesterday about the World Jewish Congress parcels from Stockholm and sent off a wire to the WFB. There is a clear precedent in the $100,000 JDC - ICRC affair so I think we shall have no particular difficulty in securing the necessary authorization.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClendan
Special Assistant to the American Minister

Dr. J. de Schwarzenberg
Hôtel Métropole,
Geneva.
Bern, October 20, 1944.

Mr. Nathan Schwab
Weltsentrale des Hechaluz
53, rue des Pâquis, Geneva.

Dear Nathan,

Just a few lines to thank you cordially for your interesting letter of October 18 enclosing the documents relative to the work of your people in Berlin. I should be very interested to receive in the future any further reports of this nature which you might receive. Please let me know as well whether you are experiencing any difficulty in financing their relief and rescue activities. If so, it might be quite possible to dig up something extra out of the WBB "caisse."

Meanwhile, with personal greetings, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland!


Indem ich Ihnen Erfolg in Ihrer Arbeit wünsche, verbleibe ich

mit freundlichen Grüssen

[Unterschrift]

H. Schwab.

Beilage:

Mr. Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Lieber Nathan.

Endlich kann ich Schillach (Kurier) sprechen, und will ich Dir mit ihm einen ausführlichen Bericht geben.


Zu Deinen Fragern nach Czenstochau (Polen) können wir nicht schreiben, aber nach dem Generalgouvernement kann ich Ewa (Unterstützung) schicken.

An Mordeko (polnischer Internierter Laufen) habe ich hundert Mark geschickt und schon bestätigt bekommen.

Mandor im Krankenhaus (Iranische Str.) hat dreitausend RM genommen und Alfred bestätigt.

Alle beigelegten Briefe und Neujahr (Dokumente fuer einige Leute) habe ich ordnungsgemäss abgeschickt.

Auf Deine Bitte habe ich die Studentin nach Celle, Hannover, zu unseren ungarischen Geschichten geschickt, und habe ich an jedes einzelne geschrieben, aber bis her noch keine Nachricht erhalten.

Mit den Freunden des Ostens, d.h. mit Arons (aus Wien deporttiert) und Seewa (aus Frankreich) Kindern stehe ich seit Juli in keinen Briefwechsel. Meine Post und Pakete (besonders nach Oberschlesien) kommen seit der Zeit zurück, und von dorten bekommen ich keine Zeile.

Anna, Seewa, Chanah O, Chanah L, Karola H. etc schreiben nicht mehr seit Juli.

Mit Chewerin Unger und Polen (in deutscher Arbeitseinsatz) komme ich gar nicht zusammen.

Auch die Freunde in Laufen (Interniertenlager) habe ich nicht sprechen können.

Und da bin ich bei dem schwierigsten Punkt angelangt, der Flucht:


Auf unserer Seite auch? Aber all das ist nur eine Teillösung des Problems.

Wenn Du fuß einige von uns solche Dokumente schicken könntest, wie fuer Syo (San Salvador) dann konnten sie eventuell zur Grenze gelangen. Als fremde Staatsbuerger kann man auch heute noch reisen.

Von Kaspi (Geld) haben wir insgesamt fuer Hilfe usw. hundertachtundvierzigtausend RM. ausgegeben. Ich habe ueber alles Bestatigungen.

Nehmen, täglich, mein stuedlich, denken wir am die Flucht, und ich laufe tag und nacht herum, um Beziehungen anzuknepfen, um Essen, Kleider usw zu beschaffen.

Unsere praktische Arbeit ist kaum zu bewiligen.


Suscho (Breslau) muss zum Ostwallgraben in die Nahe von Breslau in ein Lager. Wir stehen in engster Verbindung mit ihr und unterstuetzen sie.

Auch viele Freunde, die ich nicht einzeln nennen kann, die Du nicht kennst, nehmen von mir Bure Haus Hilfe).

Es ist fuer viele hier eine gluckliche Hilfe und alle danken auch aus volksten Herzen. Ich mache keinen Unterschied zwischen Freunden und Stammjuden. Wir, die Chaverim (organisierten Freunde) wollen die Pfleger und Helfenden sein und verteilen das, was Du uns uberweist.

Oft zeigt sich hier bei unseren Freunden eine vorbildliche Haltung. (Kress Palesmatina) kann stolz sein auf solche Menschen. Und so trauriger bin ich dann oft, wenn ich daran denke, dass ich nicht in der Lage bin, die Flucht auszufuehren.

Auf jeden Fall habe ich fuer alle Freunde Notwohnungen (Verstecke) bereit, dass sie gegebenenfalls als Verstecke leben konnen. Folgende Liste unserer Menschen:

Die Aktivisten im Chaluzkreis:

**Berlin**

ABRAHAMSOHN, Helia (Zwi)

BERNSTEIN, Rudi

LOEVENSTEIN, Fritz

LOEVENSTEIN, Johanna

S, Hans

LIEBFARBE, Ursula

NACHMANN, Renate

JACOB, Leo

BECK, Mirjam und Gad

**Breslau**

GATTEL, Susi

PRIEBES, Jesse

KADDA, Bertha und Fritz

Herberts Kinder

SAPIERSTEIN, Paul

3 Gebr. WALLACH, Erich, Alfred, Kurt

FRANKEL, Schoschana
Menschen, die Eure von uns erhalten:

LEWIN, Sigmar

WIDOWICZ, Guenther

FRINKESS, Margot und Kind

GOMMA, Ruth

LERNER, Gittel

WAISBROT, Sonja

Und viele Ugenannte!

Wir werden versuchen, einen Weg zur Grenze zu finden, und sollten dieses nur einige glücke, dann versuchen wir uns hier zu halten, so gut es geht!

Wir halten die Verbindung zu allen Freunden und helfen wo wir nur können.

Unser Kreis hat neben den praktischen Aufgaben auch die politische Schuld und kulturelle Arbeit. Wenn Du Dir vorstellst, dass wir fast alle täglich 10 bis 12 Stunden arbeiten müssen, ist unsere "nebenbei" Arbeit in unserem Sinne ungeheuer viel.

Wenn ich Dich bittend darf, versuche auf jeden Fall Dokumente wie Euer Ewo zu bekommen.

Das schliesst auf keinen Fall die Flucht aus.

Ich habe alles in Deinen Briefen verstanden, und verstehe es auch, aber ich glaube, dass Du nicht richtig über die hierige innerliche Lage orientiert bist (Anknupfung von Beziehungen mit Arbeitern usw.) was mich betreibt.


Aue Deinen Berichten habe ich viel ueber Erazia (Pal.) und Bewegung gelesen, was mir neu ist, und das fehlt mir so sehr, da wir bis her ganz abgeschnitten von euch waren.

Also, abschliessend, schreibe noch einmal deutlich ueber Euer Gwalabkommen, und bedenkt, dass wir bis jetzt noch keine Möglichkeit einer Fahrt haben, aber immer bemuht sind, sie uns zu schaffen.

Bleibe Du, lieber Nathan, sowie Onkel, Erazia und die ganze Bewegung herzlich gegrussst von Günter, Chassak wohlgeschen.

Gud neek

Abbei: Gruess von meinen beiden "Sekretärinnen" Ursel und Mirjam.

Hersliche Gruessse. Auf eine baldige persönliche Unterhaltung hoffend

Ursel

Von mir ein Chassak (sei stark) und auf Wiederssehen. Seine Mirjam

P.S. anbel eine Quittung fuer das zusätzliche letzte Kassett.
Hein lieber Nathan,

Bei guter Gelegenheit schrieb ein paar ausführliche Zeilen.


Meine Freunde (ca. 30-40) arbeiten so fleißig für alle Aufgaben dass Du der Kla und Berezia eine unendliche Freude hatten würden, wenn ihr dies erleben könntest. Also noch immer, Teilte uns sofort mit, wie und wo ihr eine Möglichkeit des Durchkommens wissst, wir fahren dann sofort an die dortige Stelle und probieren sie aus.

Für heute sei herzlichst gegrüßt, sowie viele Grüße an Kla und unsere lb. Berezia.

von Deinem Gad (Beck)

Eln. 6.11.44

P.S.

Seit vergangenen Dienstag ist Arye (Günther Dawidowits) bei einer hiesigen Organisation (6.T.) und muss für Aschkenasi arbeiten. So werden wir uns bald allein gehen, wenn nicht bald die Abfahrt (beziah) erfolgt.

Bettel für das Gelingen unserer Arbeit.

In steter Treue, Ruer

Gad

Eln. 6.11.44

Liebe Nathan,


Gott gebe uns Kraft und Glauben.

Sei Du herzlichst gegrüßt von allen und besonders von Deinem

Gad
Dear Mr. McClelland,

Referring to our today's conversation I have the honour to send you a memorandum concerning the deportation of Jews from Vittel, as well as two lists of persons who were sent from Vittel to Drancy and who were deported afterwards.

The memorandum has been written by Mrs. Felicia KGN, the daughter of the former Chief Rabbi of Warsaw, Dr. Schorr. While written in a rather peculiar English, I am communicating it to you as I have received it. It contains notably the names of the 12 persons who were left at Vittel. It is furthermore interesting to learn that, according to the memorandum, the 2nd transport was directed from Drancy to Auschwitz.

As to the two lists included, I may add that Dr. Nathan ECK, registered in the list of the second transport under No. 4, has succeeded to escape and is now in Paris.

Mr. Jarblum has asked me to forward these lists to the Swiss and Spanish Governments in order to ask them to do everything in their power, as Protecting Powers, in view to find out the whereabouts of the people and to protect them. As you told me on the phone, this has already been done. I am nevertheless forwarding you the documents, asking you to kindly verify that the lists correspond with those already in your possession.

Very sincerely yours,

Gerhart M. Hiegner
MEMORANDUM CONCERNING DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM VITTEL
IN APRIL AND MAY 1944

The situation of the Jews in Poland under the German Government was most tragic and hopeless. They were deprived not only of all possible privileges bestowed on other citizens, but they were excluded from life from the legal point of view, - deprived of any right to live; they were forced to leave their homes and properties and concentrated in "ghettos" with the death penalty on them.

A small group who happened to have families abroad have received one day passports that granted to them the different nationalities of South and Central America. These papers were acknowledged by the Gestapo and all the other German authorities. Thanks to these passports this chosen small group could save their lives and escape the tragic fate of the 3 millions Jews exterminated in Poland. On the basis of these foreign papers the Jews were imprisoned in different parts of Poland, and little by little brought to internment camps.

The first group (about 100) arrived in Vittel in January 1943. Successively, there came other groups from Tittmoning and Liebenau (2 internment camps). Already after the arrival of the first 100 persons, who were nearly all of the higher educated class, the camp started to show the first signs of a lack of understanding for the hopeless situation of the Jews.

Already at that time there has arisen the question of papers. The American internees previously at Vittel, who, for the greater part, were of the lower classes, tried to "investigate" the Jews in the most unsympathetic manner as to the way they have got their nationality. At the beginning, "the investigations" were not at least backed by any authorities in place, but anonymous letters from different internees were being continually sent to the Germans.

In May, there arrived another set of Jewish internees from Warsaw (about 120 persons). These Jews have passed the most dangerous time in the Ghetto, or rather were hidden in underground shelters, any moment delivered to death. These last arrivals represented the orthodox Jews and as such deepened even more the differences between all the English and American internees.

It should be mentioned at the same time that the complete group of the Jews consisting of 240 persons were treated by the American and German authorities in the same way and manner as all the other internees; all the insults were called forth only by the internees themselves.

A few of the group appealed to the Protecting Powers, the Swiss and Spanish Legations in Berlin asking to protect the members of their nearest families who have got their papers when already in Jewish concentration camps. And that started the tragedy. The only answer they have got was the refusal of any interference explained by the doubt of the authenticity of their papers.
The Jews felt themselves again in danger and they started to appeal to all the different authorities abroad to settle this matter. Already in January 1944, people who had families abroad got news as to the satisfactory results of their endeavours. Nevertheless on the 20th of March, this group (240 persons) was sent to an hotel outside the camp, where they have stayed closed for a week.

Realising the highest danger we made contact with Switzerland and the evening preceding the first deportation (April 17th) we have got a letter assuring the acknowledgment of the South and Central American nationalities. The same (underground) message included Palestine certificates for all the group. This message not having passed the censor could not be presented to the German authorities. The next day, April 17th, the hotel was encircled by the Gestapo men and deportation was officially announced.

People who already once escaped death realized the terrible danger and did not abstain from the most extreme steps. People tried to commit suicide in order to escape any further sufferings; some took poison; some jumped from upper story window; parents gave poison to their children and took it themselves. There was one particular poignant accident when the wife of the chief Rabbi of Warsaw Doctor Schorr, a highly educated, cultured and pious woman, poisoned herself in the hope of saving her daughter and 3 grandchildren. However this did not prevent the commandant from sending the rest of the family away. Her daughter, Felicie Kon then jumped from a 5th floor window hoping by that by the sacrifice of her life her 3 small boys would be allowed to stay in the camp. Only a few families who had someone in the hospital could stay. All the others were deported to an unknown destination.

Soon after their departure, the first official acknowledgment (Chili) has reached the Commandant but too late as the above mentioned were already deported.

After four weeks (16th May) there followed the second deportation. At that time, there were only 12 persons left in the hospital, separated from their families and unfit for any transport. (See list on page 3). This deportation included even people taken on stretcher's from the hospital. Even after the official acknowledgment of all the other nationalities announced in place by the delegates of the Swiss Legation, the commandant planned another deportation but he did not perform it. Soon afterwards the Foreign Office in London declared the authenticity of the certificates authorizing their owners for an exchange to Palestine.

It must be mentioned that these deportations took place exclusively from Vittel, whereas holders of the same papers were left untouched in other camps. Even families of people from Vittel had members of the families who were interned in Germany and were not attacked for their papers.

The first news we have got about deported were only about the second lot from Drancy from people who came to Vittel from there and brought the news that this group had been deported from Drancy. Later one of the women who had been left here got a card from her husband who escaped the train when already in Poland. His card said
that the transport had been sent to Auschwitz, the worst concentration camp for Jews. This is the only trace about the second lot; as to the first one nothing is known.

The names of the 12 persons still remaining in Vittel and who originally belonged to these groups follow. They most earnestly pray that some appropriate action be taken promptly through the Swiss, or possibly through other channels, to learn the whereabouts, alleviate the sufferings and save the lives of all. A complete list of all these deported is appended. These still here are:

Felicia KON (with 3 little children).
Sasza NEYMAN (members of family deported. He died in the camp 4 months)
Eleonor SCHIN (2 " " " )
Helena BAUMINGER-Gehorsam (7 members of family deported)
Stella GEILER (2 members of family deported)
Rosa SHAFU (1 member deported)
Malka ZUEGRA (9 members " )
Brucha KADSZ (3 " " )
Laja KRYSZEFSZUD (6 " " )
Szyja AYSENEMAJG (husband)
Gima " (wife)
Guta " (daughter)
# Liste du premier convoi d'internés transférés

**À Drancy le 17 avril 1944**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noms</th>
<th>Prénoms</th>
<th>Nationalité</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AYSENSTADT, Félix</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYSENSTADT, Romana</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYSENSTADT, Marcelle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAUMINGER, Léon</td>
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<td>Haïti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAUMINGER, Lisa</td>
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<td>Paraguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERGER, Abraham</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERGER, Eugénie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERGLAS, Chaim Leib</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERGLAS, Alta Hinda</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Aron</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Rywka</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Chaya</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Wolf</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Stella</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Roza</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Juda Leib</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Hélène</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLUMENKOFF, Christina</td>
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<td>Pérou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUDELZAK, Szulim Mardica</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUDELZAK, Rassmil</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pérou</td>
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Department of State has received conclusive evidence that at least 4 of the 163 persons are

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. 37333 (B.24.2.A.3.-
E/11) of July 28, 1944, with which there was transmitted a list of 51 persons claiming the nationality of various Latin American republics who were stated to have been removed from the civilian internment camp at Vittel to the camp of Bergen-Belsen, Germany, with a view to ascertaining their whereabouts.

The Legation has now received a telegram dated October 19, 1944, from the Department of State at Washington stating that it has received information from which it would appear that some of the 51 persons concerned were liberated by Allied forces in France. Any information which may be received by the Legation with regard to the identity of the persons set free will be promptly communicated to the Division.

The telegram from Washington also observes, with reference to the list of 163 persons transmitted under cover of the Division's note No. 27742 (B.24.2A - J.K/mb.) of June 2, 1944, that the Department

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,

BERN.
Department of State has received conclusive evidence indicating that at least 4 of the 163 persons are or have been at Bergen-Belsen.

The Legation is under instructions to request the Division, with reference to its kind note No. 47293 (E.24.2 A-3 - GL/0k) of September 27, 1944, to have the Swiss Legation at Berlin inform Secret Councillor Sethe of the foregoing and to request him to take appropriate action with a view to determining more accurately which of the persons included in the several lists have reached Bergen-Belsen and with a view to ascertaining their whereabouts at the present time.

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

Bern, October 20, 1944.
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir gestatten uns, Ihnen anbei eine weitere Liste (in 7facher Ausfertigung) zugehen, von solchen Personen, die im Besitze südamerikanischer Papiere sind.

In Erledigung Ihres Schreibens vom 19. ds. erhalten Sie einliegend auch eine genaue Liste der ungarischen Gruppe in Bergen-Belsen zur frdl. Kenntnisnahme.

Wir begrüßen Sie

hochachtungsvoll

[Unterschrift]

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<td>20.7.1907.</td>
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From: Department

Date: October 23, 7 p.m., 1944
No.: 3607
Received: October 24, 9 a.m.

Code: CL

From Pehle for McClelland.

WRB No. 230.

The Swiss Minister in Washington recently asked
the Board how the Government of Switzerland could be
of assistance at Oswiezam and Birkenau and in the
serious situation in Hungary. The Swiss Minister was
informed confidentially of the steps taken by the
Swedes. He promised to bring these steps to the
attention of the Swiss Government and to suggest to
the latter that it take action parallel to that taken
by the Swedes.

You are requested kindly to support, in any way
you can, the suggestion of the Swiss Minister.

STEITENIUS

Called Pehle by you
you have this afternoon
Oct 23rd

in quadruplicate
Copy in FA
Determine substance of Oct. 26th.

Bruggman’s cable to Fed. Political Dept. (What exactly were steps taken by Swedish govt. other than transmission of information on issuance of Swedish protective documents?)

Could I kindly note their contents in FPD about this cable.

Col. de Haller who knows nothing about matter.

Hashibui talked to FPD—DFI on Fri. Oct. 29th but they had not yet received instructions or information from Bruggman.

Protective houses—Special Swedish Commando, stickers on houses, etc.
Budapest, October 23, 1944.

In August of this year, of a decision that in the transports of Hungarian Jews to the territory of the Reich could be accommodated. At the same time we were also given assurance that the Jews receiving in medical institutions in Debrecen would be transferred to the territory of the Reich. I had a conversation today with Herr Vessenesayer, the Envoy of the German Reich in Hungary. On the occasion of this discussion, the Counselor of the German Legation, Dr. Grill, made the following declaration with regard to the development and present status of the Jewish question in Hungary:

I. As a contribution toward the solution of the Jewish problem agreement was reached, after March 19, 1944, between the Hungarian and Reich Governments, on the basis of which, up until July of this year, under the direction of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior, with the co-operation of the Hungarian gendarmerie and police, with the assistance of the German Security Police, all Jews were transported out of the Hungarian provinces to Germany, family units being preserved, for labor service.

Obviously under the influence of foreign press attacks instigated by the enemy powers as well as due to the
intervention of various foreign and enemy powers, the
former Regent (Norty) informed the Government of the Reich,
in August of this year, of a decision that no further
transports of Hungarian Jews to the territory of the Reich
where it could always move about more freely, it seemed
could be consented to. At the same time he gave the
a constantly growing number, in the opinion of Hungarian
assurance that in regard to the Jews remaining in Hungary
- mainly only in the region of the capital, Budapest - an
internal Hungarian solution would be effected by evacuating
the Jews (from Budapest) and concentrating them in camps
for work service inside Hungary. This assurance has not
been carried out in the meantime since, in spite of all
efforts, suitable camps which would pass inspection by in-
truded international organizations in order to avoid re-
newed foreign press attacks, could presumably not be found.

The result of this development was indeed that foreign
pressure attacks against Hungary actually subsided, but, on
the other hand, Hungarian Jews, particularly in the capital
Budapest, receiving special attention by the agencies concerned in
of Budapest, recovering from its initial intimidation, once
beginning to engage in even stronger subversive activity
against the interests of the allied (i.e. Axis) countries
and the German nationalities and nationals.

This developed to the point where the Hungarian Jews,
being penalized were all, without exception, removed
even under the Rakosi Government and especially after the
proclamation of the former Regent, on October 15th of this
city, feeling themselves no longer bound by the Jewish laws
year, feeling themselves no longer bound by the Jewish laws
they possessed the nationality
premeditated by the Sztojay Government, left the houses to
which they were assigned and took off the insignia prescribed
and with respect to the interference of different foreign
in so far as they were citizens of enemy countries or such
patronage by eva...
missions calculated to assure protection of individual Hungarian Jews. Since no further steps were taken to bring about a definitive solution of the Jewish problem and Hungarian Jewry, for instance, remained in Budapest, where it could always move about more freely, it formed a constantly growing danger, in the opinion of Hungarian and German circles conscious of their responsibility, behind the fighting, allied front.

After October 15th of this year, therefore, and on presentation of convincing proof that the Jew in negotiations were opened once more with the advisory cooperation of German organs with the purpose of bringing about a definitive solution to the Jewish problem in Hungary.

II. In carrying out the above-mentioned measures missions in Hungary persisted in "humanitarily" granting after the 18th of March, 1944, the question of the treaty-citizenship to Hungarian Jews or "protecting" settlement of Jews in Hungary possessing foreign citizenship with a view to their emigration, without regard for this was paid special attention by all agencies concerned in point of view and to a certain extent to at least shorter order to eliminate from the very beginning all justifiable sale and in the absence of any solid reason the unjust complaints on the part of foreign states. Jews who were was that these foreign representatives appear to have made in legal possession of foreign nationalities and normal with the competent Hungarian and German authorities. In foreign passports were all, without exception, removed order to obtain recognition of such "naturalizations" from the camps in the provinces where the transports were and demanding permission to repatriate or emigrate being prepared and excepted from labor service in Reich Jews. In the course of negotiations between the German Government and the German Locality, as a result of these of allied, friendly or neutral states, their repatriation negotiations and in recognition of the difficult situation through the competent foreign representation of their Government within a certain time limit was made possible; following fundamental agreement was reached. The re-in so far as they were citizens of enemy countries or such repatriation or emigration of a certain limited number of
states which had broken off diplomatic relations with Hun-

gary or Bulgaria Jews as well as further Hungarian Jews were inter-

nation in favor of Hungarian Jews could be permitted spe-

special camps for foreigners where they were granted the

or made possible but only at the time when in ac-

in accordance with special treatment accorded other internees of these

with the Hungarian already given by the Hungarians, the
countries.

Jews remaining in Budapest should have been, for reasons

of security. The possibility of a foreign nationality by

Jews living in Hungary was only recognized in the afore-

mentioned manner after a close examination of each case.

1) The possibility of emigrating to Sweden and on presenta-

tion of convincing proof that the Jew in

through the issuance of Hungarian exit and German

question legally possessed this nationality before March

transit visas for some 400 (four hundred) Hungarian

16th, 1944. The acquisition of a foreign nationality by

Jews who, after March 16th, according to the Swedish

Hungarian Jews after this date, which was openly against

legation in Budapest, had been delivered - on the

international law and solely the result of misus,

basis or personal or business connections with Sweden

not be taken into consideration. As a series of foreign

so-called temporary or protective passports;

missions in Hungary persisted in "temporarily" granting

a) The possibility of emigrating for about

their citizenships to Hungarian Jews or "protecting" them

7,000 (seven thousand) Hungarian Jews who, through

with a view to their emigration, without regard for this

the intermediary of the Swedish Legation in Budapest,

point of view and to a certain extent, at least, have

have received Palestinian immigration certificates;

and in the absence of any valid reason, the upshot

b) The possibility of emigrating to Portugal

was that these foreign representatives began to intercede

for 6 (six) Hungarian Jews who have been given tempo-

with the competent Hungarian and German authorities in

ary passports and entry visas by the Portu-

order to obtain recognition of such "naturalizations",

legation in Budapest;

and demanding permission to repatriate or emigrate these

the possibility to emigrate to Spain or a

Jews. In the course of negotiations between the Sztojay

family of 8 (eight) Hungarian Jews to whom the Spanish

Government and the German Legation, as a result of these

government have granted, for special reasons, Spanish

intercessions and in recognition of the difficult situation

entry visas,

of Hungary with respect to these foreign demands, the

following fundamental agreement was reached. The re-

preliminary discussion, the intended transportation

patrization or emigration of a certain limited number of

of 1,000 (one thousand) minor Jewish children to
foreign of Hungarian Jews as well as a further "humanitarian" action in favor of Hungarian Jews would be permitted or made possible but only at that time when, in accordance with the assurances already given by the Hungarians, the Jews remaining in Budapest should have been, for reasons of security, definitively evacuated. With respect to the measures up to the present asset since the measures agreed upon, the details are as follows:

1) The possibility of emigrating to Sweden through the issuance of Hungarian exit and German transit visas for some 400 (four hundred) Hungarian Jews who, after March 19th, according to the Swedish Legation in Budapest, had been delivered. On the basis of personal or business connections with Sweden - expected without further delay, the Government of the so-called temporary or protective passports;

3) The possibility of emigrating for about 7,000 (seven thousand) Hungarian Jews who, through intermediaries that in order to avoid renewed foreign press attacks against Hungary, now as previously, it recognizes have received Palestine immigration certificates;

4) The possibility to emigrate to Spain of a family of 3 (three) Hungarian Jews to whom the Spanish Government has granted, for special reasons, Spanish entry visas; and

5) Also projected but not yet beyond the state of preliminary discussion, the intended transportation of 1,000 (one thousand) minor Jewish children to
Palestine or to an enemy country as well as the possibility being granted foreign organizations to send persons to Hungarian Jews performing labor service in Reich territory.

It has not been possible to carry out any of these measures up to the present moment since the previously mentioned conditions upon which their realization depends - the evacuation of the Budapest Jews - have likewise not been effected.

IV. Since on the basis of recently opened negotiations a definitive clearing up of the Jewish question, particularly in the city of Budapest, can be expected without further delay, the Government of the Reich expressly states that, in view of the measures which have already been initiated by international organizations and in order to avoid renewed foreign press attacks against Hungary, now as previously, it recognizes the aforesaid agreement and is ready to fulfill the Fortuna protective passports. In this case the Fortuna protective passports, in the originally agreed number of 400 (four hundred) persons, the emigration of further holders of Swedish protective passports is contrary to its original assurances.

protective passports to Hungarian Jews, as is known, and seeks
issued such passports to over 4,000 (four thousand) individuals cannot for the moment be authorized.

The Reich Government, however, ready, in so far as the Swedish Government has taken the necessary steps in this direction, to open new negotiations along these lines:

2) To issue German transit authorizations in Hungary to all Hungarians, who are either nationals of these countries or in whose countries of origin protective passports cannot be recognized as regular nationalities of these countries. The carriers delivered by the Swiss Legation, up to the German Government, in respect to their originally agreed number of 7,000 (seven thousand).

3) To issue German transit authorizations in Hungary to all Hungarian Jews holding protective passports, in order to make possible the emigration of those over 70 years of age or who are of tender age, and also to the extent of the existing number of 7,000 (seven thousand) from the Jewish community, in accordance with existing regulations.

4) To make possible, by the issuance of German transit visas, the emigration to Spain of a family of Jewish nationality, consisting of 3 (three) persons;
6) To continue negotiations relative to the emigration of 1,000 (one thousand) Jewish children to Palestine and the sending of parcels (to Hungarian Jews working in Reich territory).

V. After the conclusion of the afore-mentioned measures only such Jews of foreign nationality will remain in Hungary who are either nationals of enemy countries or in spite of holding protective passports cannot be recognized as regular nationals of these countries. The Government of the Reich maintains, with respect to their treatment, its standpoint already reiterated to the Hungarian Government that these Jews still present, regardless of their possession or lack of a foreign nationality, are fundamentally subject to Hungarian law and thus, similar to all other Hungarian Jews, are to be included in the measures recently taken by the Hungarian Government regarding their concentration for labor service inside Hungary.

The Delegate for Hungary,

(signed) Friedrich BORN.
The American legation wishes to take this opportunity to refer to its notice No. 9667 of September 23, 1944, concerning the treatment accorded by the German authorities to certain bearers of Latin American documentation resident in Germany and German-controlled territory.

It may be recalled that, under numbered paragraph three of the legation's above-cited notice, to accommodate the urgent need for that intervention was made of the difficulties which interfere with the preparation of official lists of authorities who will eventually be allowed ad entry into Germany under local bearers of Latin American documentation as desired in view of the imminent arrival of the legation by the Swiss legation at Berlin.

The legation wishes to state that it was required under its recent handling the exchange recently instructed by the Department of State, with the aim of facilitating the disclosure in a view to assisting the division in this matter, placement of such lists.

It is believed that the attached lists may also serve as a preliminary basis on which the on the subject, lists of bearers of Latin American documentation which are as complete as possible.

There is now enclosed, in duplicate, each of two partial and incomplete lists which the legation can documentation.

To the

Division of Foreign Interests,
Federal Political Department,
BERN.
has received from private sources in Switzerland. Copies thereof are also being forwarded to the Department of State pursuant to a statement made by the latter that it will suggest to the Latin American Governments concerned the urgency of confirming to the Division the authenticity of the attached and similar lists.

It is believed that the attached lists may also serve as a preliminary basis on which the Swiss Legation at Berlin may request the German Foreign Office for information regarding the present whereabouts of deported persons bearing Latin American documentation.

The
The Division may observe that certain persons whose names appear on the enclosed lists are stated to be citizens of Argentina. No action is, of course, expected by the Legation in connection with these cases. In the event that the Division finds it possible to forward the attached papers to the Swiss Legation at Berlin for the purposes indicated, it is presumed that the Swiss Legation at Berlin will inform the Spanish Embassy at that city, as representative of the power protecting Paraguayan interests in Germany, of the presence of persons claiming Paraguayan citizenship on the enclosed lists.

It would be greatly appreciated if the Division would be so good as to inform the Legation at an early date of such action as the Division may find it possible to take in connection with the enclosed lists and whether it is prepared to accept further documents of a similar nature.

Bern, October 24, 1944.

Enclosure:

2 lists in duplicate—attached to original of notice.

TJH/hs
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: October 24, 4 p.m., 1944
No:
Code:

No. 231 from WRB.

Received: October 25, 4 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

No. 231 from WRB, and WRB
From the Department/for the Minister and McClelland.

Please refer to the radio bulletin of October 10 which contained the statement of the Secretary of the same date with regard to the reported proposed extermination by the Nazis.

The Republican candidate for President, Governor Thomas E. Dewey, issued a statement on October 10, the substance of which is as follows:

"According to information which is being received in the United States from unquestionably reliable sources, the Nazis, trapped and realizing that they are faced with inevitable defeat, are threatening, in true gangster style, to exterminate the Jews, Poles and other non-German nationals who have been imprisoned by them in their dreadful concentration camps in Poland and in other countries occupied by the Nazis.

"In the event that this scheme should be carried out, the civilized world is so situated that it is able to warn the Nazis, as well as the military commanders, members of the German Government, and their supporters, aiders and abettors, in unmistakable terms, that for these savage and unrestrained murders sure and unavoidable justice awaits them.

"I am glad to note that the Department of State has issued a warning that 'those guilty of such murderous acts will, if these plans are carried out, be brought to justice and suffer fitting punishment for their atrocious offenses'. American public opinion will give its full support to the statement issued by the Department of State."

You are requested kindly to bring the contents of the foregoing statements to the attention of the appropriate authorities and by all possible means and through any available channels to give the statements the widest possible publicity.

/nnn
in quadruplicate

STETTINIUS ACTING

DISCLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-71
By R. H. Fuchs Date SEP 22 1972
SIEU

by or manufacturing
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department

Date: October 26, midnight, 1944
No: 3565
Received: October 27, 5 p.m.

PARAPHRASE

Legation's 6865 of October 14.

We are distressed to receive the information contained in the above telegram.

It was in order to save the lives of a large and important group of individuals that the proposal was made for an exchange of Germans in Paraguay against Paraguayan nationals and persons holding Paraguayan documentation. The exchange could have been carried out without further delay or difficulty provided the Germans were willing to receive the German nationals from Paraguay desiring repatriation. The broader negotiations which are being conducted for an American-German exchange deal more particularly with Germans who are now held in this country, and the Department has always envisaged the exchange of these persons against other categories of repatriates; furthermore, we are not convinced that any serious intention of proceeding with the broader exchange is entertained by the German Government. We have not, for example, been informed of any response or reaction on the part of the German Government to Minister de Fury's general proposal. Likewise, months have passed without any answer being received to a concrete and advantageous offer for exchange of seamen.

From the beginning, the Department has sensed that there was some obstacle perceived by the Swiss Government to the proposal for the Paraguayan exchange. We are reluctant to believe that the Swiss, after being informed that the United States has been asked by Paraguay to act in its behalf in this matter and after being asked by this Government to take up the matter with the German Government, would feel unable to do so on the technical ground that Switzerland does not represent Paraguayan interests in Germany. It may be, if the Spanish Embassy...
Berlin has not informed the German Government of the Paraguayan mandate to the United States in this matter, in accordance with the request made by the United States Government some months ago, that the Swiss believe the Paraguayan intention in the matter has been misunderstood by us. Legation is requested to investigate this aspect of the problem.

It is possible, of course, that the Swiss Government possesses information which it does not feel it can divulge with regard to the fate of the first group which was deported last spring from Vittel, and that it feels since it has such information it might be confronted with an embarrassing situation if it were to present to the Germans a proposal for the exchange of those individuals. Department, as stated in a recent cable, has every good reason to doubt the recent intimation of the German Foreign Office that these persons were liberated in France.

It is most distressing, in view of the fact that human lives were at stake, to realize that if Department had been informed at the outset that the Swiss would feel they could not forward this proposal to the German Government the Government of Spain might have been requested to do so. If it is necessary now to resort to this expedient, months have been lost and it may now prove to be too late to secure the release of the unfortunate individuals whom the proposal was designed to save.

To recapitulate, the situation which is portrayed in Legation's No. 6866 appears to be inconsistent with the Swiss Government's sincere humanitarian position as repeatedly evinced in other matters and even in other respects with regard to deportees from Vittel, and we feel certain there must be other aspects of the problem of which we have not been informed. Please endeavor to convey the substance of the foregoing sentence to the Swiss in presenting to them the concern caused by the statements embodied in Legation's 6866, and endeavor also to elicit replies to the explicit and implicit questions in the foregoing paragraphs. Department trusts that it will be possible to do this without offending the sensibilities of the Swiss.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In quadruplicate

re
"United States: The Department has been informed by the Polish Government that it has received reliable information that the American Legation wishes to take this occasion to refer to its note A.I. No. II663 of June 13, 1944, with which there was enclosed an extract now held in concentration camps, particularly those of a statement issued on March 24, 1944, by the government of the United States containing a warning carried out to those guilty of such murderous acts will be those officials and other persons in Germany and henceforward." 

German satellite countries who are in any way party to the persecution of Jews and other minorities in 1944 by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, as covered in such areas.

There is now enclosed for the Division's information which is being reconsecrated the substance of a statement made on February 26, 1944, by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, as threatening, in true Gestapo style, to exterminate the public by the Presidency of the United States, with reference to a statement made on October 10 by the United States Secretary of State regarding the reported intention of the German authorities to warn the Nazis, as well as the military authorities, to exterminate persons held in certain concentration camps under German control, the substance of which is enclosed. The Department of State is also given in the enclosure.

Bern, October 27, 1944.

Enclosure: 

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

TJH/ps
Summary of statement made on October 19, 1944, by the United States Secretary of State as reported unofficially in the American press:

"United States Government has been informed by the Polish Government that it had received reliable information that German officials in Poland are making plans for the extermination of tens of thousands of innocent persons of Polish and other United Nations nationalities as well as Jewish deportees from areas under German control who are now held in concentration camps, particularly those at Brzesinki and Oswiecim. United States Government takes this occasion to warn again the German Government and Nazi officials that if these plans are carried out those guilty of such murderous acts will be brought to justice and pay the penalty for their heinous crimes."

Substance of statement issued on October 19, 1944, by Governor Thomas E. Dewey, as conveyed to the American Legation by the Department of State:

"According to information which is being received in the United States from unquestionably reliable sources, the Nazis, trapped and realizing that they are faced with inevitable defeat, are threatening, in true gangster style, to exterminate the Jews, Poles and other non-German nationals who have been imprisoned by them in their dreadful concentration camps in Poland and in other countries occupied by the Nazis.

"In the event that this scheme should be carried out, the civilized world is so situated that it is able to warn the Nazis, as well as the military commanders, members of the German Government, and their supporters, elders and abettors, in unmistakable terms, that for these savage and unrestrained murders sure and unavoidable justice awaits them.

"I am glad to note that the Department of State has issued a warning that 'those guilty of such murderous acts will, if these plans are carried out, be brought to justice and suffer fitting punishment for their atrocious offenses'. American public opinion will give its full support to the statement issued by the Department of State."
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department
Date: October 23, 2 p.m., 1944
No: 3686
Received: October 29, 9 a.m.

PARAPHRASE

WH8 No. 244. For Harrison and McClelland.

Department's 3180 September 14, fourth and fifth paragraphs; 3255 September 21, paragraph 4; and No. 3290 September 23.

Embassy San Salvador telegraphed on October 23 substantially as follows:

"In a note back-dated to October 15 and received today, former Foreign Minister Davila declared that the United States Government is authorized by the Salvadoran Government to compile lists of persons who claim Salvadoran nationality and to transmit such lists, without prior reference to the Salvadoran Government, to the Government of Switzerland."

With regard to method of handling this matter, kindly note Department's 3648 October 26, last paragraph.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In quadruplicate

re: Copy in FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-71
By R. R. Parker Date SEP 22 1972

+840.1 Jews in Hungary
+2840.1 Jews in Europe
Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

wir gestatten uns, heute mit folgender Angelegenheit an Sie heranzutreten.


Da diese Angaben, die wir auf Grund persönlicher Verteilung in Vittel und Drancy wohl als authentisch zu bezeichnen sind, im völligen Gegensatz zu den Mitteilungen stehen, die stets von den deutschen Behörden gemacht wurden, halten wir es für angebracht, dass durch die Schweizer Schutzmacht ein energischer Protest in Berlin übergeben wird, mit der Aufforderung, klar zu erklären, wohin diese Menschen verbracht wurden.

Wir wären Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie uns Ihre Meinung hierüber bekanntgeben und uns gleichzeitig Mitteilung zugehen lassen würden, ob Sie bereit sind, diese Demarchen bei der Abteilung für fremde Interessen des Eidgenössischen Politischen Departement zu unternehmen.

Wir sehen Ihrer Rückäusserung gerne entgegen und zeichnen indessen

hochachtungsvoll

[Unterschrift]
PARAPHRASE

WRB No. 243. For Harrison and McClelland.

With exception of final paragraph, following refers to Legation's 6469 September 29 and 6964 October 20.

On October 20 Embassy Quito telegraphed substantially as follows concerning the matter discussed in Legation's No. 6469.

"Foreign Office states that it has received no specific request for clarification of telegram under reference and it is unable to understand reason for difficulty in interpreting note of May 12 from the Ecuadoran Consulate, since its cabled instruction of May 8 seems to be absolutely clear. The only communication which the Foreign Office has received from its Consulate in Geneva relative to protection of persons in Germany who claim Ecuadoran citizenship is a letter dated May 28 requesting 'some opinions and advice.' Foreign Office replied September 7 by airmail, but it is presumed this reply has not yet reached Geneva.

"The Foreign Office yesterday cabled its Geneva Consulate substantially as follows: 'Instructions which were previously issued to you for arranging to have the Swiss Government request that German officials respect the rights of persons protected by Ecuadoran papers and documents are hereby repeated. Please take steps to see that immediate action is taken by the Swiss Government. Kindly also establish contact with the American diplomatic representative in this connection.'"

Department

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter 6-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 22 1972
Department and WRB realize the difficulty which is indicated in second paragraph of Legation's 6964. Attempts to have the Ecuadorian Government submit a formal request for Swiss representation of Ecuadorian interests in Hungary are underway. It is assumed that the Swiss "reluctance" which you report continues notwithstanding your suggestion that they approach the problem in the spirit indicated in Department's 2490 July 21, item 5. Reference is made in this connection to Department's 3996 October 13, item 3.

There are 155 Sephardic Jews at Bergen Belsen who possess Spanish passports but are unable to proceed to Spain because of the military situation. It is suggested that Swiss officials be informally requested to grant them temporary admission to Switzerland. The Spanish Government is being requested to present formally an identical request.

STETTINIUS ACTING

In quadruplicate

re